AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF LOS ANGELES, SOUTHWEST & HAWAII

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life

John 3:16

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

2025 - 2026

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EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev. Andy Quient
Executive Minister,
ABCOFLASH

Dear ABCOFLASH Family,

Perhaps you've noticed that our annual report is streamlined and, hopefully, more inviting to read. I've asked our contributors to be brief. To be a good example, I could have distilled my contribution down to two words:

Thank You

However, I still should elaborate. You see, when I first started as your Executive Minister on November 1, 2017, I knew I was in over my head. Therefore, my most frequent prayer was (and still is) "Help me, oh Lord!" He answered (and continues to answer) that prayer.

As my retirement is fast approaching, I'm most grateful to God who answered/answers my prayers through the good people who support the ministries of ABCOFLASH. I'm grateful to our amazing staff. They work hard and care deeply for much less than they would earn in the for-profit world. I'm grateful to our board of directors, past and present. They work hard and make even less (well, $0.00!), but their reward will be great in heaven. I'm grateful to my predecessor, Dr. Sam Chetti, who recommended me for this labor of love. Speaking of love, I have a debt that I can never repay to my wife, Lisa, my steadfast partner in this challenging endeavor.

When Douglas MacArthur gave his farewell speech to Congress on April 19, 1951, he said "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Fellow soldiers of the cross, we will never die; with apologies to the late general, we won't fade away. We are mandated to burn bright for Christ in this lifetime and for all eternity.

I could make this letter much, much longer and thank many more by name. To keep from violating my request for brevity, let me just close with an all-encompassing "Thank you" for burning bright with the light of His love. You have been a God-ordained source of strength, encouragement, and inspiration.

With Gratitude,

Andy

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT

We thank you for your generous support of the United Mission, Regional Support, and the entire American Baptist Mission Support. Below is a comparison of 2025 and 2026 until the end of July.

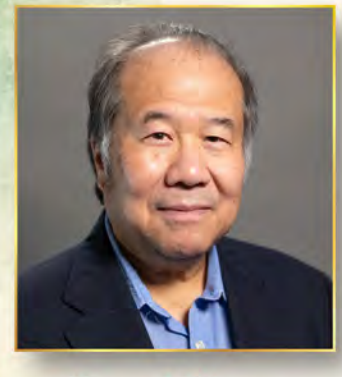
OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Jan-Jul 2026	Jan-Jul 2025
United Mission	17,561.90	20,223.40
Love Gift	745.00	0
America for Christ	3,574.35	5,990.87
World Mission Offering	10,050.69	9,949.88
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering	14,239.03	22,748.19
One Great Hour of Sharing	7,986.45	25,673.00
Region Offering	28,715.75	24,832.67
Institutional Support Program	2,499.98	4,071.64
Specifics	62,805.02	51,630.85
Targeted	110,410.77	115,128.73
Total	258,588.94	280,249.23
Portion of Support for ABCOFLASH Ministries	$44,496.97	$42,603.56

ABCOFLASH SUPPORT

Your gifts help support:

- Annual Celebrations
- Arizona Association Annual Meeting
- Board of Directors
- Church Legal Assistance
- Church Property Protection
- Conclaves and Consultations
- Financial Commitments to ABCUSA
- Hawaii Association Annual Meeting
- New Church Planting Program
- Pastor and Church Hardship Assistance
- Resource Staff Travel and Other Expenses
- Specific International Ministries Projects
- Training Events
- **Regionally Validated Ministries**
  - Faith in Christ Ministries
    Mission to Underserved Community
  - FIBCO Family Services
    Ministry to Individuals & Families- Phoenix, AZ
  - Hands for Hope Ministry
    Mission to Urban Children & Youth
  - Rainbow Acres
    Ministry to adults with developmental disabilities

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



David Cheng
ABCOFLASH
Board President

This year has proven to be a busy one for our Board. Our main task has been discovering whom God has chosen to be our next ABCOFLASH Executive Minister. We are grateful for the information we received through focus groups and our online survey, which revealed the attributes, gifts, and talents that our greater ABCOFLASH community desires in our future Executive. We are thankful that our current Executive Minister, Rev. Andy Quient--with his wife Lisa's approval--postponed his retirement so that we would not have to rush our search. This decision also maintained stability for the staff and region. Our Search Committee has been carefully evaluating each of the many individuals who have applied to the position. We ask for continued prayers as we continue the search process.

We are also working on a review and revision of the ABCOFLASH Constitution and Bylaws. These documents govern the operation of the organization and how we conduct business. They need to be re-evaluated every so often to ensure that they enable us to operate efficiently and effectively in light of changing circumstances. The modifications will allow ABCOFLASH to better serve our churches.

