



# IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS

ACTS 2:16-21

ABCOFLASH2015

IMAGINE A CHURCH WITH GOD'S SPIRIT POURED OUT



## ABCOFLASH

ANNUAL MEETING 2015

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# Executive Minister's Report

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2014-15



**Reverent Dr. Sam Chetti**

This is the first Annual Celebration of the combined Associations of American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles (ABCLA) and American Baptist Congregations of Southwest and Hawaii (ABCOSH, formerly ABCPSW).

Together, we have been engaged in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 120 years, among the urban and suburban communities of California, Arizona, So. Nevada and Hawaii. We un-ashamedly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ among un-churched and un-believing populations of our communities.

In the next pages you can read the various ministry reports and celebrate with us the mighty works of our Lord within our Region. Let me outline some of the exciting opportunities we experienced.

We continue to implement the Comprehensive Contextual Congregational Ministry Resources. A basic schema is provided in this graphic which outlines various aspects of the program. It emphasizes personal leadership and organizational excellence with spiritual maturity and apostolic passion. We just do not provide resources; we create contagious chemistry for ministry of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

We continue to implement the Comprehensive Congregational Excellence Resources among our congregations. A basic schema is outlined in the graphic. It looks simple, and elegant, but in reality, this schema has several Congregational Spiritual Maturity and Thriving Contextual Resources for our congregation's benefit.



## Middle East Forum

On September 3 (San Diego), 6 (Ojai), 10 (Regional Resource Center) and 12 (San Pedro), we conducted Middle Eastern Ministry Forums with the help of American Baptist Global Servants who are stationed and serving in the Middle East and North Africa. They were well attended and those present were able to receive a very comprehensive look at the context and how the Church of Jesus Christ is thriving amidst harsh realities.



Dr. Graham Hill, a missiologist from Moorland College visiting our Region and conducted extensive interviews with pastors who are doing creative ministries and congregational development in May of this year. The data will be published in a book entitled, "Global Church Project."

The Baptist World Alliance met July 23 – 26, 2015. More than 115 different Baptist conventions gathered in Durban South Africa to celebrate Jesus Christ, the door to salvation. I had the pleasure of conducting a Bible study in English around the topic of Jesus Christ, the door to leadership. It was a dynamic time of fellowship, worship, education and above all to experience the beauty of global Baptist community. In five years (2020) the BWA meetings will be held in Brazil.





## NEW PASTORS

We welcome the following new pastors to our Region:

Dr. Dyke Redmond, Sunnyside Baptist Church of Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Eddie Ledesma, New Hope Community Church, Sunland, CA

Rev. Liam McCann, Panorama Baptist Church, Arleta, CA

Pastor. Marcos Granados, Iglesia Bautista Jehovah Yireh, Brea, CA

Rev. Richard Holt, First Baptist Church of Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates, CA

## ORDINATION COUNCIL

We celebrated the ordination of Rev. Van Tarpley of First Baptist Church of Bostonia, El Cajon, CA, and approved the prior ordination of Rev. Richard Holt who serves at the First Baptist Church of Palos Verdes in Rolling Hills Estates, CA. The Regional Ordination Council functions on behalf of the Association of Churches to conduct ecclesiastical endorsement for ministry among American Baptist Churches of USA.



Rev. Van Tarpley



Rev. Richard Holt

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We thank you for your generous support of the United Mission, Regional Support, and the entire the American Baptist Mission Support. Below is a comparison of 2014 and 2015 until the end of August.

## 2014

UM	92,822
AFC	26,316
OGHS	45,898
WMO	32,040
RMMO	31,180
RO	36,417
ISP	10,261
Specifics	94,378
Targeted	152,456

TOTAL – 521,769

## 2015

UM	72,238
AFC	17,678
OGHS	49,405
WMO	12,343
RMMO	26,012
RO	27,130
ISP	14,344
Specifics	180,658
Targeted	19,211

TOTAL – 519,120

**Your generous United Mission and Regional support makes possible the following ministries and more!**

- Young Adult Ministries
- Region Women Connect
- ABGIRLS
- iLead Program
- New Church Planting
- Regional Pastoral Cluster meetings, and Continued Education events.
- Family Ministries
- Latino Women and Men's Ministries
- The governance activities of the Board of Directors
- Community Projects that impact the vulnerable among us
- Scholarships for ministry preparation
- Management and administration of seven Regional Ministry Task Forces
- Pastoral Emergency Medical Assistance
- The administrative offices of the Executive Minister and Regional Ministries.



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Please take time to read the 2014 audited report. You will notice that we are financially stable and thriving. We have moved from 18 months of working capital in 1998 to more than 12 years of the same working capital in 2014. This statistic is very rare among non-profit religious organizations.

Two realities necessitate a change in how we conduct our Annual Meetings:

- 1) The need for language based first generation participants.
- 2) Cost and travel time to travel to the annual gathering.

So, we now conduct three Associational Celebrations with the main Corporate Annual Gathering being the one that includes the Regional Business Session. They are:

- First Saturday of June - Latino Celebration – (Spanish only)
- First Friday/Saturday of October – Regional Annual Celebration including Annual Corporate Business Session (English with translation to Spanish)
- Mid October - Hawaii Association Celebration – (English only)

In the future we will be adding Annual Association Celebrations in Arizona and North Coast Churches (Oxnard, Ojai, Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Bakersfield). We are still perfecting our management of this vast Region.

We are a very dynamic, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and Inter-generational body of Jesus Christ, creating new paradigms of ministry thought and practice. It is a joy to experience the robust, and exhilarating worship and mission that is being conducted by our congregations.

I wish to thank the pastors and churches who allowed me to serve them. The Board of Directors who entrusted me with the leadership of this vibrant Region have always stood beside me to help manage its functions. I am very grateful to our hard working staff:

**Rev. Dennis Casaje**  
**Rev. Doug Hubbard**  
**Dr. Jose Menendez**

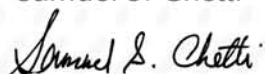
**Dr. William Thurmond**  
**Ms. Charlotte Chang**  
**Ms. Deborah Gentry**

**Mrs. Berta Villacorta**  
**Ms. Tina Tome**  
**Ms. Areli Sanchez**

who go the extra distance and give energy to execute all the ministry events with effectiveness and excellence. I wish to register my special thanks to my wife Carolyn and my daughter Darshana who lift and support me while I am at home or away on my many travels and daily administrative stresses.

With gratitude,

Samuel S. Chetti



Executive Minister



# ABCOFLASH Board Report

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I would like to express my thanks to each member of the Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to govern the operation of the Region. They not only attended our regular and special meetings to conduct important business, but they prayed for and supported the Region at their local churches. Several of the members were able to visit churches other than their own as a demonstration of our desire to fellowship with one another. We have such a rich diversity in our Association that it is truly a joy to reach out to learn and experience what the Lord is doing in places other than our own!

