

One is a Whole Number
One is a Holy Number

That they may be one with each other...John 17:20-23



ABCOFLASH
ANNUAL MEETING 2016



FROM OUR OFFICES IN GLENDALE, ABCOFLASH
SERVES AS A LIGHT TO ALL POINTS OF THE COMPASS;
NORTH, SOUTH EAST AND WEST. OUR LIGHT
SHINES FROM ARIZONA, NEVADA TO HAWAII AND
FROM SAN DIEGO TO SAN FRANCISCO.
OUR VISION IS TO SHINE OUR LIGHT TO
CREATE CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
AMONG OUR MEMBER CONGREGATIONS, TO
EQUIP SERVANT LEADERS TO BUILD UP AMERICAN
BAPTIST CONGREGATIONS, FOSTER AUTHENTIC
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES AND TO ENLARGE
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

VISION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Steven A. Simons
President, Board of Directors

"For thus has the Lord enjoined us: I have set thee for a light of the nations, that thou shouldest be for salvation to the end of the earth." (Acts 13:47)

With the vision on the inside cover in mind, the Board of Directors and staff of ABCOFLASH have been hard at work this past year.

JANUARY 1, 2016

Steve Simons, member of the Woodley Community Church, Granada Hills, CA, assumed the role of President, following in the steps of Mr. Walter Clarke who served ABCOFLASH, in many different roles, for over thirty years. We want to say "thank you, Walter, for your service and the leadership example that you have provided."

Mr. Walter Clarke becomes our ABCOFLASH President Emeritus at the Annual Meeting, October 1, 2016. We are very grateful for the leadership he has provided throughout the many years of service to our Region.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER TO RETIRE

On April 16, 2015, Dr. Samuel Chetti, who has toiled tirelessly as our Executive Minister for well over twenty years, announced his intention to retire in 2017. After all these years of leadership and service, it will be hard to see Dr. Chetti retire. Through his guidance and work with past Boards, ABCOFLASH has grown and prospered so that our light shines brightly throughout our Region and the world.

SUCCESSION PLAN

Upon receipt of the announcement, the Board of Directors set into motion the "succession plan" as outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws. We want to assure you that the succession plan works. Our thanks to the past Board for the foresight to create a detailed succession plan.

The Board of Directors' selection of a new Executive Minister is not yet complete. Nor will it be completed until just before our Annual Meeting in 2017. The entire Board is involved in this process. However, two particular Board Members stand out for their continued work and we ask that you hold them up in prayer. First, I want to thank Mrs. Gloria Marshall who has chaired the Succession Team. Without Gloria's hard work we would not be as far along as we are in the succession process. Second, we acknowledge Mrs. Donna Holbart – who has headed up our prayer warrior team. Prayer is an important part of what we do. John Wesley once said that "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." Please continue to pray for these two, the succession team and the entire Board of Directors as we continue this process.



SUCCESSION PLAN, PROCESS AND TIMELINE

I would be remiss if I did not tell you that there have been dozens of meetings, countless conference calls, and numerous focus groups—all with a view towards finding the woman or man that God has selected to be our next executive. We know that the Lord has the perfect candidate for us to fill this position. Yet, we are still in the early stages of our search. Below is the expected timeline:

- Focus Group Sessions completed by November 15, 2016.
- Summaries compiled to produce a position description and application to be given by January, 2017.
- Applications to be received from February through June, 2017.
- Succession Team and Board of Directors to receive, read, and pray over all applications.
- Announcement and introduction of the new executive minister on Saturday, October 7, 2017.

But our work is not just about the Succession Team. The Board of Directors has continued our regular governance as well. The members attend scheduled and special meetings, and they pray for and support the Region at the local church level. Remember, our Board of Directors is made up of members from your churches. As a part of the Body of Christ, our Board exhibits the rich diversity that is found in our Region. This allows us to grow both spiritually and personally.

We continue to encourage YOU, our member churches, to use the resources of the Regional Resource Center and your staff to assist in developing and growing YOUR ministries. It is up to YOU to take responsibility for the success of YOUR ministry. We at ABCOFLASH have tools and training to assist YOU in that process, but YOUR local pastor and YOUR local congregation have knowledge of YOUR talents, treasures and needs. YOU are the presence of our Lord and Savior set in place to foster Christian communities and to enlarge the Kingdom of God in the area that we serve.

Jeremiah tells us “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (29:11).

We are the light of the nations. We are the hope to those God sends to our mission field. Thank you is not enough to say to you, the membership of ABCOFLASH, for working together to fulfill the plans the Lord has declared.

Steve Simons, President
Lilian Rivera, Vice President
Lydia Floyd, Treasurer
Donna Holbert, Secretary

Heidi Hammer
Gloria Marshall
Miguel Albanez
Pedro Martinez

Ricky Lai
Shawn Thompson
Steve Simons
William De Leon

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT



Samuel S. Chetti,
Executive Minister

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii has been proclaiming the redeeming Gospel of Jesus Christ and faithfully engaged in the mission of the Kingdom of God in southwestern reaches of the United States of America for more than 120 years. Praise God!

I am delighted to share with you, throughout the following pages, the various programs and resources the Regional Ministry Task Forces and staff have executed among our churches. While some of our churches have resources to engage in vital ministries, many of our congregations are lacking funding to engage in ministries. This is the point of connection between local church and Regional staff. We work with local church teams to craft contextual programs that would enhance their ministries. Throughout 2015 we have executed many workshops, celebrations and consultations.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2016

As your Executive Minister, it is my responsibility to oversee all the Regional programing, staff development, stewardship of our physical and financial assets, congregational health assessments, and trends in culture and society. In addition to this, I constantly connect with our Pastors, church Boards, maintain Sunday preaching schedule, and closely work with our Regional Board of Directors in their Governance of this vibrant Region.

The Board of Directors and our staff, would like to thank you for your generous United Mission Giving and Region Offerings which enable Regional/ Associational ministries to flourish.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT



I am deeply grateful for the Regional Ministry Resource, and support staff, who work very hard to provide contextual, effective, excellent and thriving options for our congregations.

- Regional Resource Ministerial Staff

Dr. Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister

Rev. Dennis Casaje, Regional Resource Minister, Asian Ministries

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

Rev. Hans Kistner, Regional Resource Minister, North Coast

Dr. Barry Lovett, Regional Resource Minister, Hawaii

Dr. Jose Menendez, Regional Resource Minister, Latino Ministries

Dr. William Thurmond, Associate Executive Minister

- Regional Administrative Staff

Ms. Charlotte Chang, Regional Business Manager

Ms. Deborah Gentry, Regional Coordinator

- Regional Support Staff

Ms. Areli Sanchez, Administrative Assistant, Youth and Global Missions/Regional Coordinator

Mrs. Berta Villacorta, Administrative Assistant, Latino Ministries

Ms. Tina Tome, Administrative Assistant, Accounting

We keep our focus on 8 Strategic Mission Initiatives we have crafted, and continue to re-shape the Initiatives to fit our present context. Congregational Effective and Excellence Initiative follows the schema that describes the various main themes.