Our Churches Helping Churches program, which we started a few years ago, enables us to financially assist churches to meet unexpected needs, especially with structural and property repairs. We carefully review each request to determine if it meets our criteria for assistance. We have noticed, however, that donations to the fund from our churches have been surprisingly low. We encourage our member churches to strongly consider giving to the fund so that it truly reflects our own churches helping their sister churches.

We continue to face the challenge of increasing the participation of our member churches in ABCOFLASH activities. In addition, a relatively small percentage of our churches are financially contributing to the work of ABCOFLASH. We need more churches to attend events such as the Annual Meeting and, if possible, to increase their giving. ABCOFLASH can provide the opportunities, but it is up to the churches to avail themselves of them.

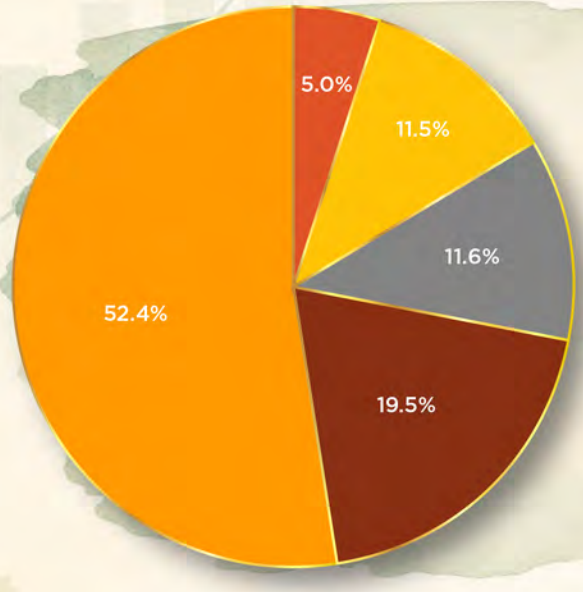
This is my final year serving as President of the Board of Directors. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for your prayers and support. You will soon see a new mantle of leadership for the ABCOFLASH Board. I ask for your prayers and support for them and for the Board in the days ahead.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wes Harada
Treasurer

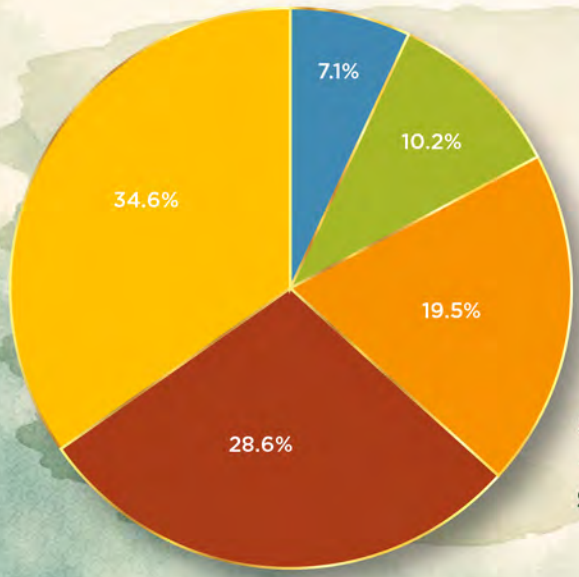
The ABCOFLASH Board is entrusted with the responsibility of being prudent managers of God's monetary and other financial gifts. Financial reports are reviewed, periodically audited, and continually updated and adjusted as needed. The financial health of ABCOFLASH is taken seriously, and I am humbly thankful to be entrusted with the role of Treasurer. This past year, a portion of the funds was moved into new certificates of deposit to maximize interest rates while maintaining flexibility in access.

ABCOFLASH continues to fund Churches Helping Churches to meet the special needs of our churches. Grounded in our mission, the CHC program provides grants of up to $20,000 to support new ministry programs, urgent church needs, including building repairs, and disaster relief.



TOTAL EXPENSES - 2025

$96,085	5.0%	Depreciation, Interest, Loan Allowance
$222,957	11.5%	Management & General
$223,596	11.6%	New Church Plant, Grants
$376,953	19.5%	Ministries & Programs
$1,011,527	52.4%	Salary & Benefits
$1,931,118		



TOTAL REVENUE - 2025

$257,134	7.1%	Ministry & Program Income
$370,869	10.2%	Contribution Income
$710,503	19.5%	Notes Receivable Interest Income
$1,041,261	28.6%	Unrealized Gain from Investments
$1,256,509	34.6%	Dividends, Interest, Rental Income
$3,636,275		