This first year of the new Association has been successful in a number of ways. First of all, there was a renewed commitment to the original Mission that energized the formation of the City Society and eventually a Region of the American Baptist Churches USA family. Secondly, we erased the boundaries that divided us and increased access to membership. We became more inclusive and less exclusive. Extensive discussions (town hall meetings) were held to invite input from all our stakeholders about who we are, who we want to be and what our joint vision and efforts should be to fulfill God's mission and to build a stronger, relevant expression of God's Caring Presence not just in the City but across geographical lines.

The Board of Directors has introduced the concept of organizing the region by Affinity Groups which adds greater interaction and interrelationships between local congregations. One large Annual Meeting of the Region is not the most effective way for us to operate given the wide area of our membership, so identifying churches and ministries that share a common or nearby (affinity group) of communities provides a significant opportunity to coordinate outreach programs and develop cooperative and collaborative ministries that benefit their congregations.

We have continued to encourage member churches to use the resources of the region office to assist in developing and growing their ministries. Nevertheless, it is each individual church that must take responsibility for the success of its ministry. The Region has tools and training that may assist in that process, but the local pastor and the local congregation are the ones most knowledgeable of their talents, treasures and needs. The pastor, church leadership and congregation form the team that is able to inspire and nurture growth in their congregation and their community.

As we celebrate the first year, I am excited about the future which was expressly promised so many years ago by Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)  
*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

My thanks to the membership of the Region for working together to fulfill the plans the Lord has declared He has for us.

Blessings,

Walter J. Clarke  
President Board of Directors



It is a privilege to be a Partner in Mission and Ministry with the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii. Thank you for the incredible support underwriting the construction of Oikos House. Yours is the first and only region of American Baptist Churches to undertake this mission opportunity. Our 2015 Update follows!

FIRST: The Mission of Rainbow Acres is to provide a Christian faith-based, contemporary residential care community for adults with developmental disabilities in Arizona; with a compassionate loving care and a full complement of excellent programs and services that empower each adult to discover meaning and purpose in his/her life. Rainbow Acres is one of the only few faith values based "post-secondary residential care option" with new modern housing for adults with developmental disabilities in the United States.

SECOND: Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is located on a 50 acre Ranch in the beautiful Verde Valley in Camp Verde, AZ. It is related to the American Baptist Churches USA; is recognized as an Affiliated Ministry Organization by the Board of General Ministries ABCUSA; is twice a recipient of the Olive K. Thomas Grant administered by the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and a member in good standing of the American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries. Rainbow Acres is accredited by EAGLE of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (through four accreditation cycles, total 16years).

Rainbow Acres has received regional, State, and National recognition for its new and modern residences, quality of care and program innovation. In October 2015, Rainbow Acres will receive the "Spirit of Sedona" award for its contribution to the quality of life in Sedona.

Rainbow Acres has received the Shining Star Award three years in a row (2013, 2014, & 2015) from the Arizona Assisted Living Federation of Arizona for: Clavinova Connection the first program of its kind serving the developmentally disabled in the US; for the Nurse of the Year to Christine Walker, Director of Health and Wellness Program; and Caregiver of the Year to Sandy Koonce with 20 years of service at Rainbow Acres.





The United Methodist Association Awarded its 2015 Best Practices Award to Rainbow Acres for the Fine Arts Painting.

THIRD, RANCHER RESULTS: 90 residents (we call them Ranchers denoting dignity and worth of the individual) come from Arizona, California and 21 States around the USA. In our 41 years of service, Rainbow has served over 450 individuals with developmental disabilities.

The safety and security the Ranch provides peace of mind, friends, discovery of a purpose in life; the Ranchers experience unparalleled happiness, joy and contentment. Each Rancher chooses to reside at Rainbow Acres, often for a lifetime. And parents, guardians and family members experience peace of mind, too, knowing that their loved one has a home; opportunities for friendships; and purpose for life.

PLEASE KEEP READING: TWO QUICK STORIES OF A MAN AND WOMEN FROM MARICOPA COUNTY/CITY OF PHOENIX.

Born in 1941, Ben grew up in a small town in New York. Unfortunately, he doesn't remember his father. Nevertheless, he had a happy childhood surrounded by this Mother and Grandparents. He has happy memories of working in his Grandfather's butcher shop from an early age. When his Mother reached retirement age she moved to Arizona to improve her health. As she grew older, it was hard for her to look ahead to Ben's future. Fortunately for Ben, he had a cousin he loved and trusted from childhood. She found Rainbow Acres, which gave them peace of mind that Ben would have long-term loving care and a loving family, just like home!

Denise was born into a loving Lincoln, Nebraska family, at an early age, Denise was dually diagnosed with developmental and behavioral disabilities. Her Father was a successful businessman and Mom was a homemaker caring for Denise as she grew up. As she aged, Denise's temper was uncontrollable. At family reunions Denise was a terror and no one wanted to be around her. Unfortunately, her Mother passed away at a young age. When her Dad remarried, his new wife gave Denise great loving care. But because Denise consumed so much of the families time and energy to provide for her emotional needs: her only brother, Dan, became estranged.

Nevertheless, he ultimately became her guardian and conservator, and paid her monthly fees at Rainbow Acres from his own personal funds. When Dan passed away suddenly, Denise was all alone, without family and without resources. Rainbow Acres is her home now, peers have become her family, and she has loving Caregivers to always look after her.

This man and women are good examples of the value and need of the Adopt-A-Rancher program at Rainbow. The Adopt-A-Rancher program provides emotional, spiritual and financial assistance when all other resources are depleted.



This past year has seen vital ministry that has impacted lives for God's Kingdom as people from our region came together for various events and programs!

iLead – October 2014 through July 2015



Equipping Youth to Become Life Long Followers of Christ and Servant Leaders! iLead brought together 12 youth who came together for five weekend retreats to deepen their faith and discover the joys and challenges of leadership. This testimony from one of the iLead student summarizes the iLead experience quite well:

"I went into iLead because I wanted to grow and develop as a Christian. I wanted to not only be a Christian by name, but by example and lifestyle. During iLead we focused on five areas of formation:

**Life Formation** was developed through our studying the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens throughout our retreats.

**Theological Formation** helped me to strengthen what it is we believe in as Christians as opposed to the beliefs of other religions. We took trips during our retreats to other places of worship for other religions where we reflected a bit and not only learned the other religions core theology but were able to see it in practice.