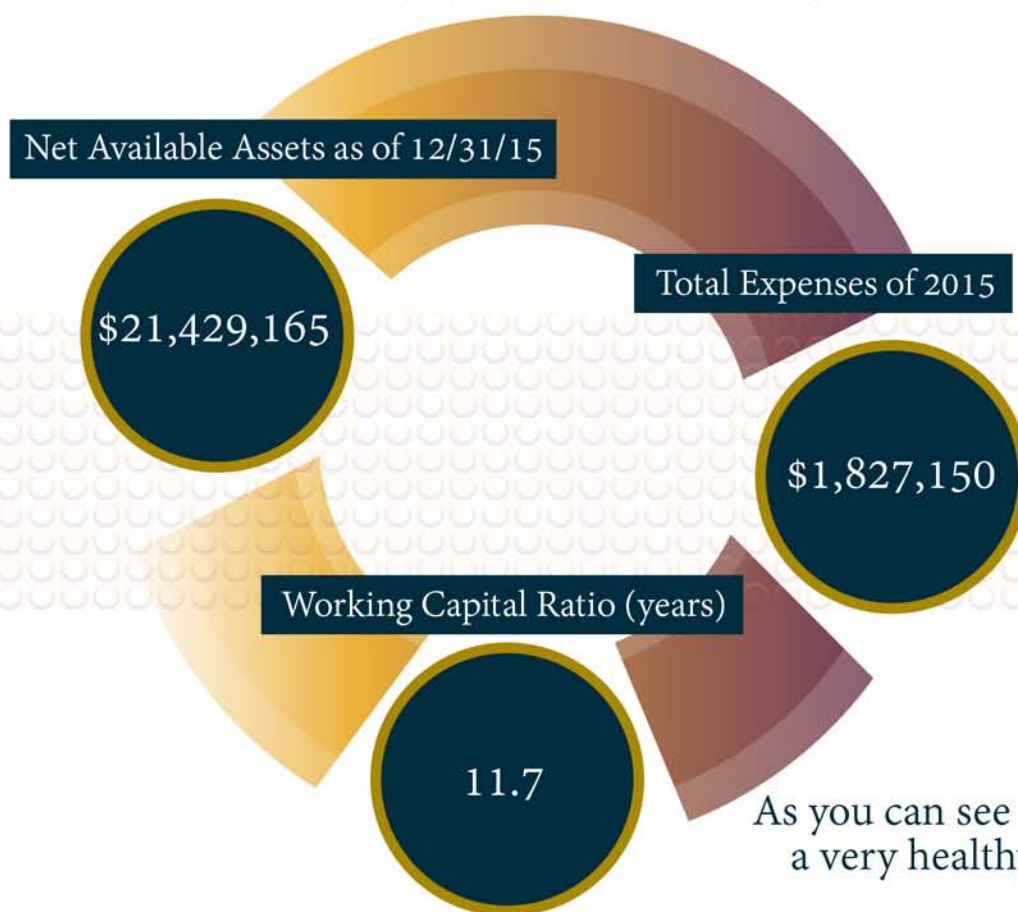
We continue to implement the Comprehensive Congregational Excellence Resources among our congregations. A basic schema is outlined in the graphic. It looks simple, and elegant, but in reality, this schema has several Congregational Spiritual Maturity and Thriving Contextual Resources for our congregation's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



EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT



With the help of our Board of Directors, we managed well our Regional assets. Please review the published Audited Financial Report for 2015 . Let me highlight some facts that should delight our hearts:



As you can see we are financially
a very healthy Region. Praise God!

We are a very dynamic multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and inter-generational Body of Christ. We strive to create new paradigms of thoughts, and missional practices. It is a joy to experience the robust and exhilarating worship, discipleship and missional passion of our member congregations within our Region.

I wish to thank the pastors, and churches that support and allow us to serve them. I am deeply grateful to The Board of Directors who entrusted me with the LEADERSHIP and MANAGEMENT of this dynamic Region.

I wish to register my special thanks to my wife Carolyn, and my daughter Darshana, who support me while I am at home or away on my travels and daily administrative demands.

-Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister



AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT

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 2015 and 2016 until the end of August.

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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
TOTAL –	521,769

2016

UM	29,401
AFC	9,560
OGHS	31,664
WMO	32,249
RMMO	19,040
RO	27,527
ISP	10,724
Specifics	37,197
TOTAL –	197,362

NOTES:
United Mission for 2016 – Difference with Church Mission Designation Correction
Specifics difference due to donations to the Oikos House Project – Rainbow Acres

- Regional Annual Celebration
- Hawaii Association Annual Meeting
- Latino Ministries Annual Meeting
- Regional New Church Planting Program
- Regional Training Events
- American Baptist Theological Center at Fuller Seminary
- Regional Board of Directors Meetings
- Financial Audit System
- Regional Resource Staff Travel and Other Expenses

- Our Financial Commitments to ABCUSA
- Special Region-wide Focus groups
- Regional Conclaves and Consultations
- Regionally Validated Ministries;
 - Faith in Christ Ministry - Mission to underserved community
 - Hands for Hope Ministry - Mission to Urban Children & Youth
 - Highway Ministries - Ministry to Center City Men and Women
 - Turkish Connection - Church Planting & Pastoral Care In Turkey
- Specific International Ministries Projects conducted by our Region based International Ministries

ORDINATION COUNCIL



While American Baptists affirm that everyone is a minister, the “priesthood of all believers” (1Peter2: 5-10), there are times when one is called to the professional ministry and desires to have that call recognized by the local church through the formal ordination process. Our team coaches interested candidates through a rigorous screening process, including a spiritual/psychological assessment, one-on-one meetings, and a panel interview. Candidates benefit from the process by gaining clarity and affirmation of their calling. Our family of ABC churches benefits by ensuring that those who are ordained have met our high standards of scholarship and spiritual integrity.

Another year of fruitful ministry has been produced by the ordination council. After the transition of leadership from Dr. Wes Brown to Dr. William Thurmond, the council continued to work in two areas of service. The council duties are first, to receive, review and endorse candidates for ordination by their churches as part of the American Baptist Churches of USA.

In its second year as ABCOFLASH, the Region has gained another ordained pastor in Zachary Hoover of First Baptist Church of Pasadena. His council meeting was May 10, 2016 and his ordination service was held August 21, 2016 at the church under Rev. Steve Hasper’s leadership on Sunday, August 15, 2016.



The current council is made up of ordained ministers from the region with vast ministry experiences and diverse representations in the nine men and women who served in the 2016 year. Though we also have nine candidates in process awaiting ordination, the year’s quarterly meetings that had no candidates were spent reviewing and updating the ordination procedures to ensure an intentional process for those anticipated council meetings. Debbie Gentry, Regional Coordinator has been leading that process since Lil McGregor’s retirement.