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 883,190	$ 494,491
Accounts receivable	80,928	95,566
Prepaid and other assets	26,970	24,635
Accrued interest	51,431	52,137
Certificate of Deposit	644,782	490,238
Notes receivable - current portion	605,386	579,599
Total Current Assets	2,292,687	1,736,666
Investments	13,035,238	11,231,276
Notes receivable, net of current portion	14,785,125	15,454,841
Certificate of Deposit	230,384	230,384
Investment in Real Estate	700,000	700,000
Right-of-Use Assets (Leases)	294,447	342,350
Equipment and improvements, at cost, net	8,907	11,198
Total Assets	$ 31,346,788	$ 29,706,715

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	25,657	18,872
Accrued expenses	79,126	81,634
Notes payable, current portion	23,016	21,453
Lease liability, current portion	102,134	109,621
Total Current Liabilities	229,933	231,580
Notes payable, net of current portion	1,259,802	1,282,823
Lease liability, net of current portion	192,313	232,729
Total Liabilities	1,682,048	1,747,132
Net Assets		
Net assets without donor restrictions	27,840,637	26,252,611
Net assets with donor restrictions	1,824,103	1,706,972
Total Net Assets	29,664,740	27,959,583
Total Liabilites and Net Assets	$ 31,346,788	$ 29,706,715

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Reviewed Report, Dec 31, 2025 and 2024

ORDINATION STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Rev. Dr. Shawn Zambrows

Outgoing Chair

Rev. Melanie Mar Chow

Interim Chair

One of the responsibilities of the Association of American Baptist Churches, which is ABCOFLASH, is to examine candidates for ordination at the request of member churches. Each candidate presents evidence of meeting academic and practical qualifications. There are references and psychological evaluations. The candidate writes a paper that details their biography, call to ministry, and statement of faith. The final step is a meeting with the ordination committee, which comprises representatives from various churches in the region as well as members of the regional staff. At that meeting, the committee asks questions based on the material the candidate submitted. If the committee is satisfied that the candidate meets the requirements for ordination, they recommend to the candidate's local church to proceed with ordination. Once ordained, the candidate holds an ordination recognized by the entire American Baptist Family.

The following individuals have successfully met all the requirements for ordination since the last Annual Meeting of ABCOFLASH:

Candidates in 2026

January Lim
Evergreen Baptist Church Los Angeles
March 15, 2026

Karin Mazzeo
(Ordination Recognition)
First Baptist Church, Redlands
May 19, 2026

Olubukunola "Buki" Ogunseitan
First Baptist Church, Pasadena
July 21, 2026

Regina (Chelle) Miller
The Rock, Las Vegas
July 21, 2026

Vicky Olloqui
First Baptist Church, Maywood
August 25, 2026

YOUTH AND GLOBAL MISSION

Rev. Doug Hubbard
Regional Resource Minister, Youth & Global Mission

God continues to show His faithfulness in this ministry that serves churches, pastors and leaders! Here are several highlights of the past year:

Third Thursdays
We gather on Zoom every month to focus on ministry issues:

October 2025
"How Do You Capture a Monkey – A Conversation about Sin" - Tahlib McMicheaux

November 2025
"Understand Muslims and Their Misunderstandings of Christians" – Daniel Chetti

January and February 2026
"Game of Pulpits Discussion" - Gary Comer

March 2026
"Courageous Shepherding - Supporting Immigrant Families in Fearful Times" – Ana Siquenza

April 2026
"Ministry Ethics and Healthy Boundaries" Mary Hamel

May 2026
"Artificial Intelligence in Ministry – Tools, Wisdom and Practical Use" – Brandon Bouldin

June 2026
"Church Hurt – From Wounds to Healing" Tahlib McMicheaux

Videos of several of these conversations are on our website.

YOUTH AND GLOBAL MISSION (CONTINUED)

ABCOFLASH CLIPPERS AND DODGERS NIGHTS

In March, 415 of us gathered at Intuit Dome to watch the Clippers play the Pelicans. It was a great evening of fellowship and basketball.

The tradition of coming together for a Dodger Game continued on July 10th with 165 of people from our churches attending the game!

YOUNG GENERATION RETREAT

Youth, Young Adults & Leaders enjoyed a weekend of encountering God and connecting with one another at Camp Cedar Crest. We focused on being prepared for the battle of the Christian life, with Santiago Acosta as our speaker and the worship team from The Rock in Las Vegas and the Battle Squad small groups. We were blessed to have several new churches join us this year!

GLOBAL MISSIONS

We continue to uplift and encourage connection with our Global Servants serving around the world.

Several from ABCOFLASH attended the Mission Conference in Orlando in August and were blessed by what God is doing around the world through our Global Servants and Partners.

ASIAN MINISTRIES

Dr. Dennis Casaje

Regional Resource Minister

Dr. Tahlib McMicheaux, our Regional Resource Minister for Black Church Ministries, shared and facilitated the 'Code Red: Valentine Couples ' annual event at Wilshire Baptist Church. Couples shared their personal testimonies about dating and marriage experiences; Dr. Tahlib used excerpts from his dynamic new book, "Hidden Baggage."