Our **Spiritual Formation** was developed through learning new ways of praying such as the Prayer of Examine at the end of our days. We also practiced staying silent and fasting to reconnect with the spiritual aspect of our faith and develop it.

In order to practice **Leadership Formation**, we were assigned the task of creating, organizing, and executing a group activity or event within our Youth Group or our church.

Through serving others, we focused on **Missional Formation**. We did this by volunteering at the Union Rescue Mission and did so to not only just serve others, but to also connect with others, impact others, and see how it is we can further the kingdom of God through actions such as these.

Through developing these five areas of my life through iLead I am confident that my foundation is one built on the rock, and not on the sand.

My fellow iLead students gave me the support, love, and encouragement I needed as well. They became more than just my peers and became, a second family to me. Through all of the late night conversations, fellowship, meals shared at a table, worship sessions together, games we played, Snapchats we sent, walks in the rain, laughs, kind gestures, push to achieve greater, and encouragement to develop our faith further, we forged the bond that was necessary to create the family that is iLead Generation 4."

**Pastors and Spouses Christmas Celebration – Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley – December 13, 2014** – Pastors and Spouses gathered together for a rich time of fellowship and celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ into our world. Our time together featured a delicious meal, singing of Christmas carols and readings around the lighting of the Advent Candles and more!





## Winter Youth Retreat 2015 – March 13-15

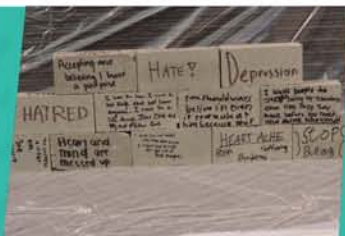


275 youth and leaders from 23 churches gathered for an intense weekend that brought them closer to God and each other! Many youth made new commitments to follow Jesus and renew their relationship with Him. Our speaker was Jesse Morales who shared his testimony that connected with everyone! Our theme was “Crushed, But Not Destroyed”. We can go through difficult challenges in life, but if we are in Christ, we can grow from those experiences.

*“This retreat was awesome it gave us the opportunity to meet new people and create new friendships. This retreat allowed our group to reconnect and become closer.”*

*“I remember the openness of my small group. We were able to talk about more than just our life for God, but some of our own struggles with our faith as well. Coupled with the amazing speaker and the worship, I actually felt a healing and awe for God that I hadn’t felt in a while.”*

*“Jesse Morales did not hesitate to talk about the harshness and adversity that we may face in the world. His messages focused on the lesser talked about, uglier reality we live in and how we need God constantly in our lives to survive in it.”*





# Youth, Young Adult and Global Missions

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**Dodger Night – May 1, 2015** – Our Annual American Baptist Dodger Night brought together about 200 friends and family from several congregations for a time of fellowship, fireworks and a Dodger victory!



**American Baptist Day at Magic Mountain – June 15, 2015** - Youth came together for an awesome day to enjoy a fun-filled day and fellowship with each other! It was a great time of bonding for youth groups! Several new groups came this year – all the way from Phoenix and San Diego!



**Global Leadership Summit – August 6-7, 2015** – About 20 leaders from our region came together at the Regional Resource Center to participate in the web cast of the Global Leadership Summit from Willowcreek Community Church near Chicago. Each session provided valuable insight and inspiration for spiritual growth and leadership development.

*"Humbly honored to participate with local leadership in this dynamic and empowering global leadership summit! Leadership, whether in a faith based structure, at home, at work, or in the community is too important not to nourish or highly invest in it - in short, it's too costly to have poor leadership. I'm applying the newly learned principles at home and work, both bleed into the surround community in which we all share."*





**Middle East Forum – September 10 and 12, 2015** – Pastors and leaders came together to learn about what is happening in the Middle East from American Baptist Global Servants who serve with International Ministries: Daniel Chetti, Walt White, Richard Freeman and Melanie Baggao.



## **Youth and Young Adult Ministry Advisory Team:**

On July 27th the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Advisory Team came together to help shape the future of Regional Youth Ministry. They took time to examine Regional Youth Ministry and give input on what needs to happen in the future. Discussion focused upon having a few worship nights and a summer youth conference in addition to the Winter Youth Retreat. They also discussed how we can continue to provide resources and equipping for youth ministry in the church. The Advisory Team members are: Erick Toss, Iglesia Bautista Shalom; Raul Gomez, Iglesia Bautista en Athens; Brandon Bouldin – Park Windsor Baptist Church; William DeLeon – Wilshire Baptist Church; Deenen Ray – Granada Hills Baptist Church; Tina Tome – Temple Baptist Church; Matthew Raabsmith – First Baptist Church of Pasadena; Jared Sumners – First Baptist Church of Redlands; Claudia Guinea – Ministerios Manantial de Amor; Areli Sanchez – ABCOFLASH Staff.

Young Adult Ministry to Restart in 2016 – On August 29th a gathering of Young Adult Ministry Leaders came together to envision the future of Young Adult Ministry in this region. Young Adult Ministry will put together a young adult track at the Winter Youth Retreat and will also offer 2 fellowship events and a mission trip in 2016. Those who are serving on the Young Adult Ministry Leadership Team are: Deneen Ray – Granada Hills Baptist Church; Vanessa Flores, Kevin Ablon – Filipino American Christian Church; Brandon and Paige Bouldin – Park Windsor Baptist Church; DeAndre Harling – Atherton Baptist Church; Ricky Jeffrey – Panorama Baptist Church; Josemara Lima & Jacqueline Sobreira – PIBBLA; Vinh Luu – Hacienda Heights Baptist Church; Areli Sanchez – ABCOFLASH Staff; and Allison & Nick Quient – First Baptist Church of Santa Ana/Westminister.

## **Global Missions -**

We celebrate what God is doing through our churches to build God's Kingdom around the world! Many churches are involved in their own mission efforts by their own projects and supporting missionaries around the world.

We are thrilled Melanie Baggao from Epic Church in Fullerton and Richard and Laura Freeman have been appointed by International Ministries to serve as Global Servants! Melanie has been raising support and will begin in Lebanon in the Fall of 2015. Richard and Laura are continuing to build Turkish Connections in partnership with International Ministries. See more about their ministries in the list of Global Servants that are connected with our region.

ABCOFLASH has established a Regional Partnership Network with these Global Servants who serve with International Ministries. Your church is being asked to prayerfully consider putting these partners in ministry in your church budget so they can continue to the work God has called them to! Your church is also encouraged to receive the World Mission Offering in the Fall to support the work of International Ministries around the world! To learn more about the work of these servants visit our website at [abcoflash.org](http://abcoflash.org)



## Global Missions - Latin America:



**Phil and Corenne Smith – Brazil** - Corenne and Philip minister to children who are part of a residential program that rescues homeless street children and youth ranging in age from 8 to 18. The program provides guidance, education, and training for future employment. Corenne works mainly with the older children, working with them on life skills so that they can eventually transition away from a boarding school to independent living. Corenne also serves as a surrogate mother to many of the children, sharing with them the love of Jesus. Philip is the president and CEO of the residential program, Hope Unlimited for Children.