We look forward to seeing who God will have the committee endorse its last and final meeting of 2016 in November. It is always a treasured experience to sit with these colleagues to review candidates, but in our next meeting, we can anticipate who might follow in the legacy of the likes of Dr. Brown. After his faithfulness in ministry positions, and several terms on the council, he embodied excellence and care in providing leadership for those who were seeking ordination. As a council, we also look forward to seeing who will continue to lead in this process, both as faithful church pastors and council members. Our council is also prayerfully anticipating the transition of Dr. Chetti as the Executive Minister for retirement and to whom God will appoint as his successor.

Committee
William Thurmond, Chair
Carlos Arce
Ruben Casas
Joe DeRoulhac
Melanie Mar Chow
Gloria Marshall
John Polite
Bob Wallace
Regional Ministerial Staff

PASTORS HELPING PASTORS AND CHURCHES



Being a pastor can be a rewarding, yet challenging, job. Our team of Regional Resource Ministers are on hand to provide insights, a listening ear, and a prayerful heart. Unique to our Region, some of your Resource Ministers are also pastors, dividing their time between their home churches and the needs of churches within the Region.

ABCOFLASH encompasses a wide area, from Hawaii to Arizona, from San Francisco to San Diego. Since it is not always practical for local pastors to travel to Glendale, our Regional Resource Ministers meet with pastors and key church leaders on their home turf.



ARIZONA KAREN BAPTIST CHURCH



10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 2006 a small group of forty-five Karen refugees started a "Baptist Fellowship" at the Monte Vista Baptist Church in Phoenix. Rev. Stan Crews, then pastoring the church, along with its members embraced and empowered the Karen to build a ministry to Karen diaspora in Phoenix. Ten years later the Arizona Karen Baptist Church has grown to more than 375 members with over 170 children and youth. It is a dynamic faith community and ABCOFLASH was a significant part of their journey.



ABCOFLASH AND MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY



We are in the midst of a social evolution, a revolution or change in which the church must embrace a broader view of ministry. Cultural, economics, scientific, technological and religion are forces that drive change. In the first century, religion was the change agent. In response, Rome braced herself against change, and lost. Today, technology is leading the charge, and the church is adapting. Instead of adapting, I believe the church has the mandate to lead or direct the charge. However, for the church to lead, an awakening needs to occur. I am suggesting an awakening with ability to recognize and respect diversity. This is not about assimilation, or melting pot, but new creatures in Jesus Christ.

We need to refocus on our identity as the church of Jesus Christ; and discover what that identity includes. We are the church of Jesus Christ, before we are a specific flavor within the body. Our divisions are fabricated, culturally driven, and not biblically based. From recent census data, it would appear God is speaking to His church. He is speaking how His church does business within a changing environment.

According to the latest census information, children under five who identify with an ethnic minority group outnumber white children. This is a trend already true in Los Angeles County according to U.S. Census 6/25/2015. Approximately 35% of LA County population is foreign born, and will continue to be so according to best estimates. Since 2001, 61% of all babies born in LA Country have been Latino, according to UCLA School of Medicine.

Coupled with these demographics, it is projected by 2040; we will have twice the number of seniors. The millennials (1998-2000) are approximately 83.1 million of which, 44% are members of minority groups, and they are more diverse in their world and ethical views than any other group. Many within minority groups do not share the same ideas as their parents.

LA County is home to the nation's largest population of Hispanics, (4.9 million), non-Hispanic whites with no other ancestry, Asians, and American Indians (4.6 millions), and approximately (1.1) million African Americans.

These changes have implications for ministry. The question is how will the churches respond to these demographic shifts? It does not require a rocket scientist to deduce, the church exist in the mist of change. Our community is not just Jew and Gentle, Rome and the rest of the world, the rich and the poor. The communities in which the buildings exist are no longer populated by a homogenous group. The present demographic picture provides profound implications for future ministry. If the Great commission is still a valid response to the community, how will the Church respond as the body of Christ?

ABCOFLASH AND MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY



As we look towards the future, operating with a homogeneous model of ministry within a heterogeneous community will no longer be productive. Multicultural Ministry needs leaders and congregations empowered by the Spirit; who will stand up; and speak up. This means, the development and implementation of heterogeneous models of ministry, sensitive to the needs of the culturally diverse population, within the community in which the church exist.

Besides committed leaders, we need to consider a few basic imperatives:

1. We need to revisit why we exist as a body of Christ. What is our purpose for calling ourselves "Church"?
2. We need to revisit the "who" questions: This is not just who we are, but who we are becoming. If there is no idea of who we are seeking to become, we may not arrive. This means determining how we reflect the heterogeneity of the community.
3. We need to revisit our sensitivity to the needs of those who compose the church; and draw upon their contributions to the mission of the church.
4. We need to revisit the idea of culturally inclusiveness and empowerment of all groups with the body of Church.

From these needs should emerge transcultural pastors developing and leading multicultural congregations; congregations reflecting the community in which the building exists.

To a degree, there are a few Congregations and Pastors responding to their changing environment:

- Dr. Fernando Carvalho, Message of Peace: They have three services; English (multi-ethnic), Portuguese, and Spanish.
- Rev Pablo Martinez, Centro Familiar De Fe; Millennial Spanish and English (multi-ethnic)
- Dr. A.D. Iverson, Paradise Missionary Baptist, African American/Spanish (multi-ethnic)
- Monte Vista Cross-Cultural Church, English (multi-ethnic), Karen, Spanish
- Evergreen Baptist, Los Angeles Asian (multi-ethnic)

Third and fourth generation Anglo and Asian congregations are making a quicker adjustment to recent demographic changes. However, change appears to be somewhat slower among African American and Latino Congregations. It is time for this change to be more intentional. The Region can provide resources to assist congregations in their efforts to address their changing environments.

Finally, the model of the new wine (Mark 2:22) may be an appropriate model as we ponder the future of Multicultural Ministry. Perhaps, this is what God intended. If we do not respond, the Lord will raise up someone who will.

God's church will survive without us. He will allow us to perish in the wilderness, and raise up a people after His own heart. If nothing more, we can lay a foundation for others to build upon.

ABCOFLASH AND MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY



Some years back, Donald McGavran wrote, “Men like to become Christians without crossing racial, linguistic or class barriers”. However, the gospel is about change. It teaches salvation is about change. Numerical growth was not the goal of the Great Commission. Jesus said it first, “many are called, but few are chosen” (Matt 22:14)

Paul provides a brief exegesis of the church in (Gal 3:28):

“There is no longer Jew or Greek...”

No longer divided based on ethnic differences

“There is no longer slave or free...”

No division based on class and status differences

“There is no longer male and female...”

No division based on gender differences

Why did Paul so write? “For all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” I believe he wrote to clarify the identity of the church. I believe our present community demographics is God leading His church to discover new models of ministry that will address the needs of a culturally diverse population. In so doing, we can create a community, which celebrates unity and diversity in Christ. To do this, will require seeking directions of the Spirit, and become sensitive to the needs of the diversity surrounding the church.

