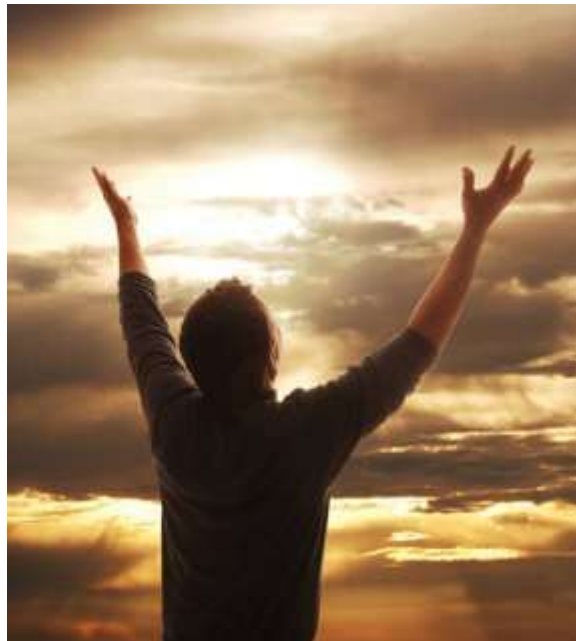




## Prayer Breakfast Planning Guide 2012

*'Well done, good and faithful servant!'*





**AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN-USA  
PO BOX 1019  
PARKERSBURG, WV 26102  
1-866-868-1050  
October 24, 2011**

### **ABMEN-USA ANNOUNCES 2012 ARIZONA-HOPI-PROJECT**

Brothers in Christ, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that all is well with you and your families and that your local ministries and activities are having a positive effect in your communities. You will be a major communication conduit for getting the following information down to the local church level. You will play a vital role in the outcome of this mission.

As you may know, the American Baptist Men-USA will celebrate 90 years of ministry on June 18, 2012. You should also notice the new logo on this letterhead which recognizes this event. The ABMen-USA Executive Board has approved a major National project or mission to celebrate this important anniversary. God has brought to us an opportunity to affect the lives of many people in a positive way. We will be working in partnership with the American Baptist Home Missions Society / Indian Ministries and Volunteers In Missions. The project, "ABMen-USA-Arizona-Hopi-Project", is primarily designed to provide needed maintenance, repair and new construction for the Sunlight Community Mission Church and its facilities located in 2<sup>nd</sup> Mesa, AZ on the Hopi Indian Reservation. The work will provide a more comfortable and safer environment for several communities to worship and play. The missionaries are Scott and Melinda Wight. We will be working with a very noble and innovative people who are very proud of their heritage. The work will consist of electrical, heating and cooling, plumbing (septic), stonework, water delivery system, concrete and carpentry. The project is expected to last several weeks and may expand to assisting other nearby associated church communities. The preliminary estimate indicates a need for at least \$30,000 for materials, some professional labor and equipment and for logistical needs.

Volunteers will be responsible for their own transportation to Arizona and to pay some for meals and lodging. ABMen-USA will transport volunteers between the site and the lodging area. Volunteers of age 18 and older will be accepted. Our sisters in ministry may also volunteer for this mission as long as housing facilities are available. As you meditate and pray about how you can participate in this mission, please know that the worksite is approximately at an elevation of 6,000 feet, which could present a difficult work environment for some people.

I will be writing a blog on our website, [www.abmen.org](http://www.abmen.org), providing details as they become available. There is also a video produced on site that is available on our website and on YouTube

at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95m25Y9elpw> . Many things need to be accomplished in the next few months. Beginning June 18, 2012, Short Term Mission Teams of 12 individuals will be on site for at least one week at a time for several weeks. As we become better organized, we will provide information about how you may volunteer and sign up for this mission and also how to participate in intercultural sensitivity training.

For now, I am asking you to pass this information along to your Executive Ministers, Region Presidents, Associations and Local churches. Please ask everyone to begin establishing methods of fund raising for this God centered mission. Even small activities, such as “Gospel Sings, Hot Dog Sales, Carnivals, Silent Auctions, etc.” will all add up in time. Donations from individual churches and from Corporate donors are also welcome. We have provided a method for donating at [www.abmen.org](http://www.abmen.org) and donations may be sent to our National office at ABMen-USA, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102. Please identify the donation as being for the “Arizona-Hopi Project”. Please pray for this mission and for our ministry. I pray that God will excite your heart and cause you to find a way to participate in this mission.