**Tim and Patty Long – Mexico** - Patti ministers as special education teacher and resource specialist at the Monte Horeb Baptist Grade School in Tijuana, a school that reaches out to the most vulnerable of the city's young population, its children with special needs. She also coordinates the STEP scholarship program for students at the school. Tim serves in leadership development through the Baja Baptist Seminary, teaching present and future church leaders, both at its Mexicali campus and extension centers located throughout Baja California. He also coordinates a scholarship program for seminary students.



**Ray Schellinger – Mexico** - Ray ministers to victims of domestic violence, strengthening the work of Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico. This ministry includes counseling services for families in crisis, as well as a shelter for women and children. Ray is also working as part of a denominational task force on immigration to help churches see beyond the difficulties and begin to embrace the possibilities of mission to and partnership with immigrant individuals and communities.



**Chuck and Ramona Shawver – Mexico** - Ramona is currently serving as academic advisor to the Baptist seminary in Mexico City residence students and serves as a chaplain for the Theological Community. Chuck coordinates the pastoral work of students who serve in nearby churches. Both share administrative and student services duties with other faculty and staff members and the Shawvers are becoming increasingly involved in the various distance learning programs which serve more than 200 students through regional centers and extension programs. Chuck also coordinates mission teams from US churches, and construction projects of seminary related churches.



**Ingrid Roldan-Roman – Panama** - Ingrid directs and is a professor at the Centro Teológico Bautista del Caribe Panameño (Panamanian Baptist Theological Center of the Caribbean) in Panamá training church leaders from different denominations in the community of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro, Panamá and in the surrounding areas. As a social extension of the Centro Teológico (Theological Center) she directs a tutoring program for elementary and high school students who have fallen behind in their studies. She serves as a missionary resource carrying out pastoral duties at the Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comisión in Sixaola, Limón, Costa Rica.



## Global Missions - Europe/Middle East:



**Pieter and Nora Kalkman – Europe** - Nora and Pieter are based in Prague, Czech Republic where they serve through International Ministries as liaison and volunteer coordinators with the European Baptist Federation (EBF). They match the skills and interests of short term mission volunteers from the United States and Puerto Rico with the needs of more than 50 Baptist unions that are part of the EBF. Facilitating the volunteers and volunteer groups is important in developing relationships across national boundaries to glorify God in Europe and around the world.



**Daniel & Sara Chetti – Lebanon** - Dan and Sarah Chetti - Dan is an Adjunct Professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut – an institution preparing leaders for ministry primarily across nine countries in the Middle East and North Africa. He teaches History of Christianity & Historical Theology. Dan is currently promoting a strategic ministry concept called Arab World Initiative. Sarah has been pioneering a ministry among foreign migrant women working as maids in Lebanon. She runs an integrated Centre for Domestic Workers -- INSAAF: Justice and Compassion of Jesus -- at Hadath Baptist Church, Beirut.



**Melanie Baggao – Lebanon** - In partnership with the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, Melanie will begin her service in the Arab world by studying at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, where she will learn language and culture and build relationships in preparation for future ministry in Arabic-speaking cultures. She will also participate in ministries of compassion with Syrian refugees.



**Richard Freeman – Turkey** - Rich and Laura, through their nonprofit organization Turkish Connections International, serve in the establishment of new churches in one of the least-reached countries on earth: Turkey. They work with Turkish pastors and key Christian leaders to accomplish three goals: first, identifying new potential pastors that are well-trained and highly respected; second, gathering needed financial support for these new pastors; and third, maintaining ongoing contact with each new church, engaging and nurturing Turkish pastors.



## Global Missions - Asia:



**Becky Mann – Thailand** - Becky has been working with the Hmong, Lahu, Lisu and Karen tribal women, helping with craft ideas, developing patterns and marketing of crafts. She is also committed to helping the Integrated Tribal Development Program, which her husband Mike Mann leads, with the marketing of Thai coffee, and working with parents of special needs children.



**Matt & Lori Mann – Laos** - In Laos, Lori and Matt work with street children, slum children, and girls who have been sold or are at high risk of being sold to human traffickers. In order to help protect and restore these children, the Manns are involved in five main interventions: a day time drop-in center for street and slum children; residential care for boys who were brought off the street and for girls who were victims of human trafficking or are at high risk of being victims; a scholarship program for children who would otherwise be sent to the city to beg; and raising community awareness about issues such as child abuse, child exploitation, and human trafficking. In Thailand, Matt is also involved in leadership development and rural community development.

## Global Missions - Africa:



**Glen and Rita Chapman – Democratic Republic of the Congo** - Glen and Rita Chapman train Congolese students and their wives, preparing them for ministry in their hometown in the rural environment. Glen teaches pastoral students at the Kikongo Pastor's Institute where he is professor of Old Testament, African religions, and Baptist distinctives. Rita teaches at the Women's School. She continues to develop and improve course materials for the pastors' wives. She teaches women to read, and also serves as an active member and counselor of the parish women's fellowship.



**Mike and Jill Lowery – Democratic Republic of the Congo** - Jill and Mike Lowery work with the Congolese Baptist Community. Mike is an administrator and a professor at the Pastor's Institute in Kikongo. Mike is also currently serving as pastor of the International Protestant Church of Kinshasa. Jill works with the National Women's Office of CBCO in ministries reaching out to unwed mothers and young women who are at risk to prostitution. The Lowery's goal is to provide a spiritual foundation, as well as job training, that would empower their young women to move on to a better life.

## Global Consultants



**Mike Mann** – Mike Mann is a global consultant for rural development for American Baptist International Ministries. Mike has more than 20 years of experience, and he's available to any of our international partners who are interested in developing water and/or agricultural projects. Mike serves as Director of the Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP), through which he ministers among the hill tribes of northern Thailand.



**Lauran Bethell** - Lauran is a global consultant on human trafficking. Her main goal is to initiate and encourage new grass- roots projects addressing the exploitation and abuse of women and children, many of whom are victims of trafficking. While based in The Netherlands, she travels extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas, teaching, training and consulting.