There is a pressing need to plan for tomorrow because the dawning of the new day is already present. Soon the sun will and rise, we may lose the opportunity for a harvest. In order to become a thriving and surviving community of God’s people, in this 21st century, we need to welcome change. We need strategic plans, inspired by the Spirit, to impact in a positive way our diverse communities.

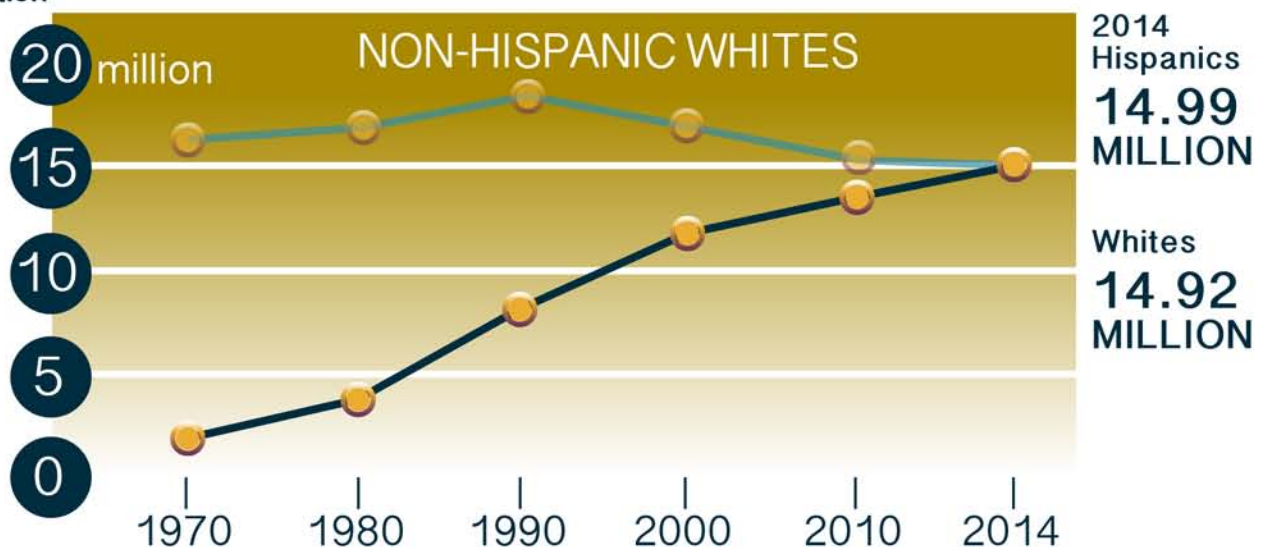
A possible first step is to recognized, the church can no longer be homogeneous except in Christ Jesus. In the past homogeneous congregations have met change by running, resignation, or renewal. If we are to continue the Great Commission, we need to envision change with a sense of revival. The early church moved under the influence of the Spirit. The result was a multicultural revival: and the various cultural personalities responded to the ministry of those in the upper room. At Pentecost, Peter stood up and spoke the Word of God to a multicultural community...and about three thousand were added to the number of disciples.



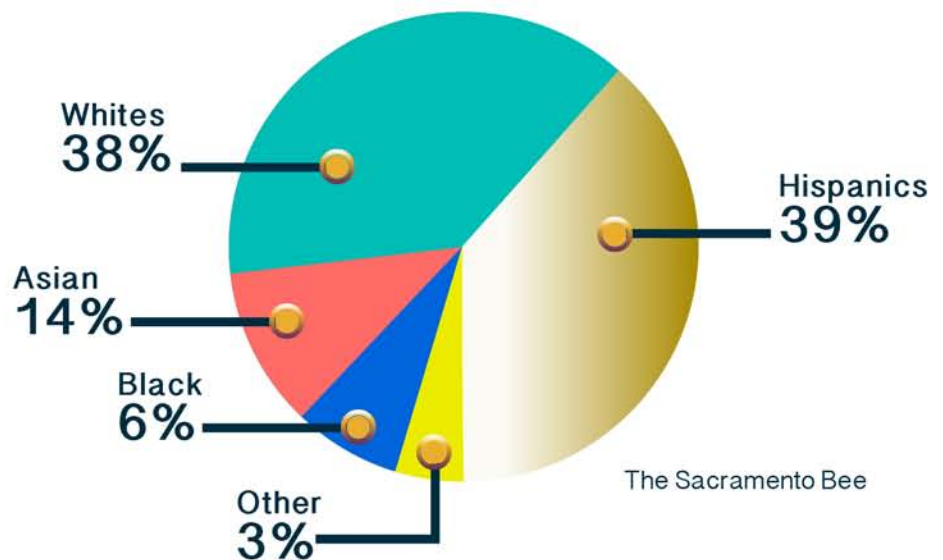
HISTORIC SHIFT

Hispanics have surpassed non-Hispanic whites as the largest ethnic group in California, new census figures show. Population trends over the last 50 years:

Population



CALIFORNIA POPULATION BREAKDOWN



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, California Dept. of Finance

LEADERSHIP TRAINING



The Region provides church leaders with training such as The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (conducted on site), the Global Leadership Summit, workshops held each year at the annual meeting, and this year the Exponential Conference, to name just a few. You can read more about these on the next few pages.

Pastors and Church leaders came together on March 5, attending the EQUIP Conference to be trained for effective local church ministry. All who attended came away with new skills and insights to help them grow in ministry!

Leaders from Wilshire Baptist Church attended Equip.



EQUIP

REFRESH AND RENEW

2016

Church leaders are invited to come for a day of training to refresh your vision for ministry and renew your commitment to serving. Bring a team of leaders from your church to be equipped in their area of ministry!

Let God rekindle your flame for serving Him!

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Ephesians 4:11-12

EQUIPAR

ACTUALIZAR Y RENOVAR

Se invita a todos los líderes de su Iglesia a un día de capacitación para refrescar su visión en el ministerio y renovar su compromiso de servir. Traiga un equipo de líderes de su iglesia para ser equipados en su área de ministerio!

Deja que Dios reviva su llama para servirle!

"El mismo constituyó a unos, apóstoles; a otros, profetas; a otros, evangelistas; y a otros, pastores y maestros, a fin de capacitar al pueblo de Dios para la obra de servicio, para edificar el cuerpo de Cristo."

Efesios 4:11-12

MARCH 5

8:30 A.M.
▼
1:30 P.M.