The Valley Christian Outreach Church (Arleta, CA) had a very successful "Leadership Training Seminar" based on John Maxwell's proven leadership principles, led by Jeriel Lubaton, who also did the same seminar at Wilshire Baptist Church.

The Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches (AAABC) held its 3rd Annual So Cal Pastors and Leaders Retreat in Pasadena, CA. A fun-filled yet encouraging and refreshing time for Asian Pastors and leaders. Our ABCOFLASH office has regularly sponsored this event as part of enhancing Asian Ministry leadership.

LATINO MINISTRIES

Dr. José Menéndez
Regional Resource Minister

My gratitude to the Executive Rev. Andy Quient and the Board of Directors for their constant support.

Seven Associations

1. **North Coast Association** - Leader Rev. Dr. Alejandro Roque, 8 churches.
2. **Arizona/Nevada Association** – Leader Dr. Miguel Altamirano, 5 churches. Workshops
3. **San Fernando Valley Association** - 19 churches.
4. **Los Angeles Association** - Leader: Pastor Rocael Alejandro, 38 churches. Meetings every two months.
5. **Orange County Association** - 5 churches. Different meetings.
6. **San Diego Association** - 4 Churches. Meetings every two months.
7. **Peru Association: A ministry of the United Baptist Church of Los Angeles, CA**
   Leader Pastor Josué Medina Meléndez, 11 churches.

Six Ministries of Latino Churches

1. **Latina Women Ministries ▶**
   Leader: Pastor Cristina Arce (Three associations.)
   Training and annual meeting – October 11, 2025. Assisted 267 women.
   Retreat in April 2026. 287 women assisted.
   - Los Angeles Association – Leader Mrs. Rosalba Serrano.
   - San Diego Association – Leader Mrs. Maria Concepción Gómez
   - Arizona & Nevada Association – Leader Pastor Georgina Palacios.

2. **Latino Men Ministries ▼**
   Two associations. Meetings in different areas.
   Men's annual retreat – November 7-8, 2025. Attendees: 150 men.

3. **Latino Youth Ministries**
   Leader: Pastor Andrés Valderrama.
   Three different Events in March, July and October 2025.

4. **Children Ministries**
   Leader: Miss Desly Alejandro.
   Training workshop for children's ministry teachers and leaders on February 28, 2026. Kids Concert, September 27, 2025.

5. **AB Girls Ministries**
   Leader: Miss Vivian Monroy.
   One retreat with women in April 2025. 30 girls attended.

6. **Ministers Council**
   Leader Rev. Dr. Alejandro Roque.

LATINO MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

Family Ministry

Organized by the regional family committee.

Together in Faith

Lay Couples Dinner ▲
November 15, 2025

Lay Couples Annual Retreat ▲
September 5 – 7, 2025

New Church Planting Trainings
April 11 and July 11, 2026

Continuing Education Event
May 15 & 16, 2026
48 Pastors attended.

Latino Churches Annual Celebration
June 27, 2026, at First Baptist South Gate.
320 people attended, including pastors and lay leaders.

Latino Pastors Christmas Dinner
December 6, 2025.

AB Girls retreat
April 2025 ▶

BLACK CHURCH MINISTRIES

Rev. Dr. Tahlib McMicheaux

Regional Resource Minister,
Black Church Ministries

"And let us consider one another to stir up love and good works..."
Hebrews 10:24

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
Proverbs 29:18

It is an honor to present the 2026 Annual Report for Black Church Ministries. Following five years of listening to our leaders—and learning from partner denominations where 70% of our dually aligned pastors often seek support—this year's focus was intentionally addressing the cultural and practical needs of our African American congregations.

2026 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Leadership Development & Church Training**
Conducted specialized workshops for ABCOFLASH churches focusing on organizational health, practical ministry tools, and sustainable leadership.

2. **Community & Juneteenth Engagement**
Participated in regional Juneteenth events to build community partnerships and gather resources for local churches.

3. **Reimagine Church Podcast**
Launched a new podcast with six initial episodes featuring ministry leaders discussing practical, forward-thinking church strategies.

4. **Installation Service**
Spoke at several pastoral installations, reinforcing support for newly placed leaders and their congregations.

5. **2nd BCM Leadership Summit**
Hosted a regional summit that re-engaged several churches and leaders who had been disconnected from regional events for years.

6. **Pastoral Search Assistance**
Guided multiple congregations through pastoral search and transition processes to secure healthy leadership.

7. **Pastor & Spouse Fellowship**
Organized the first BCM Pastor and Spouse Dinner to foster clergy family support and connection.