HighWay Ministries, a covenantal partner with ABCOFLASH, is rounding out its seventh year as a Christian mission in South Los Angeles, headed by the husband and wife ministry team of Pastor Willie Cockroft and Rev. Jini Kilgore Cockroft. On Sunday, October 11, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., HighWay will celebrate its anniversary at the ministry's location, 3430 W. Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles 90043. We would love for you to attend. Over the past seven years, HighWay has become known in its community for strong evangelistic preaching and teaching as well as for its spirit of hospitality and readiness to help others. Many of the people who come through HighWay's doors struggle with such issues as poverty, substance abuse, loneliness, homelessness, and often, hopelessness. HighWay addresses these issues through various ministries: on Sundays, a free Southern-styled hot breakfast (biscuits, grits, eggs, meat, fruit, juice, coffee—the works!), worship service, and van transportation for the elderly and disabled to and from the ministry; on Wednesdays, noonday Bible study and prayer service; monthly on Saturdays a clothing giveaway for the community. HighWay also hosts two weekly programs: a literacy class through the Los Angeles Public Library, and a 12-step group meeting.

In addition, HighWay Ministries has a unique residency program called HighWay House, a Christ-centered home for nine people at a time that offers affordable rooms to men and women who commit to live soberly. Randolph Brown, the resident manager, maintains a model home and is an experienced substance abuse counselor with sixteen years of sobriety himself. HighWay House has had more than 70 residents during the past seven years. HighWay Ministries is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) public benefit corporation, and donations of clothing, food, household cleaning items, and money are tax-deductible and welcomed. Monetary donations may be made online at [www.hwmin.org](http://www.hwmin.org), or by mail, P.O. Box 191533, Los Angeles, CA 90019. Call us at (323) 299-7758.

Pastor Willie Cockroft  
Rev. Jini Kilgore Cockroft







Hands4Hope LA is grateful for the continued support of ABCOFLASH as we continue to offer FREE quality after-school programs, providing our children a safe, fun and educational environment as well as resources for Single Parents. Our 15th Anniversary is fast approaching, so we are taking the time to celebrate those we've helped succeed in the past and honor those who have made our work possible.

Fall Semester activities are now underway, and we look forward to enriching our youth and teens in Academic Assistance, Healthy Lifestyles, Art Exploration, and Life Skills Development.

## Our programs include:

- Tutoring
- Music
- Drama
- Teen College Prep
- Career Planning
- Art Classes
- Kickboxing
- Music
- Filmmaking
- Dance ...and more



We also host leadership programs for teens as well as for alumni who have joined our Junior Board of Directors and are giving back to the program that helped them when they were young.

All of the great work we've done here at Hands4Hope LA over the past 15 years for both the children and their families has been made possible because of the love and dedication of our VOLUNTEERS. They create the success in our programs and we are constantly in need of more as we continue to grow. If you are interested in volunteering and/or want more information on how you can help please call us at (818) 763-HOPE (4673). To make a donation, please visit our website at [www.hands4hopela.org](http://www.hands4hopela.org) and click donate. We are so grateful for any time and support you can provide. Like us on Facebook to keep up with the great work we do each year at [www.facebook.com/hands4hopela](http://www.facebook.com/hands4hopela)



Hands4Hope LA welcomes you to join us for our **15th ANNIVERSARY GALA** at the Luxe Hotel on **November 13, 2015** as we honor Councilmember **Paul Krekorian, Jim and Gina Pickens**, and **Wendy Chang** of the Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation. Information and tickets are available on our website.



## Youth Development

Our S.A.Y. Yes! (Save America's Youth) Development program provided homework assistance and character development for the first semester. With a change in leadership and transportation changes our program was curtailed until the summer months. We were blessed to have college athletes from Athletes in Action provide 3 full weeks in June for summer youth activities for the youth in our community, follow by 3 weeks of activities with a variety of youth groups hosted by Center for Student Missions conduct Vacation Bible School days and play days and ending with an amazing team from Medford, Oregon, led by Pastor Randy Miller and his wife, Leslie for a full week of activities for our youth. Also, we were so blessed to offer an 8 week Technology Camp for middle school students, led by 2 June 2015 high school graduates who majored in computer science and were beginning their college Fall 2015.

**Volunteers:** We need volunteers year round to assist in every facet of our ministry. Students: you can do your service hours with us, after school or on weekends. Call our office (323) 291-9636, let us know your skill set, your interest, your availability and we can set a schedule specific to you.

**Food Program:** Our weekly supplemental food distribution has served an average of 50 families per week which has 4-6 people per household. Our food pantry needs to be replenished on a regular basis. Perhaps you can lead a food drive.

## Women's Program – DAY SPOT

Women meet weekly to study God's word and fellowship. Every 2nd Thursday, the Women's Gathering is hosted, providing a delicious meal, a word of encouragement, fun, fellowship and a craft project. This programs provides a safe haven for women to have a place to collect their thoughts, to be encouraged to take positive steps to lead them to a life of stability and ultimately to be able to grow in their faith which leads to their empowerment for making positive decisions for improving the quality of their lives.

**Mission Experience:** Faith without works is dead. We welcome the opportunity to assist you in developing a life changing mission experience for your group, your family, you personally. Contact us at 323-291-9636 or email us: [gwynn@ficmla.com](mailto:gwynn@ficmla.com)

**Ministry Opportunities:** Community Breakfast, Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 10: 00 – breakfast preparation and serving the homeless.

Pastor Joe and Gwynn Browne



## Annual Events:

Heart & Sole 5K Fun Walk, First Saturday in May to support our S.A.Y. Yes! Youth Development Program

Annual Thanksgiving Day Celebration – serving several locations ([www.celebratethanksgiving.org](http://www.celebratethanksgiving.org))

Annual Christmas Day Celebration, Community Christmas Party and Parent's Christmas Shoppe)





Welcome everyone to our second year as a new Region. The Latino churches in ABCOFLASH had a tremendous year and we have been blessed and impacted by the Power of The Holy Spirit through our Latino congregations.

God has been manifested in many ways in our Latino churches, and we are resourcing our churches in all four States. We formed seven Associations, in Arizona and Nevada, North Coast, San Fernando, Greater Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside, Orange County, and San Diego. Each association is led by a leader, from the associational churches. The Latino Ministries are organized around four areas those are: Ministry with Women, Men, Youths, and Pastors and Spouses. This way we can serve, equip and empower all pastors and lay leaders that are part of our Region. We resource and serve 80 Latino churches including 8 New Church Plants. All of this Ministry and Mission is being guided by the Regional Latino Ministry Task Force through The Latino Ministry Department.