INFO

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REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
(FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENDALE)
209 N LOUISE ST GLENDALE, CA 91206
\$20 PER PERSON (POR PERSONA)

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN
YOUTH MINISTRY
MISSIONS
EVANGELISM
SPIRITUAL FORMATION
WORSHIP
FAMILY LIFE
MINISTRY WITH SENIORS

MINISTERIO DE JOVENES
MINISTERIO DE NIÑOS
LIDERAZGO
MISIONES

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF LOS ANGELES, SOUTHWEST & HAWAII

TRAINING EVENTS FOR LATINO MINISTERS IN THE SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION

This year the Association of San Diego organized two workshops and trainings for lay leaders, one was in May 21, and the second one will be on September 17. And as general leader among our Latino Ministers Council we have Dr. Saul Maldonado. The four ministries each one have their own events thru out the year, and the seven Association held different meetings in their area and the goal is to serve better and connect with all Latino pastors.

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson from American Baptist Home Mission Society teaching about how to share Christ based upon one's personality type.



Pastor Enrique Santis leading a workshop on leadership.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Dr. Jini Cockcroft and Dr. Oscar Owens leading a workshop on spiritual disciplines.



TRAINING FOR NEW CHURCH PLANTERS

On April 16 and June 11 we conducted training sessions as part of a new Latino Church Planter Institute. More than 30 pastors came together at the Regional Resource Center in Glendale. "Thank you for these training events and the constant support we have from ABCOFLASH, helping us to accomplish the Great Commission".



CONTINUED EDUCATION FOR LATINO PASTORS

For over 40 years our Region has provided continuing educational retreats for our Latino pastors. Sponsored by ABCOFLASH, Children Baptist Homes, Minister and Missionaries Benefit Board and the American Baptist Theological Center, a pre event was held on March 18 for our Latino pastors. Dr. Yvonne Martinez Thorne was the speaker on this day. On June 17-18 a Continuing Education training was held for pastors and spouses. Additional events will be held with the support of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. "I am thankful for the Region and the committee who organized this training, has been a blessing for me".

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson from American Baptist Home Mission Society teaching about how to share Christ based upon one's personality type.



Young Adult Ministry Workshop led by Brandon Bouldin from Park Windsor Baptist Church.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

August 11-12, 2016



Pastors and Leaders from several ABCOFLASH churches came to the Regional Resource Center in Glendale to participate in the webcast of the Global Leadership Summit from Willowcreek Community Church. This event impacts 300,000 leaders across the world every year and features some of the top leaders in business and ministry from around the world. From the spiritual centeredness of Melinda Gates to words of encouragement from T.D. Jakes, the wisdom of the former CEO of Boeing and Ford, Alan Mulally and words of insight about leadership from John Maxwell, everyone came away inspired and challenged!

“Every leader needs to add the GLS to the resource belt!” – Cesar Valladares, MMDA Board Member

“The GLS inspired me and equipped me to be a better and more passionate leader. It’s like a shot of adrenalin in my arm!” - James Carlson – Chevy Chase Baptist Church

“I learned a lot from the business leadership perspective as well as the ministry leadership perspective. I will implement these concepts where needed in my life.” Moises Montenegro – Esperanza Viva

“The GLS has energized me. I thought I was too busy to come. I am too “busy” not to come next year. Love it!” Andy Quient – ABCOFLASH Staff and First Baptist Church of Santa Ana



Leadership teams from First Baptist Pasadena, MMDA, First Baptist of Santa Ana and individuals from First Baptist South Gate, Chevy Chase Baptist Church, Esperanza Viva and others attended the GLS webcast at the Regional Resource Center.

Everyone who attended not only enjoyed the teaching and inspiration of the GLS but also connecting with others from our region.



ABGIRLS



Deneen Ray coordinated a group of ABGIRLS attending the American Baptist Women and Girls National Conference in Washington, DC. this summer. Deneen was voted and elected to serve as the ABW National AB GIRLS Coordinator.

NEW ABW NATIONAL ABGIRLS Coordinator Named:

Coordinator of ABGIRLS Deneen M. Ray can't remember a time when she wasn't involved in the life of the church: singing in the children's choir, ushering, in Sunday school; and now serving at Panorama Baptist Church, Arleta, CA. "No child will be left behind on my watch" reflects the commitment that Deneen Ray brings to her 20 years of experience in youth and young adult ministry. It is her heart's desire for every young person to have a growing relationship with Jesus. Currently the Regional Coordinator of ABGIRLS in American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest, and Hawaii (ABCOFLASH), Deneen has also served her region as a facilitator/leader/mentor for its discipleship/leadership training program. She has a B.A. in child development, a Masters of Divinity degree, and is pursuing a M.A. in Biblical Counseling from Trinity College & Theological Seminary. AB GIRLS and leaders have gotten acquainted with Deneen at recent national AB GIRLS events. Additionally, she participated at the Immerse National Gathering for American Baptist Youth in D.C. (2012), the BWA Youth Conference in Singapore (2013), and with AB GIRLS at the ABHMS-sponsored "Home Mission: Til the Work is Done" work week in New Orleans (2014).

Deneen shares...

The theme for this year's conference was 3D: Dwelling, Discovering and Discipling. The girls had two days of mission work, arranged by Vicky Goff of ABHMS. Our group consisted of 19 girls, 4 young leaders from the National Leadership Team (NLT), 2 Adult AB GIRLS Leaders and 9 Adults. On our project was with Southern Maryland Farmer's Market where we gleaned 25,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes for homeless and low income families in the DC area. The next day we had the pleasure of going to a City Gate Community program where we were able to assist in playground activities, arts and craft, share lunch and pool time at the community pool. In addition to all the mission activities, the girls had individual sessions lead by the NLT, lead table conversations, fun activities and built amazing relationships. This was a wonderful experience that allowed our Regional ABGIRLS to stretch their horizons and grow.



WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

February 13-15, 2016 – Camp Cedar Crest



Youth and Leaders came together at Camp Cedar Crest in Running Springs to connect with God and one another. Our theme “Now Go!” challenged students to let God be real in their lives and to truly live out their faith. Students were impacted by our times of worship, hearing from our speaker, Jose Rodriquez, small groups and fellowship with one another. Many made first time commitments to follow Christ and recommitted themselves in their walk with Jesus Christ.

Testimonies from Youth Leaders about WYR:

“God used Pastor Jose as a tool this weekend and He touched my heart and opened my eyes as well as the rest of our youth. Everyone in my group understood the topics clearly and they were all greatly impacted by Jose’s messages.”

“I led a peer group for the first time this year and my group learned a lot. I learned how passionate they were about God even at the young age of 11 years old. I was amazed by how they showed their faith at school. I was sad to hear that 5 out of 6 were being bullied at school because of their faith.”

“The Retreat impacted my group like I’ve never seen. The kids loved it and they want to go back again. They gave such wonderful testimonies to the church congregation in their report to our church. I was amazed with all of them and their maturity and wanting to soak up what Jose and the retreat was teaching them with the “Now Go” theme. It had a wonderful impact on all the kids. Thank you.”



WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

February 13-15, 2016 – Camp Cedar Crest



Small groups gave students an opportunity to reflect on the theme of the Winter Youth Retreat.



The WYR Talent Show is always a highlight during this retreat.



Dynamic worship brings students into the presence of Jesus.