8. **Pulpit Supply & Pastoral Care**
Provided pulpit support, held individual consultations, and hosted the first Regional Pastors' Zoom call to directly address leader needs.

9. **Educational Partnerships**
Partnered with the American Baptist Theological Center to design culturally relevant, affordable ministry coursework, while connecting M.Div. candidates to opportunities at Fullerton University.

10. **Media & Guest Ministry**
Hosted Pastor Doug Hubbard's Third Thursday Talk by Zoom, presenting on church hurt and restoration from my newest book, The Sacred Place for Broken People.

LOOKING FORWARD

While this summary highlights major milestones, it represents countless individual calls, prayers, and visits across our region. As we look toward 2027, my commitment remains focused on expanding leadership pathways, deepening educational partnerships, and elevating pastoral support.

While this summary highlights major milestones, it represents countless individual calls, prayers, and visits across our region. As we look toward 2027, my commitment remains focused on expanding leadership pathways, deepening educational partnerships, and elevating pastoral support.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..."
Ephesians 3:20

ARIZONA / NEVADA ASSOCIATION

Rev. Paul Gibson

Regional Resource Minister

This past year has been a season of fruitfulness, growth, and faithful service. God continues to move through our congregations across the region, and we celebrate these notable milestones:

Pastoral Transitions

First Institutional Baptist Church, Phoenix:

After more than 47 years of leadership, Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. retired with a nationwide celebration. The church warmly welcomed its new pastor, Dr. Robert "Ty" Jones, and his wife, Nakisha, who are doing an outstanding job leading the congregation forward.

First Baptist Church, Scottsdale:

Rev. Gary Hope was called as long-term interim pastor following pastoral departures in January. His extensive Arizona ministry experience will guide the church through this season of discernment.

Native American Ministries - Bethany Baptist Church, Clarkdale:

Pastor Larry Jackson continues his faithful leadership and local community outreach.

Poston Community Church, Poston:

Pastor Shawn Thompson leads with dedication, serving the surrounding area wonderfully.

Building & Expansion Projects

The Rock, A Christian Church, Las Vegas:

Having raised most of the funds needed, the church plans to break ground later this year, targeting a 2027 move-in date.

the rock

Making Disciples

Arizona Karen Baptist Church, Phoenix:

Currently meeting in two locations, the congregation is building a new sanctuary on Phoenix's west side to bring their church family together under one roof.

ARIZONA / NEVADA ASSOCIATION (CONTINUED)

Global Servants & Missionaries

David & Joyce Reed: We were blessed by a visit from international missionaries David and Joyce Reed. David grew up at First Baptist Church of Scottsdale; when not traveling globally, they reside in Tucson.

Easter Sunrise Service

Three congregations sharing the Monte Vista facility—Arizona Karen Baptist, Monte Vista Baptist, and Monte Vista Cross Cultural—joined together once again for their annual united Easter sunrise gathering.

Community Impact & Shared Fellowship

Monte Vista Baptist Church, Phoenix: We congratulate long-time member Eddie Patelson (pictured on left) on receiving a community service award for his dedicated outreach.

We give thanks for the steadfast faith of all our member churches as they love Jesus and serve their communities.

HAWAII ASSOCIATION

Dr. Barry Lovett

Regional Resource Minister

The Hawaii Association of American Baptists consists of two congregations: First Baptist Church of Honolulu and Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Our Association meets annually in February. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Anthony J. Cook, Pastor of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and author of the book "Rooted in Faith: Overcoming Our Trauma and Pain," which was our theme.

Our Annual Meeting is a time of worship, fellowship, challenge and inspiration. A highlight of the worship service each year is the musical numbers presented by each congregation.

A workshop presented by Lauren Bethel, Global Servant, International Ministries, followed Dr. Cook's address. The afternoon also included a catered dinner.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, members and friends of our Association were invited to the home of Sharon Dumas, high up in the mountains, for dinner, fireworks, and an opportunity to fellowship with our Executive Minister Andy Quient, his wife Lisa, and guest speakers. It was a beautiful setting, overlooking the city of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean. Following are reports from each of our congregations...

HAWAII ASSOCIATION (CONTINUED)

First Baptist Church of Honolulu:

A highlight of the year was the Easter Sunday baptisms of Paul Mahoney, Rylan Yee, and Kiana Pierce. Also on Easter weekend, an outreach to children in the community was carried out with the help of these workers pictured.

In July, the church celebrated the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Pastor Barry and Jody (pictured with their daughter, Brianna).

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church:

Members and Friends participated in the Ohana Day Parade in July and also conducted their annual VBS, which provides opportunities for the whole family.