With the active assistance of lay and Pastors, we planned and executed 20 meetings, fellowship events, and trainings thru out the year of 2015 in different sectors of our Region. All of those were conducted by different teams from our Regional Associations and ministries. This impacted generated much participation

Our effort is to align all Latino ministries with the vision and mission of our Region, to lift up individual uniqueness of our Ethnic and language, differences, but to generate desire and enthusiasm to be united In Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I had the great honor and pleasure of meeting with pastors, and participate in different events. I witnessed the pouring of God's Grace and Love upon heart mind and soul of the participants. There was much growth and maturity in many of our churches, missional commitments. I experienced and witnessed a passion for evangelism and discipleship of Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me briefly present to you some of the blessings we had experienced in all different types of events, and some pictorial images so you all can in some way be touched by God's Power and Grace.

**On January 29-31** we conducted training for pastors and new church planter with CECALI, a program of American Baptist Home mission society. There were 43 pastors and spouses attended. The topics were about evangelism, church growth, and our denominational connection. The speakers were Rev. Salvador Orellana and Rev. Raul Ruiz. We were blessed with much practical ministry information for our pastors. These are some of the comments: "I needed this for me, and my church, I have learned a lot, and I hope I can implement this knowledge in my church and community", "can I have this in my home church? This was tremendous blessings". Over all this event was a Blessing!!



In San Diego Association we gave training of “Seven Habits of Highly Effective Leaders” for 25 pastors and lay leaders at First Mexican Baptist Church. These are some comments ... “I had never heard of something like this for us leaders, this was a blessing for me and my church”. “This had helped me a lot in developing my leadership and my family as well”.

This workshops were also given at the churches in the Association of Arizona and Nevada.



In the Latino Youth Ministry under the leadership of Jorge and Ana Siguenza organized events. In February we celebrated a Latino “Talent Night”. Youth from different churches participated in this dynamic event. This was done at Iglesia Bautista Hispana, and Salomon Ramos, who is a leader from Los Angeles Association of churches helped in the successful execution of this event.





Latina Women are blessed with different meetings, under the leadership of Pastor Nora Martinez and her dynamic team of dedicated women. They organized a breakfast fellowship to inspire and motivate more than 300 women on March 21, 2015 in the Ministry Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ. This event was held at Quiet Cannon, Montebello, CA, and Rev. Dr. Leonel Robaina was the main speaker.



We have successfully revived re-energized 38 Los Angeles Association of Latino Churches. This is the largest of The Regional Latino Church Associations. On April 7, 2015; they invited expert people around the theme of Immigration issues. They had a good number of attendees and participants. They also organized a training for pastors about how to write papers and articles in magazines and blogs, and conducted a pastoral and family picnic at Borelli Park. The leader of this Association is Rev. Hector Mantillas, pastor at Chevy Chase Hispanic Church in Glendale, CA.





The ABTC (American Baptist Theological Center), operates from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. It directs Under-graduate (B.A) from La Verne university. There are more than 30 students enrolled, and they also assist Pastors or candidate who wish to go to Fuller Seminary for a Master in Divinity. Every year they organize a dinner event from all the Latino churches to raise Scholarship Fund for students in the above programs. This year they had their dinner at First Baptist South Gate, and there were about 300 people attended. Rev. Camilo Gonzalez is the director of this program. They also had a "Farewell" service for the assistant to the director Sister Lillian Puga, as she retired from serving at this institution. We thank Sister Lillian for her hard and consistent work for almost 30 years of service to ABTC.



Recognition for Lillian Puga for her service at ABTC, may 26, 2015.





With the passion to serve our Latino pastors, we conducted Continued Education (CE) Event and provided them with contemporary ministry training, so they can be effective in doing ministry through their local church. This event was in operation for almost 40 years! Every year it was well attended. We empower and provide the necessary skills and tools for ministry. This year the support came from, MMBB, Children Baptist Homes Inc., ABTC, and ABCOFLASH. Every year we invite different speakers from all contextual backgrounds to challenge us and provide practical information and skills for ministry. This year the CE event was held on May 17 thru the 20 of May, 2015, at The Oaks Conference Center at Lake Hughes CA. At this event Pastors spouses will have a time to celebrate their unique calling.



The Regional Latino churches are a representation of the diverse Latin American cultural and language, yet bound together by their passion for The Risen Christ. We try to encourage the pastors and lay member of our churches. Every year we meet to celebrate, worship and encouraged by a dynamic message! This year we celebrates the Latino Annual meeting of our churches on June 6, at Iglesia Bautista Camino al Cielo, were Pastors German and Zandra Galvez serve our Lord. We experienced a very dynamic time and learned together in two workshops, worshiped and heard. Dr. Leonel Robaina give an inspiring message and challenged us to seek and live according to the message and the values of the Kingdom of God.





One of our goal with the Latino churches, is to impress on our pastors the great need to reach the second and third generation Latinos. There is a great exodus of men, women and youth of that generation from our churches. On June 27, at First Baptist church South Gate we had a leadership training organized by the youth leaders of the Region, and their support teams. We had in attendance over 80 youth leaders. Pastors Oscar Merlo and Pablo Martinez were the speakers.



Dr. Chetti conducted a training for pastors and leaders of all the Associations and ministries on "Leadership of Excellence". He focused on Effective and Excellence in leading the church. This event was conducted at the Regional office on July 18.





The Youth retreat for Latino churches was conducted on July 7 thru 9, 2015 at The Oaks Camp in Lake Hughes, CA, there were over 100 youth and young adults attended the event. This retreat was organized by the youth leaders for Latino churches who voluntarily give their time and gifts. They are members of Ministerios Nuevo Vivir at North Hollywood. One of our goals is to empower each Latino church to start a vibrant youth ministry, and we are beginning to support and train potential leaders within our churches. As a result of this we now have, about four or five churches who started an English service.



## Different Events, and Meetings...

As Director of the Latino Department, I attend throughout the year celebrations, training events, prayer meeting with pastors from all seven Associations. I help pulpit committees as they search for pastors. The harvest is ripe, we are looking for leaders.....

On August 14 thru 16, at Ramada Hotel in Oxnard, CA, more than 43 pastors and their spouses attended a retreat. We enjoyed fellowship, relaxation and a learning focused on marriage and family.





## **Latino Ministry Task Force:**

Jose Romero  
Leonel Robaina  
Pablo Martinez  
Nora Martinez  
Miguel Albanez  
Carlos Arce  
Saul Maldonado

## **Family Ministry Planning Committee**

Saul & Rosamaria Maldonado  
Blas & Juana Valdez  
Jose & Rosario Menendez

On September 11 - 12 two hundred four couples met at four different Hotels in Oxnard, CA. Lay couples came from Arizona, San Diego, North Coast, Orange County, Riverside, San Fernando, and Tijuana.