URBAN YOUTH WORKERS INSTITUTE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Azusa Pacific University – May 19-20, 2016



Twenty youth leaders from our region attended the UYWI National Conference which offered many workshops to equip youth leaders for effective ministry.

Jonathan Arce, youth leader from Iglesia Bautista Unida, shares his reflections from attending the conference: “The UYWI Conference was an excellent conference where one has the opportunity to grow in their leadership skills. I attended workshops about “Evangelizing in the Urban Context” and “The DNA of a Successful Youth Ministry”. The conference was filled with a lot of youth leaders and youth workers and we also learned from one another. Apart from all the workshops there was also some pretty cool stuff like an Art Walk and musicians playing and singing different types of genres. It was a really great experience and I grew a lot from going.”

Phoebe Arevalo – First Baptist South Gate; Jahaziel Menendez – Iglesia Bautista Embajadores de Cristo; and Nora Kalkman – International Church of Prague were 3 high school students also attended the conference. They attended workshops helping them discern how God may be calling them into ministry.

Ministerios Manantial de Amor brought their team of youth leaders to the conference.



Stations of Hope Children's Camp

August 18-20, 2016



In 2013 Rev. Fela Barrueto from the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) in Valley Forge came to our Equip Conference and led a workshop about ministering to families who have a family member in prison. Her passion to serve those who are often overlooked captured the heart of people from a few of our churches. ABHMS and ABCOFLASH have formed a partnership to offer a camp for children who have a family member in prison. Ana Alvarez from Iglesia Bautista El Calvario and one of the leaders from the camp reflects upon this camp held at Camp Idyllwild:

“The Children's Camp “Stations of Hope” that is sponsored by ABHMS is a wonderful ministry that is making a difference in less privileged children. It is led by amazing people from Iglesia Paraiso International Ministries and Iglesia Bautista El Calvario who are dedicated to serving God by giving their time and dedication to this group of children. This camp ministers to children ages 4 – 12 that have been affected by incarceration and the criminal justice system. The children who attend the camp have at least one parent that is in prison. The goal of this camp is to provide an environment where hope and healing can take place through the message of God's unconditional love and His gift of forgiveness. It provides them a chance to spend the weekend outside the city and to expose them to faith, love, and courage. Also, through various activities, the camp also helps them build their confidence and encourages them to be courageous as some of these activities can be difficult for them. Some of these activities includes hiking, archery and swimming. Through these challenges, they learned to not give up and to not be afraid because Jesus is always with them. The camp also fostered teamwork, comradery, responsibility, and leadership by having them come up with group names and having each group prepare and present a talent.

This is the second year assisting with this camp and I was awestruck by how God was moving in the lives of these young children. We had returning kids from last year and are so grateful to see how happy they were to be here again and how much this camp has impacted them. They were engaged in God's word by listening and participating in the daily devotionals and were also openly discussing ways they can apply God's teaching in their lives. By the end of the camp they were excited to sing and praise God's name.

This camp was a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of these children. They did not want to leave and were so grateful for this opportunity. This is a worthwhile camp because it is trying to reach kids for Jesus at an early age (before it is too late) and is planting God's word in the hearts of children who are at a higher risk of falling into the criminal justice system. This camp is trying to break that cycle by being a light and a station of hope for these children that are facing darkness. “

Stations of Hope Children's Camp

August 18-20, 2016



Stations of Hope Children's Camp Group Picture



Children decorating hats during craft time.



Archery was a highlight for the children.



GLOBAL MISSIONS



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.



Deliris Carrión-Joseph – Mexico - The Rev. Deliris Carrión-Joseph uses her pastoral as well as occupational therapy skills to work at Deborah's House, a ministry that works with women and children who are victims of domestic violence in Tijuana, Mexico. Deliris affirms that it is through Jesus, who heals the broken hearts and restores the afflicted souls, that women and children find refuge, healing and freedom at Deborah's House. She believes that by strengthening their faith, improving their self-esteem, offering good education and helping them to find their vocational paths, these families will be able to leave the house with hope for a better future.



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



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



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 MISSIONS



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.

Pastoral Placement

Pastoral placement is more than just “filling a slot.” There are succession issues and interim pastoral considerations. Transition time during the pastoral search provides churches with an opportunity to clarify the church’s vision and mission. Ensuring the “right fit” means helping both the prospective pastor and the church to discern God’s call.

This year we welcome the following pastors to our ABCOFLASH family:

- Rev. Dr. Shawn Zambrows, First Baptist Church of Redlands, CA
- Rev. Dyke Redmond, Sunnyside Baptist Church of Los Angeles
- Pastor Marcelino Hernández, Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, El Cajon, CA
- Pastor Carlos Laguna, Iglesia Bautista Esperanza Viva, Bakersfield, CA
- Rev. James Coston, First Baptist Church, Scottsdale, AZ
- Pastor Joao Nascimento, New Life Baptist Church, Honolulu, HI

LATINO MINISTRIES



We strive to equip and serve our churches and lay leaders within our Latino churches. Our ministries are led by the following faithful leaders.

LATINA MINISTRIES – *Pastora Nora Martinez* continues to lead the Women's Ministries. She serves with her husband, Pastor Pedro, with Iglesia Bautista Shalom de Highland Park.

LATINO/A YOUTH - *Jorge and Ana Siguenza*, youth pastors of New Life Ministries in North Hollywood, have served as Latino Youth Coordinators for two years.

LATINA MINISTRIES - LATINO MINISTRIES – The Men's Ministries have been launched this year under the leadership of *Pastor Gabriel Aguirre*, a new church plant pastor at Iglesia Esperanza y Vida in Cudahy, CA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES - *Pastora Cristine Arce* has led in the start of a new ministry for Latino/a children. She is gifted with great ideas and goals for not only children's ministry but also Sunday School teachers within our churches.

ASSOCIATIONS, Leaders and Member Churches

Arizona

Nevada - *Dr. Miguel Altamirano*, leader of both associations (5 churches)

Inland Empire – (4 churches)

Los Angeles County – *Rev. Hector Mancillas*, leader (38 churches)

San Fernando Valley (within the LA County Association), Pastor Ernesto Bermudez, leader (11 churches)

North Coast – (4 churches)

Orange County/San Diego – *Pastor Ruperto Ucan*, leader for Orange County (4 churches) and Pastor Ramiro Ortiz, leader for San Diego (6 churches)

LATINO MINISTRIES



LATINO FAMILY MINISTRY

August 12-14, 2016 – Pastors and Spouses Retreat in Oxnard, CA



September 9-11, 2016 – Lay Couples Retreat in Oxnard, CA



...and we look forward to the Latino Lay Couples Dinner in November.

LATINO MINISTRIES



LATINO ANNUAL CELEBRATION

On June 25, 2016, men, women, youth and children's leaders gathered along with pastors to celebrate their life in Jesus Christ. This year, we recognized the constant support and ministry of our Executive Minister, Dr. Samuel Chetti, who served as the main speaker for the day of celebration. We were blessed and inspired in worship and by the powerful message of Dr. Chetti.