◀ In August First Baptist opened their time capsule that was sealed inconcrete 50 years ago

First Baptist Church Praise Team leading worship at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church ▶

◀ Trinity Marches in, "God 's Ohana Day" Parade

Parents and Children lined up to participate in FBCH Easter Activity ▶

SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION

Rev. Van Tarpley
Regional Resource Minister

Doki Doki youth/young adult reading group

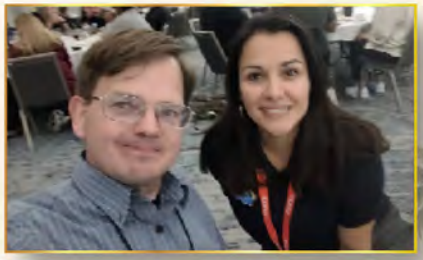
In 2026, San Diego ABCOFLASH churches forged Christian connections on a variety of fronts:

Participation in regional events such as Third Thursday, Annual Meeting, the Executive Minister search, and the Young Generation Retreat

Fellowship, learning, and worship across congregational boundaries, including several Advent/Christmas celebrations and gathering around baseball and manga

Engagement in ministries of concern and discipleship involving unhoused neighbors, the border, and leadership development.

Multi-congregation youth Christmas Gathering at New Beginning Baptist Church



RTFH Conference on Homelessness

ABCOFLASH Padres game

THE CHALLENGES OUR CHURCHES ARE FACING

Key concerns in area churches include overall affordability, housing, lengthy military deployments, and challenges faced by immigrants, permanent residents, and asylees. We thank God for His daily presence and care, and seek to be better carriers of His life, light, and Good News each day.

AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL CENTER/ UNIVERSITY OF THEOLOGY LOS ANGELES (ABTC/UTLA)

Dr. Enrique Torres

Executive Director

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

This past year, ABTC/UTLA:

- Continued providing affordable theological education and leadership development.
- Received certification from the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH), allowing us to grant bachelor's degree equivalencies.
- Expanded student access to denominational scholarships and educational resources.
- Strengthened academic, administrative, governance, and accountability standards.
- Expanded partnerships with American Baptist churches and educational institutions.
- Extended the ministry of UTLA beyond Southern California while maintaining our strong American Baptist identity.

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the ABTC/UTLA Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the ABCOFLASH family for your faithful partnership, encouragement, and financial support.

For 38 years, ABTC has prepared pastors, church leaders, and Christian servants throughout Southern California, continuing a heritage of theological education dating back to 1944.

Looking Ahead

We remain committed to preparing the next generation of pastors and Christian leaders, serving churches and underserved communities, expanding accessible theological education, and advancing the Great Commission.

We respectfully ask ABCOFLASH to continue its partnership and financial support of ABTC/UTLA. Your investment helps equip men and women called by God to serve His Church and extend His Kingdom.

> *"And the things you have heard me say...entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*
> *2 Timothy 2:2*

May the Lord continue to bless ABCOFLASH and our partnership for the glory of Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom.

FAITH IN CHRIST MINISTRIES

Pastor Joe and Mrs. Gwynn Browne

For over 30 years, Pastor Joe and Mrs. Gwynn Browne have served Los Angeles by equipping servant leaders and building vibrant Christian communities. Inspired by Isaiah 61:1- 3, they connect people to drive personal transformation through food programs, youth outreach, and community care.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GWENDOLYN "GWYNN" BROWNE

As the Director of Faith in Christ Ministries, Gwynn helped shape a ministry devoted to meeting both the spiritual and practical needs of individuals and families throughout Los Angeles. Her life reflected the heart of Isaiah 61—bringing good news to the poor, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming freedom to those in captivity, and comforting those who mourn. She did not treat these words as distant ideals. She lived them through compassion, hospitality, prayer, support, and faithful service.

Gwynn found particular joy in children's ministry and women's ministry. She understood that children needed more than instruction; they needed patience, affirmation, protection, opportunities, and adults who believed in their future. She also understood that women often needed a safe place to rest, heal, grow, and be accepted without judgment. Through her work, she helped create communities where women could feel seen, supported, and valued. She encouraged them to recognize their worth, strengthen their faith, and embrace the purpose within them.

On August 8, 2026, Gwynn passed away in Los Angeles, California. ABCOFLASH is grateful for Gwynn who was a constant presence at ABCOFLASH events and she greeted everyone with her warm presence. Thank you to Rev. Joe Browne who had the vision to serve the community alongside Gwynn who was a blessing to all who encountered her.

Her passing leaves an immeasurable absence, but her life leaves an enduring gift. The love she gave, the faith she lived, and the hope she offered will continue through the people she touched and the generations that follow.