## **Future Events and Celebrations.**

- On October 31st, at First Baptist South Gate, we will be conducting our 2nd Consultation on Reaching and building Latino second and third generation churches, with Dr. Daniel Rodriguez.
- Latina Women will have their retreat at Quiet Cannon, in Montebello on October 16, and 17.
- Latino Men will have their retreat on November 20, 21 of this year. And we will close the year with a dinner on November 14th for almost 180 couples at Alhambra.
- I am very grateful for .Mrs. Berta Villacorta, who patiently but with excellence serves the department and all its activities. She is a Blessing.
- I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the Body of Christ among the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii.

Rev. Dr. Jose Menendez, Resource Minister  
Department of Latino Church Ministry and Family Ministry



## A.B.G.I.R.L.S:

**A**merican **B**aptist **G**irls **I**n **R**elationship **L**eadership and **S**ervice

### What is ABGIRLS?

ABGIRLS is a ministry focused upon meeting the spiritual needs of girls as they move through the many changes their lives will take as they grow into adulthood. Targeting young ladies ages 8 to 18 years of age.

### ABGIRLS Covenant

Remembering the words of Christ, who said

"I am the Light of the World," I promise to grow in Christ to share my gifts of time and money, talent and prayer, and to serve with others in God's world, so that the Light of Life may shine through me.

I bring you greetings from ABGIRLS Regional Ministry,

Once again, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the ABGIRLS ABCOFLASH Regional Coordinator under the leadership of Region Women Connect. We are drawing near to the end of our 2nd year as a Regional Ministry and it has been AMAZING; the fellowship, conversation and learning.

### The events for 2015 were:

***"Creative Vision" Let's Plan with a Purpose*** (Jeremiah 29:11) On April 25, 2015 we were blessed by Sis M. Gavin (Park Windsor Baptist Church of Los Angeles) and Sis. J. Allen (Lake View Terrace Baptist) as they shared their personal experience in planning and maintain focus in their daily lives in the professional field and college life. This wonderful creative idea was presented to our ABGIRLS by Sis. Patricia Badger-Alston (Panorama Baptist Church, Arleta) as she facilitated the day's activities.

***"Girls in Leadership Academy"*** was held in Overland Park, Kansas, June 25 - 29, 2015. It was a wonderful time of connecting with AB Women nationally and to experiencing the personal interaction with our AB Missionaries attending the AB Mission Summit. Girls across the globe gathered to learn leadership and self-awareness skills that they will be able to use on a daily basis and take back home to share with their churches and community. It was also the ABGIRLS 100th birthday and we celebrated!

And we are VERY excited about our last event for 2015: "Bandages of LOVE", also known to some of those who have been involved, White Cross. We are looking toward Saturday, November 7, 2015.



I am trusting and believing in God for some exciting and awesome experiences for us in 2016. Please check the weekly Regional updates, flyers and personal invitations. You DON'T want to miss out on any ABGIRLS events (i.e. Washington, DC: National ABGIRLS gathering June/June 2016) and more details/information coming soon.

Please keep this amazing ministry in your prayers. All of our young ladies need to be equipped, empowered and encouraged. They can't do it alone; we need you!!! You don't have to have an active ABGIRLS Ministry within your church to participate. No size is too small. All Regional church family and friends are welcomed (young ladies ages 8 to 18). I know we will see more of you this coming year and into the next.

Pastor Deneen Ray  
ABGIRLS Coordinator

It takes village to raise a child....lets BE that village!





## **Pastoring A First Generation Filipino American Church In Los Angeles**

(On Overcoming Tradition, Navigating Transition and Experiencing Transformation)

Pastoring the Wilshire Baptist Church now for 15 years has been a fulfilling and learning experience that is worth sharing. As the church celebrates it's 103 years anniversary (Started in September 1912 under Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society.) God has not only used this church as a lighthouse for the gospel but also as a showcase of God's grace which is shown in how He transformed a Re start church to a what is now a lively multi ethnic, multigenerational, family oriented church.

### **Overcoming Traditions**

Reb Tevye's song "Tradition" (Fiddler on the Roof) rings in my ears as I try to recollect the early years not only as Pastor of this church but also as it's Associate Pastor (1989- 1994) under Rev. A. Keith Bauserman (Pastored Wilshire for 27 years).

The church that I came from in the Philippines has a totally different set of "traditions" than Wilshire in a sense that the way I learned and practice ministry was totally different. I used the term tradition but the word culture can also be used. Overcoming the Tradition or Cultures within a church context is very important if ministry is to be effective. Overcoming tradition does not mean disregarding what you have been taught and done, but graciously not allowing those to be a hindrance to what God now wants you or your church to become. Filipino vs American culture, Eastern vs Western culture, Conservative Views vs Liberal, Hymns vs Praise Songs, Piano vs Band, even King James Version vs the rest of translations. Obstacles like these are more apparent in first generation churches. But when we put God and His Biblical principles above all these we can be thankful for our "roots" yet also be excited to see "new fruits".

### **Navigating Transitions**

The "Googled" definition of the word Transition is – "the process or period of changing from one state or condition to another".

How did the Wilshire Baptist Church change from a Euro Anglo to a Multi Race to a Multi ethnic to a mixed first, first and a half, and second generation church? How did she change from Hymns to Praise and Worship? From Piano/Organ only to a Band led worship?

More importantly how did I ,the Pastor change from far Right to the Right of center, from King James Only to King James Also, from Ministry is for Men Only to Ministry is for Women also, From Deacons only to Deaconesses also. The key word is "transition," all the above has changed from one state to another, from one condition to another, through a "process".

And navigating the transition period is a very important step. If this transition is done in an abrupt, unkind, untimely and unChristlike way it will result to a lot of hurt, pain, disgrace and misunderstandings also ultimately in failure.



When the Lord began to add more members to the church and the time had come for the first election of officers to be held. The first thing I told the congregation was that we will not replace any of the present seated officers (many of whom have served in their capacity for more than 20 years!) instead, we will promote them to a more honored position of “lifetime” officers. We did not unseat or replace anybody we just added new ones to enhance the leadership. What it did was remove the spirit of insecurity among members, we are now moving forward as one body, the old parts and the new parts...together.

## Experiencing Transformation

The transformation is very obvious. You could see it with your eyes, you could feel it everywhere.

We are not there yet. God is still doing something and we are excited .

Like any other first generation church in most Asian churches in Northern America, the missionary zeal is more evident in first generation churches especially in financially supporting homegrown missionaries. Youth ministries are stronger and vibrant yet family centered. (DJ Chuang, [www. Leadnet.org](http://www.Leadnet.org).)

To all the Tevye's in ministry..it's not “ Tradition,tradition, tradition! But....transition, transition, transition and hopefully, transformation!

Rev. Dr. Dennis V. Casaje



WBC Church Camp 2015





## Challenges and Opportunities facing African-American Churches

The African-American population in Los Angeles was 17% of the total in 1980. This number went down to 9.8% in 2009, and it has continued to decline. (U.S. Census and 2005-2009 American County Survey).