IHS

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## **PLANNING YOUR ABMEN & BOYS' PRAYER BREAKFAST**

1. Most churches observe this event with a breakfast prepared by the men and boys of the church and a time of praying together as a whole or in groups. Some areas of our ministry combine with other churches, or observe an association-wide event. The following steps will simplify your planning procedure.
2. ABMen leaders need to discuss the Prayer Breakfast with their pastor and appropriate church leadership body. Be sure to keep the focus of the event on prayer.
3. Select at least two men to coordinate the Prayer Breakfast. Make sure the coordinators represent different age or demographic groups within your church. The more variety in the program, the more balanced it will be and the more likely the entire group will benefit. Consider joining with a sister church of a different cultural background. Be sure to make the event attractive to boys and young men through exciting music, use of video, computer slide presentations and an energetic program.
4. The coordinators should plan the Prayer Breakfast to allow participants to use their spiritual gifts. Include teens and boys in as many different aspects as possible. Invite them to write out "my prayer for my church," or "my prayer for my community," or some similar theme.
5. Select a publicity team to:
  - a. Prepare and submit announcements to the pastor for the church bulletin and newsletter, local radio and TV stations (including cable), community bulletin board and local newspapers. Involve the youth and boys in making posters and gathering photos of ABMen and Boys' activities.
  - b. Organize a plan to personally invite every man, young man and boy. Face-to-face contact is ideal, but a telephone call, fax or e-mail may be the most efficient.
  - c. Prepare a booth or other designated place of public view (narthex, etc.) to display the ministries of ABMen and ABBoys & Young Men. Include photos of the men and boys of your church.
6. Prepare the physical space and leadership. If your Prayer breakfast will be at a restaurant make sure the menu is affordable to all. If it will be at the church, prepare for seating, cooking, cleanup and so on. Carefully select a worship leader and provide him with adequate time and resources. If you plan to provide nursery

and child care, make those arrangements. Finally, prepare the area for prayer. You may wish to divide into table groups for prayer, or use various rooms around the church or the sanctuary. In any case, double check for room temperatures and availability. Encourage men and boys to pray together as one group, instead of in separate groups.

7. Follow-up:

- a. Have committee leaders and the pastor evaluate the effectiveness of the event. Some factors to consider might include: information distribution, church-wide participation, publicity, offerings and enthusiasm. Discuss how your Prayer Breakfast could be improved next year.
- b. Complete the Prayer Breakfast Follow-up Form and return it with your offering.
- c. Select at least two men who will coordinate next year's Prayer Breakfast. Again, be sure to include individuals who represent the demographic of your church. Early planning is the key to a successful event next year!

**CHECKLIST FOR ABMEN & BOYS' PRAYER BREAKFAST**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gather the men and boys of the church to pray for the ABMen & Boys' Prayer Breakfast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secure the support of the pastor and church leadership body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Select the coordinators and contact your state ABMen Prayer Breakfast Coordinator or a member of the Executive Board.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Study the ABMen & Boys' Prayer Breakfast resource materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm participants, such as leaders, special music, cooks, servers and clean-up crew.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organize and begin the publicity, such as announcements and a display area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Double check the physical arrangements for your display area, breakfast, worship/prayer service, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post the service evaluation and select next year's coordinators.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete and return the prayer breakfast follow-up form to the Prayer Breakfast Coordinator at the address indicated on the form.

## **WORSHIP HELPS**

Please read the following suggestions *before* you begin working on the worship service:

1. Adjust the format for maximum impact. Place an emphasis on brevity. Devote as much time as possible to prayer.
2. Print the *Order of Worship*.
3. Keep the pace brisk and to the point. Set times to end the meal, begin prayer and bring things to a close.
4. Provide a "safe" atmosphere where men and boys can be themselves. This is a rare opportunity to affirm them as man and boys, made in God's own image.
5. Involve the ABBoys and Young Men of the church as much as possible. Include them in every part of the event process, from planning to execution.
6. Above all, point to Christ! Although this event aims to bring men and boys to prayer, the ultimate purpose of American Baptist Men is to reach men and boys for Christ. Do not glorify American Baptist Men; direct people to Christ.

## **SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Meal

Breakfast

Words of Welcome

Special Music

Responsive Prayer

Scripture Reading

Presentation

Offering

Prayer Groups

Hymn

Benediction

## **WORSHIP PRAYERS**

## **SERVICE PRAYERS**

### **Invocation**

Dear Lord, servant Jesus, we come to you seeking guidance. Help us Lord to be the servants that you want us to be. We know the path of selfishness is the easy way and the path of selflessness is the difficult and narrow way. May we be like you, Lord. Help us, as witnesses to your servant hood, that we might be moved to share you with others in lives of true service, loving you by loving all.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Father in heaven, giver of gifts, we present these offerings to be used in service to others. We thank you for the special gift of your son Jesus, our example to follow, to be a servant leader. May we grow in our giving and live our lives for the benefit of others.

### **Benediction (Responsive):**

Leader: God wants us to introduce Him to the unsaved.

Congregation: We leave here praying for guidance of how we can serve.