FIBCO FAMILY SERVICES

FIBCO Family Services, Inc. continues to meet the evolving needs of individuals and families in our community. In 2025, our food and clothing programs provided essential support to 30,752 individuals, ensuring access to basic necessities during times of hardship. We remain committed to expanding access to critical resources and serving our community with dignity, hope, and purpose.

Akilah Stewart
Executive Director

OUR MISSION:
To provide people with knowledge, skills, and support to transform and empower their lives.

QUALITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FIBCO Family Services, Inc. continues to provide free meals through our LADS program, food boxes on campus, and mobile food distributions in low-income communities. In April 2025, we expanded services by opening a Mini-Market, allowing individuals and families to select 10 additional supplemental items.

QUALITY CLOTHING

We continue to welcome community members to select from our racks of donated clothing items, providing access to quality clothing for individuals and families who may be facing difficult circumstances. Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers, our clothing program offers practical support while helping ensure that everyone can feel comfortable, confident, and cared for.

2025 FIBCO Food Distribution:

9,859 St. Mary's EmergencyFood Boxes Distributed

5,270 Individuals Served

11,705 Lunches Served

933 Mini-Market (Individuals served)

2025 FIBCO Clothing Distribution:

16,655 Articles of clothing distributed

705 Shoes distributed

3,777 Individuals served

ADVANCEMENT

Rev. Brandon Bouldin
Regional Resource
Minister of Advancement

A Year of Foundation

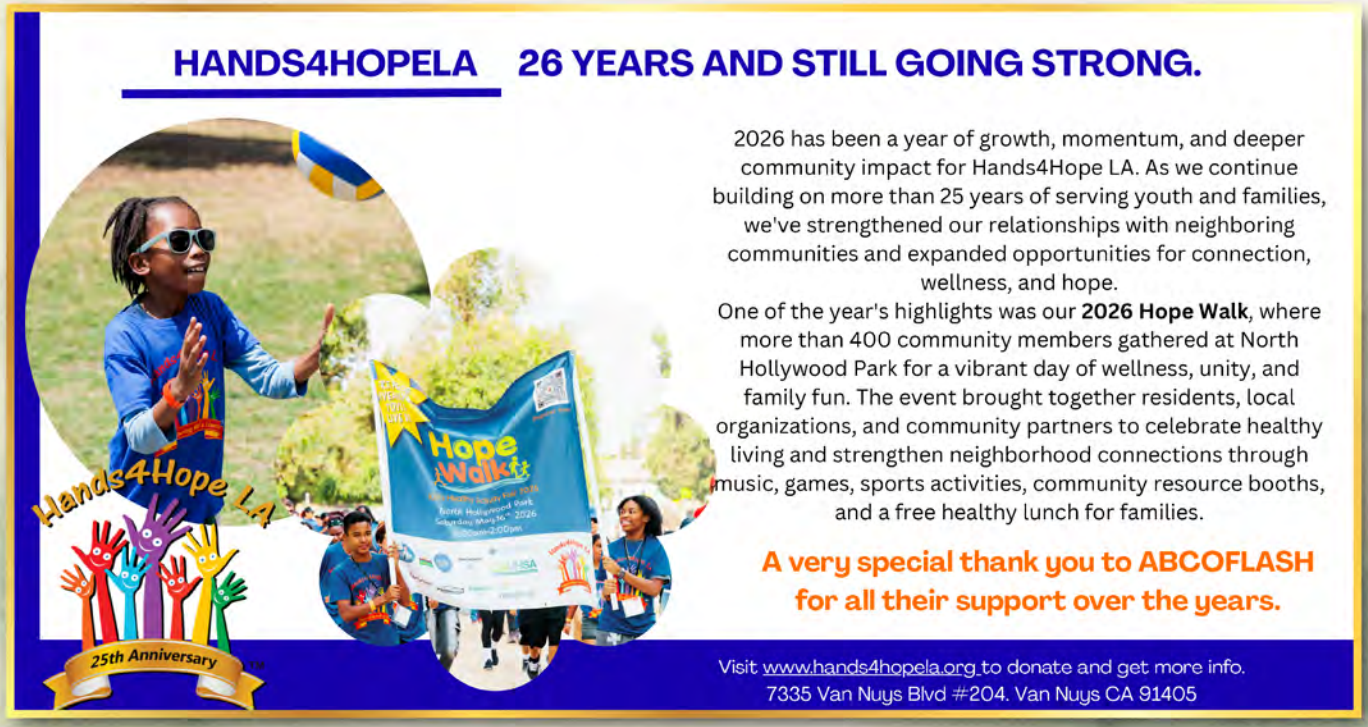
This first year as Regional Resource Minister of Advancement has centered on building the infrastructure for long-term impact. We invested in key administrative systems and continued developing our website – not just as a source of updated information, but as a storytelling platform that gives supporters direct access to invest in our region's mission.