LATINO MINISTRIES



LATINO WOMEN MINISTRIES

Our Women's Ministries continues robustly under the leadership of Pastora Nora Martinez, serving Iglesia Bautista Shalom de Highland Park, CA. On March 19, 2016, a breakfast was held at Quiet Cannon in Montebello to encouraging our Latino women. More than 400 attended and were blessed by a powerful message brought by Dr. Yvonne Martinez Thorne.



Dr. Yvonne Martinez Thorne

MINISTRY WITH PORTUGUESE PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

As our Region grows, we have been blessed in welcoming a new Portuguese congregation, New Life Baptist Church, Honolulu, HI, Pastor Joao Nascimento. It is our hope and prayer to expand the ministry, planting new churches in the South Bay of California. A two-day retreat was held in Morro Bay, April 22-23, 2016.



REACHING THIRD GENERATION AMERICAN-BORN LATINOS

According to "Pew Research" Latino congregations have the youngest generations. On May 14, the First Baptist Church of South Gate hosted the latest of three consultations on "How to Reach the Second and Third Generations." Dr. Daniel Rodriguez led the consultation for Latino pastors, associates and leaders from our churches. Five Latino churches have begun worship services to second and third generations; all in English. This year, Ministerios Manantial de Amor of Los Angeles, Pastor Enrique Santis, celebrates their first anniversary of opening such a worship experience.

American Baptist Dodger Night

July 29, 2016



Every year Dodger fans from our region come together for an evening of baseball, fellowship and fireworks.



DEBORAH'S HOUSE MISSION ENCOUNTER

LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2016



Jane Flores from Ministerios Manantial de Amor was a member of the team and shares her reflections on our weekend at Deborah's House:

"God is a safe-house for the battered, a sanctuary during bad times. The moment you arrive, you relax; you're never sorry you knocked." Psalms 9:9 MSG

"On Labor Day weekend, a group of 5 of us got to experience the way God moves in a stronghold. Julie Ono, Reyden Ono, Doug Hubbard, Areli Sanchez and myself were able to experience something extraordinary. As we were walking from San Ysidro to Mexico we saw signs of poverty, violence and destruction. As we crossed the border and walked deeper into Tijuana, I knew my life would never be the same, an experience of a life time. We traveled to Deborah's House, a huge house filled with tons of love, laughter, hurt, pain and God's beautiful children. We spoke to the women there who come from years of violence whose cycles that hadn't been broken until coming to Deborah's House. The first night we witnessed the police dropping off a woman and her child to this home. When women and their kids are brought to this location, they are received with great love. They're given a place to live for a period of 6 months, before they're back in the real world. They help these mothers and children get back on their feet, to forgive and they teach them about the God we serve. They go through group counseling and also they have a psychologist that comes and talks to the mothers and children. I was able to share a bit of my testimony as a child who grew up with domestic violence in my home. God is amazing, with the way He uses Deliris and her husband Moise and the other sisters to minister to these women & children, but also help change their lives. We helped organize the clothing and shoe donations. Julie was able to teach the mothers how to make Spam musubi and mochi cake. That was an amazing moment of fellowship we were able to enjoy with the mothers and have it for our dinner together. On Sunday before praise and worship, Areli and I did some crafts with the kids. We gave them two paper plates and asked them decorate both, in which the kids and mothers became very creative. I think that was an amazing experience, because they don't have anything and the way they appreciate the little bits is quite amazing. There's so much to be done at Deborah's House, I didn't want to leave yet, but I would definitely go back."

Lots of love at Deborah's House!



Lots of love at Deborah's House!



Doug Hubbard, Jane Flores, Areli Sanchez, Reyden and Julie Ono, Deliris and Moise Joseph Carrion at the U.S. and Mexican Border.



The women of Deborah's House made Spam Musubi.



RAINBOW ACRES



Rainbow Acres

A Residential Christian Community Serving Adults with Developmental Disabilities



Mission Teams Transform Lives at Rainbow Acres

2016 has been a year where miracles in the way of charitable service have helped sustain the on-going mission of Rainbow Acres. Rainbow Acres has been blessed by Mission Teams from Baptist and Presbyterian Congregations from across the nation who truly give from the heart in service to those in need.

The Transformations that take place for both our Ranchers and those who give of their service to Rainbow Acres are three dimensional. The teams transform the lives of the Ranchers with their unconditional love and the message that “the Ranchers are important in the Kingdom of God and to each individual member of the Team”. Team members lives are transformed, too, when they discover the meaning of Matthew 25, “when you ministered to the least of these, you minister to me!” The Teams bring financial resources and much needed labor to complete well planned and executed improvement projects such as construction of New Greenhouses, renovation of the Daehler Building for the Crafts Programs, and Dakin House, a residence for the Ranchers.

Rainbow Acres is a non-profit Christian Community that empowers people with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity, purpose and a sense of value. Our values are Christ based, yet we are welcoming and inclusive of people of all beliefs. Christian values and practices are integrated into the culture of Rainbow Acres, such as mealtime prayer and behavioral guidelines based on the Golden Rule, however, participation in spiritual life activities is optional.

Our rancher population ranges from 18 to 80+ years old. Everyone experiences daily opportunities for personal growth, freedom of choice and living in a community of acceptance and making many friends. Rainbow Acres is a place where friends become family, and Rainbow Acres becomes a rancher’s home.

Set in the beautiful Verde Valley of Camp Verde, Arizona . . . our ranch is open to the public for a “Promising Future” Presentation & Tour. Please visit: www.rainbowacres.com for more information or call Kelli at 928.567.5231 to schedule an appointment for either an individual or group tour.



FAITH IN CHRIST MINISTRIES



As a pastor, I have often wondered why strong men fall; men who are called by God to do a work and for some reason they struggle. One of my great heroes is Abraham. During a crisis in his life, he wandered into Egypt. There he found abundance of provision, but in the process, however, he suffered great pain.

From time to time, I find myself struggling, not able to do the things God wants me to, suffering with my shoulder, back and knees, yet, I have to go on. However, it is in the time my suffering I discover God in a very special way. My pain is not designed to defeat me, but to strengthen me; as the scripture says "in my weakness He is my strength."

We are bombarded with issues beyond our ability to deal with, yet, we are humbled and greatly encouraged as men, women, girls and boys rise to assist us in what God calls us to.

There has been a lot of adjusting to the changes in life and life's circumstances; to come to the realization 35 years of continuous service has taken a physical toil on property and the physical body.

Our pulpit team is comprised of Pastor Pica Song, from South Korea, Pastor Greg Nelson, church planter in the San Fernando Valley, Mike Brandt, evangelistic, lay teacher, as well as providing Sunday morning Bible study.

We continue to minister to the physical needs of our community and provide spiritual development through our Create Your Own Ideal Mentoring Program and our Women's Gathering. We have been blessed to provide healthy food resources in our weekly Food Program and nutritious Saturday breakfast.