Leader: God wants us to be stirred up; He wants us to stand up; and, He wants us to speak up.

Congregation: May God grant us a burning desire to be His witness.

Leader: May God grant you the gifts, skills and desires of your heart, so that you may be stirred up, wanting to stand up and speak up; thereby demonstrating the love of Christ to others.

## **POSSIBLE HYMNS**

- † We Are One in The Spirit
- † Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed
- † Take My Life and Let It Be
- † Revive us Again
- † I Will Serve Thee
- † Blest Be The Tie
- † He Did It All For Me
- † Blessed Assurance
- † Footsteps of Jesus
- † There Is A Name
- † What A Friend
- † Where He Leads

## ABMEN PRAYER BREAKFAST 2012

# *Well done, good and faithful servant!*

(MATTHEW 25:21)

### **Bible Study/Presentation**

#### **Matthew 25:21 - A Servants Trust**

*His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"*

#### **Matthew 25:21 - A Servants Trust**

[Matthew 25:21](#) *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"*

Being a servant of God is quite prestigious. It is not something to be taken lightly or half-heartedly. In our final look at what is involved with being a servant of Christ, we look at the authority and responsibility given to us as bond servants.

A bond servants, special and dedicated entirely to the master, speaks with the full authority of his master when on his masters business. He has the ability to make and fulfill binding contracts on his master's behalf, and what the servant says in the master's name was fully and legally binding on the master. For an example we look at Joseph, a slave in the house of Potiphar. Joseph was so obedient and open to the will of Potiphar, his master, that "Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned....So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph i charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate." ([Genesis 39:4b,6a](#)) Joseph was entrusted with the responsibility and the authority to act in Potiphar's stead. Later on, we find that after Potiphar's wife's accusations and Joseph's jail time, he took those same skills he had honed and learned running Potiphar's

household and put them to further use running the entire kingdom of Egypt ([Genesis 41:41-45](#))!

Another good example of a servant is Elisha's servant Gehazi. ([2 Kings 5](#)) Gehazi had all the responsibility and trust that Joseph had, and yet his greed was his downfall. He had the stewardship of everything Elisha had, and his job was to ensure that Elisha could spend all of his time doing God's work and studying and spending time with God. Yet when Gehazi saw that Elisha was not taking anything from Naaman, he snuck away and lied to Naaman in the name of Elisha! He exceeded the authority he had been given by stepping out of Elisha's will, and then he further compounded it by trespassing on Elisha's authority outside of that will. The result of that was that Gehazi received Naaman's leprosy.

To be a good servant, one must always be aware of what needs to be done, and to do it as quickly and efficiently as possible; but one must be knowledgeable and have a great understanding of the master's will and desires in order to do this. One must be responsible and a good steward, ensuring the stability of the master's lifestyle; yet one must have learned the basics of stewardship and care-taking before taking such a job. One must also not be afraid of using and standing in the master's authority; but one must never abuse the trust involved with it. It is difficult, but very rewarding. A servant of such caliber is of unmentionable value to his master!

This week, let's focus on becoming the best servant of Christ we can be, allowing Him to trust us with everything. Are we ready for such a challenge? If you are like me, probably not, but we can certainly learn and grow our skills so that when the greater challenge and responsibility is ready, we are too. Right now we have been entrusted with little, but soon, very soon, much is coming!

### **ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS**

- † Make a strong effort to have ***all*** the men and boys of your church personally invited to the ABMen and Boys' National Prayer breakfast.
- † Try unusual methods of advance publicity, such as announcements in the form of humorous skits and songs.
- † Make special efforts to reach out to those without fathers or sons. Use this as an opportunity to nurture some boy or young man that needs a father figure in his life.
- † Ask someone to share a testimony during the service of how he came to faith in Christ and the difference Jesus makes in his daily life.
- † Select an ABMan of the Year, AB Young Man of the Year and ABBoy of the Year. Present each with a certificate and take him out to lunch.
- † Prepare a booklet of daily devotions for the week preceding the ABMen & Boys' National Prayer Breakfast, written by the men and boys of your church.
- † Prepare a Bible study based on the men in the Scripture who practiced missions, evangelism, and nurturing ministries. Present it at the next ABMen & Boys' meeting or in Sunday School.
- † Appoint someone to the communications ministry of your local ABMen's fellowship group. He can provide stories for your local church newsletter, for the publication on the ABMen of WV web page, etc.
- † Consider a weekly time when the men and boys of the church can gather for prayer. Pray for your church, your pastor and the ministries in which the men and boys are engaged.
- † Be creative! Share whatever ideas have been most helpful to the men and boys of your church with other ABMen fellowship groups. Send a short story with a photo to the ABMen of WV Director of Communications, Rev. Frank Miller, at Parchment Valley Conference Center, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road Ripley, WV.