Behind the scenes, we're building the systems that will position our advancement efforts for sustained growth, while sharpening how we communicate the full breadth of what our region offers to those who partner with us.

On the ground, this has meant walking alongside pastors directly: helping churches adopt AI tools and coming alongside leaders to strengthen their financial systems – from building budgets and reorganizing church finances to implementing online giving and choosing the right tools to support it. We've also been building strategic partnerships, including with Ministry Brands, to bring greater resources and support to our local churches and future church plants.

Looking ahead, I'm eager to deepen this work – helping more pastors develop the administrative and financial tools their churches need, and building additional regional partnerships with national ministries that give our churches access to effective ministry resources at a reduced cost. My conviction remains simple: as we strengthen our local churches and equip our pastors, we drive the region forward.

HANDS FOR HOPE



RAINBOW ACRES

Rev. Paul Higgins

President/CEO

Last year was full of transitions. We bid farewell to eleven Ranchers, mostly because we could no longer meet their medical care needs. We said "Well done!" to two retiring senior leaders. We strengthened our educational team, promoted several staff and welcomed new talent. Three new horses arrived, marking the return of horseback riding.

Most importantly, we gained ELEVEN new Ranchers, more than in any year I can recall. That's eleven more families we now serve. Eleven more Ranchers who have come to grow and thrive, discovering and living out their life purposes. Their joy, questions, experiences, and expectations push us to do even better for all 79 Ranchers.

At lunch a few days ago, I paused to look out over the dining room. I saw a pair of new Ranchers engaged in vigorous, happy conversation. I saw new Ranchers surrounded by long-time Ranchers, fully engaged and integrated into the life of the Ranch. And I saw a reserved newcomer actually crack a smile talking with one of our more "ornery" veteran Ranchers.

As I think of that moment, I am grateful for you. You made that moment happen. Your support makes possible the many moments when Ranchers' lives are changed and supported in varied ways.

Thank you for being part of God's work here, as this community supports every Rancher to live out their own life of purpose.

7

Rainbow Acres, a Christian Community with heart, empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Deneen Ray

Regional Resource Minister
Leadership & Ministry Development

"Leaving no one behind, loving all"

MY FOCAL AREAS

Community (Connect)
Truly listening to one another—because your voice matters.

Connection (Resource)
Providing resources and training to expand your knowledge and skills.

Commission (Equip & Disciple)
Empowering you to step out boldly wherever God has called you.

Allow me to introduce myself to some and reintroduce myself to others who have known me in different ministry roles over the years. Most know me simply as Mama D or Rev. D—a woman deeply passionate about her personal relationship with Christ and the unique purpose He has for each of us.

I find immense joy in walking alongside others as they process Truth and set personal goals. Through the gift of discernment, I strive to listen closely not just to what is said, but to what remains unspoken. I am a simple person who loves watching God transform lives simply by being present.

In today's fast-paced, "Insta-everything" world, it is all too easy to miss the quiet moments—the spoken words, subtle body language, and unseen tears of those both inside and outside our faith communities. Now more than ever, we need to slow down, breathe, and admire the beauty and fruit that come from the Creator Himself.

As I step into serving our Region as the Leadership and Ministry Development Liaison, my goal is for every action and word to reflect Christ, whether inside or outside a church building.

Together, my prayer is that we are equipped with the tools, wisdom, and heart of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the calling God has placed on our ministries and personal lives.

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go search for the one that is lost until he finds it?"
Luke 15:4

NOTES

NOTES

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Andy Quient, Executive Minister

Rev. Doug Hubbard, Regional Resource Minister, Youth and Global Missions

Rev. Dr. Jose Menendez, Regional Resource Minister, Latino Ministries

Rev. Brandon Bouldin, Regional Resource Minister, Advancement

Rev. Dr. Dennis Casaje, Regional Resource Minister, Asian Ministries

Rev. Paul Gibson, Regional Resource Minister, Arizona Association

Rev. Dr. Barry Lovett, Regional Resource Minister, Hawaii Association

Rev. Dr. Tahlib McMicheaux, Regional Resource Minister, Black Ministries

Rev. Deneen Ray, Regional Resource Minister, Leadership and Ministry Development

Rev. Van Tarpley, Regional Resource Minister, San Diego/Orange County Association

Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister Emeritus

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ms. Charlotte Chang, Regional Business Manager

Ms. Deborah Gentry, Regional Coordinator

REGIONAL SUPPORT TEAM

Mrs. Berta Villacorta, Administrative Coordinator, Latino Ministries

Ms. Tina Tome, Administrative Assistant, Accounting

Mrs. Gloria Bravo, Staff Support

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