Psalm 138:8 speaks to my heart – The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever-do not abandon the works of your hands.

The Journey Continues, Pastor Joe and Gwynn Browne

Along with distributing backpacks and school supplies, we seized the opportunity to say "Thank you and We Appreciate Our Law Enforcement Community" July 30, 2016.



Highway Patrol Female Officer speaking with young girls



Little Miss California donates her prizes of backpacks with school supplies and distributes the other backpacks to children attending the law enforcement appreciation event.



HIGHWAY MINISTRIES



WEEKLY FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM HELPS BUILD COMMUNITY

Walk into Highway Ministries, a mission ministry in South Los Angeles on a Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. and you're likely to see a café-styled room with a group of people conversing while eating a hearty breakfast. Weekly, a crew of volunteers who live at Highway House (the ministry's home for people with low incomes who are committed to sober living) can be seen serving the general public plates filled with such favorites as scrambled eggs, sausage (sometimes chicken), grits, biscuits, and fruit, or alternately Potatoes O'Brien or waffles instead of grits. Beverages include coffee, juice, and water. Monthly sixty to eighty meals are served.

The hot breakfast program began the summer of 2015. Before that, Highway had always had a smaller continental-styled breakfast with frozen items (breakfast sandwich or burrito) that could be popped into the microwave and served along with a fruit and a cereal bar. But when we started offering the hot breakfast and shifted to a café seating arrangement, our numbers grew. The breakfast became popular. This year Highway received a Matthew 25 Grant to support the program from the American Baptist Home Missions Society. The grant must be used for direct food service only, excluding any administrative costs. This beneficial fund is covering the costs of the program for about seven months.

The breakfast ministry is a natural way to do evangelism. Food is served until ten minutes before our Sunday worship service; we don't miss the opportunity to invite people to enjoy the "spiritual food" as well as the natural food. Many people have come to service after breakfast, and some have joined our Sunday worship fellowship. We are grateful for the breakfast program and the dedicated volunteers who make it happen every Sunday.

Pastors Willie and Jini Kilgore Cockroft

Community residents enjoy weekly free breakfast.



Community residents enjoy weekly breakfast.



Tommy Hughes cooks for weekly free breakfast.



HANDS FOR HOPE AKA HANDS4HOPE LA



Hands for Hope aka Hands4Hope LA is celebrating 16 years of providing great FREE afterschool programs and an Academic Summer Camp for youth in the community. We also have programs and workshops for single parent families. We could not have helped over 800 kids stay off the streets over the years without the support of ABCOFLASH. If you are interested in having programs like these at your church, please contact us by email, call us or like us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter at #hands4hopela. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering or if you would like to make a donation please visit our website listed below.

Whether the kids are attending their first Dodger Game or learning to plant a garden during science week at our Academic Summer Camp or attending our annual Jazz Concert or Kids Healthy Activity Fair. They are learning and having FUN!! All of the kids pictured attend Hands4Hope AND First Baptist Church of Noho including a not so little kid Michelle Woodcock daughter of Pastor Michael Woodcock who returned from a Mission trip and volunteered at Hands4Hope LA as she waited to go off to Medical School this Fall.



www.hands4hopela.org
info@hands4hopela.org
(818-763-HOPE (4673))

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



2015

2014

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$528,217	\$295,309
Accounts Receivable	57,532	73,932
Prepaid and other assets	53,903	65,622
Notes receivable - current	337,158	191,717

Total Current Assets

976,810 626,580

Certificate of Deposit	88,723	88,723
Certificate of Deposit provided as collateral	280,000	280,000
Investments	2,795,629	2,305,250
Notes Receivable, net of current	19,280,724	19,637,190
Investment In real estate	840,000	880,000
Equipment and Improvements, at cost, net	161,811	213,817

Total Assets

\$24,423,697 \$24,031,560

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$30,669	\$32,333
Accrued expenses	73,793	61,109
Current portion of notes payable	23,674	22,634
Capital leases payable - current	20,485	19,252

Total Current Liabilities

148,621 135,328

Notes Payable, net of current	1,353,428	1,377,104
Capital Leases Payable, net of current	39,941	60,426

Total Liabilities

\$1,541,990 \$1,572,858

Net Assets

Unrestricted:

Net investment in equipment & improvements	\$101,385	\$134,139
Undesignated	21,174,198	20,710,765

Total Unrestricted Net Assets

21,275,583 20,844,904

Temporarily restricted	153,582	161,256
Permanently restricted	1,452,542	1,452,542

Total Net Assets

\$22,881,707 \$22,458,702

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$24,423,697 \$24,031,560

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report, Dec 31, 2015 and 2014

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY



	2015	2014
OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contribution Income	\$247,705	\$298,516
Investment Income	980,766	1,109,456
Other Income	215,769	228,328
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,444,240	\$1,636,300

OPERATING EXPENSES

Administration	\$191,595	\$169,640
Salary and Benefits	764,329	764,043
Office of Executive Minister	35,910	50,521
Office of Latino/a and Family Ministries	190,963	173,602
Office of Youth and Family Ministries	59,252	82,220
Community Programs	70,728	75,163
Strategic Initiatives	11,893	22,026
New Church Planting	111,543	123,013
Region Women Connect	3,870	16,395
Campaign - Rainbow Acres Oikos House	247,717	85,020
Depreciation	64,292	61,696
Bad Debt/Interest	75,058	60,915
Total Expenses	\$1,827,150	\$1,684,254

Change in Net Assets Before Non-operating Revenue	(382,910)	(47,954)
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NONOPERATING REVENUE

Gain on sale of property	805,915	527,247
Change in Net Assets	\$423,005	\$479,293
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	22,458,702	21,979,409
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$22,881,707</u>	<u>\$22,458,702</u>

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report, Dec 31, 2015 and 2014

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AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF LOS ANGELES, SOUTHWEST & HAWAII

Regional Ministerial Team

Dr. Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister
Rev. Dennis Casaje, Regional Resource Minister, Asian Ministries
Rev. Doug Hubbard, Regional Resource Minister, Youth and Global Missions
Rev. Hans Kistner, Regional Resource Minister, North Coast
Dr. Barry Lovett, Regional Resource Minister, Hawaii
Dr. Jose Menendez, Regional Resource Minister, Latino Ministries
Dr. William Thurmond, Associate Executive Minister

Regional Administrative Team

Ms. Charlotte Chang, Regional Business Manager
Ms. Deborah Gentry, Regional Coordinator

Regional Support Team

Ms. Areli Sanchez, Administrative Assistant, Youth and Global Missions/Regional Coordinator
Mrs. Berta Villacorta, Administrative Assistant, Latino Ministries
Ms. Tina Tome, Administrative Assistant, Accounting



Dr. Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister

Region Office:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1868, Glendale, CA 91209

Location Address: 209 N. Louise Street, Glendale, CA 91206

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