The challenge is to find a way:

- A** To continue fulfilling the Great Commission in a community with a changing ethnic population. This means discovering strategic ways and means to engage the neighbors who now live where African Americans use to live.
- B** Getting to know the neighbors- their history, culture and shared similarities ; but most of all learn the language. Command of language will facilitate dialogue. Overcoming language barriers, the African- American Church can build a bridge to understanding.
- C** To discover homogeneous areas of common struggle, in particular issues affecting the family.

The African- American Church needs to re-evaluate its identity as to how it will fulfill its mission in the 21st Century. This means self-awareness of itself and the target group to which it will share the Gospel. Also, this means asking the tough questions: Do we want to reach the community for Christ? Will Church continue as a traditional African-American congregation, Latino, or neither? The same questions apply for the Latino Church. The "Church of Christ" has to find a way to become non-ethnic without denying the identity of those it seeks to serve...becoming a church that reaches people.

Jesus prayer to the Father: John 17:11; 22, "...that they (we) may be one even as we are one." This will not happen over-night, but the process needs to begin. The dialogue must begin now! We must find a way to engage one another in conversation. We must find a way to speak the same language about the same God and accomplish the same ministry. It could begin with a shared meal or a gathering around music because the notes are the same in any language.

John said it best: 1Jn 3:2

**"Dear friends, we are now God's children, but what we will be like has not been revealed yet. We know that when the Messiah is revealed, we will be like him, because we will see him as he is." However, we are a work in progress.**



The following is not a plan or solution, but a statement of a reality.

To remain relevant and vital for tomorrow, the African-American Church must face some challenges affecting the family. This means confronting economic, doctrine, politics, and diversity issues. The African American Church has always provided leadership in these areas for the community. The family is at the center of these areas. Continued involvement in these family issues, the church position itself as a voice for the community, and an instrument of missions.

Being involved requires more than having a Sunday church experience. To be about the Lord's business will require a change from Sunday morning experience to seven days a week church experience. It will require a Church willing to address issues that affect the community. However, the community is not the same it was thirty or forty years ago.

The community is still about family, but not just the African-American family, but family in general. The family is the basic unity of society.

Los Angeles County is a most diverse county, home to more than 140 countries, who speak over 124 languages. As such, Los Angeles is a true multilingual and cultural county. According to the 2010 Census:

**20.7%** of the county are White (Non-Latino)

**48.5%** of the county are Latino (Non-white)

**9.6%** of the county are African American

The Hispanic-Latino population has grown from 14.6 million in 1980 to 52 million in 2011; 9% of whom live in Los Angeles County (World Population Review). This shift in population is similar to a shift 30-35 years prior. In this prior shift, the focus was on the emerging African-American and declining White population. The neighborhood changed, and the churches changed. During this transition period, a few white Congregations reached out and embraced the change. The Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society took the lead in this transition, aiding many congregations through the process.

Presently, the racial composition is changing around many traditional African-American Churches. According to (race contours 2000-Resegregation of Los Angeles County), the chance of an African American and Latino being neighbors changed from 11% in 1970 to 41% in 2000. I believe this change is an opportunity for ministry. However, it will require courage and intentionality.

It is also clear that African-Americans have been in a migration mode since the early eighties. Due to the economic crisis of this decade, many families moved to outlying communities like Moreno Valley, San Bernardino, Lancaster, and Palmdale. There were also other causal factors: Aerospace downsizing, elevated crime rates, rising home values, and poor schools. As a result, there was a redirection of inner-city church membership. This trend has continued to the present.

Dr. William Thurmond



# Statement of Financial Position

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2014-15

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 295,309	\$ 244,497
Accounts receivable - net	73,932	101,562
Prepaid and other assets	65,622	47,208
Notes receivable - current	191,717	117,763
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>626,580</b>	<b>511,030</b>
Certificate of Deposit	88,723	366,621
Certificate of Deposit Provided as Collateral	280,000	-
Investments	2,305,250	2,094,354
Note Receivable, net of current	19,637,190	18,630,203
Investment In Real Estate	880,000	880,000
Equipment and Improvements, at cost, net	213,817	258,685
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 24,031,560</b>	<b>\$ 22,740,893</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Account payable	\$ 32,333	\$ 45,569
Accrued expenses	61,109	82,737
Current portion of notes payable	22,634	41,977
Capital leases payable - current	19,252	35,032
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>135,328.00</b>	<b>205,315</b>
Notes Payable	1,377,104	469,738
Capital Leases Payable, net of current	60,426	86,431
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,572,858</b>	<b>761,484</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted:		
Net investment in equipments & improvements	134,139	137,222
Undesignated	20,710,765	20,210,958
<b>Total unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>20,844,904</b>	<b>20,348,180</b>
Temporarily restricted	161,256	178,687
Permanently restricted	1,452,542	1,452,542
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>22,458,702</b>	<b>21,979,409</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 24,031,560</b>	<b>\$ 22,740,893</b>

*Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report*

Charitable Nonprofit Sustainability Metrics	
Net Available Assets as of 12/31/2014	\$21,006,160
Total Expenses of 2014	\$1,684,254
Working Capital Ratio (years)	12.5



# Statement of Activity

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2014-15

## OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2014	2013
Contribution income	\$ 298,516	\$ 307,108
Investment income	1,109,456	1,387,599
Other income	228,328	244,348
Programs moved into General Mission	-	3,117
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>1,636,300</b>	<b>1,942,172</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Administration	215,924	231,762
Salary and benefits	764,043	780,471
Office of Executive Minister	50,521	36,928
Office of Latino/a and family ministries	173,602	188,129
Office of Youth and family ministries	82,220	65,887
Strategic initiatives	22,026	33,253
New church planting	123,013	97,591
Region Women Connect	16,395	41,770
Fundraising - Rainbow Acres Oikos House	85,020	26,834
Depreciation	61,696	69,100
Bad Debt/Interest	60,915	13,917
ABCOSH Expenses	28,879	43,891
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,684,254</b>	<b>1,629,533</b>

Change in Net Assets Before Nonoperating Revenue	(47,954)	312,639
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<b>NONOPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>527,247</b>	<b>-</b>
Change in Net Assets	479,293	312,639
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	21,979,409	21,666,770
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 22,458,702</u>	<u>\$ 21,979,409</u>

*Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report*



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# ABHOW

American Baptist Homes  
of the West

## *Mission Statement*

American Baptist Homes of the West, as an expression of Christian mission, seeks to enhance the independence, well-being and security of older people through the provision of housing, health care and supportive services.

[www.abhow.com](http://www.abhow.com)

