



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF LOS ANGELES,  
SOUTHWEST AND HAWAII.  
2017 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT



# VISION

From our offices in Glendale, ABCOFLASH serves as a light to all points of the compass. North, Southeast 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.



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## EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

### Greetings in the name of Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to your 3rd Annual Celebration of American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii. In historical terms, we have been in continuous ministry of the Kingdom of God since 1895, making this the 122nd Annual Gathering of American Baptist Churches in the Southwest Region. Wow!! What a dynamic track record.

This year marks the close of my 46 years of professional ministry within the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii, and 22 years as the Executive Minister and Chief Executive Officer of this great Region.

These years are filled with challenges, blessings, and victories for the Kingdom of God. I am deeply grateful to the fine men and women of the Board of Directors who supported and lifted me up to lead our complex Region. Because of their dedicated stewardship, we are a very thriving Region focused on Mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the 22 years of blessings God lavished upon this Region.

We have increased our Regional Assets from \$7,325,000 in 1996 to about \$24,643,094 with a debt to total assets ratio of 6.3%. Also our current working capital ratio is 12.9 years in terms of charitable non-profit sustainability. This, according to our auditor, is very healthy for a Religious non-profit organization. We leveraged our Regional ministries to create a fund for a thriving option.

Currently our Regional staff, in consultation with leadership teams, design and execute multi-ethnic, Regional ministry equipping, training, fellowship, and celebration events in California, Arizona, So. Nevada and Hawaii.

Your gift of United Mission dollars and Region Offering enabled us to conduct the following annual ministries over the last 22 years and these ministries have expanded:

- Ordination Standards Committee
- Regional Youth Camps
- Youth leader and Discipleship Core program has evolved into I-Lead, a comprehensive Spiritual & Life Skills program
- Global Leadership Summit, conducted in conjunction with Willow Creek Ministries.
- Youth Urban Mission Projects to expand the missional passion of our youth.
- Increased our participation in Baptist World Youth Congress. This participation greatly expanded the vision of our youth.
- We have identified at least 16 Global Servants from our Region, commissioned through International Ministries. We currently, impact, Eastern Europe, Central and West Africa, Latin America and Middle East.
- We worked closely with two Indian Baptists Associations of South Africa, and energized their unity around a Joint Mission Projects in Southern Africa.
- Since 1997 we developed 10 Strategic Initiatives that impacted, church ministry; planting new Faith Communities, Franklyn Covey Personal Effectiveness and Leadership Excellence Certificate Programs, Regional Fund Development and Stewardship Programs, Equip Conferences for Clergy and Lay, and many more...
- In 1997, we initiated a new Latino Family Ministry Program. What began as 12 lay couples has grown to 240 couples in 2017. To this we added Latino youth gatherings, children's ministry and men's. We jump started with limited resources Latino Women's ministry. To date, they had a record participation of 350+ young Latinas every year with over 125 leaders in continuous training.
- We have been blessed by Children's Baptist Home Ministries, who under-write all program cost of Regional Latino Ministries
- 2006, American Baptist Churches of Pacific Southwest left the covenant of Relations with ABC-USA. We created an Association of American Baptist Congregations of Southwest & Hawaii (ABCOSH) for those who wish to continue their missional partnership with ABC-USA. In 2014 ABC-LA Board of Directors invited ABCOSH to create a new Regional entity, American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii (ABCFLASH). We now enjoy a very dynamic, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-generational Regional life in Jesus Christ in California, Arizona, So. Nevada and Hawaiian Islands.



SAMUEL CHETTI



## EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

- During the 22 years, the staff worked closely with search committees to bring excellent and effective pastoral candidates for churches.
- Three years ago we have launched an initiative to identify 2nd and 3rd generation naturally bi-lingual pastors to lead multi-ethnic, multi-generational Urban Faith Communities. To date, we have 14 such church communities within our Region. They are the leading edge of the Church of Jesus Christ in our Region.
- We have energized our historic First Baptist Churches, to re-equip their vision for a robust congregational growth.
- We have re-engaged with our Native American brothers and sisters to impact their worlds for the Kingdom of God. We now have a Native American permanent representative on our Regional Board of Directors.
- For some time our congregations have been targeted to property piracy. Our Board of Directors crafted Church Title Protection Option for congregations who wish to make sure that their church will always be an American Baptist witness. To-date many congregations have joined this **Legacy Club**.

**In all these years four values and matrices cascaded throughout our missional engagement:**

*Faithfulness to the Gospel*

*Effectiveness in contextual ministries*

*Excellence in all that we did and said*

*Thriving options at all times*

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## MINISTRY JOURNEY

We have been blessed by the leadership of Dr. Samuel S. Chetti for more than 40 years. We, the Board of Directors, and the staff of ABCOFLASH are thankful for his leadership, shepherding and direction. Here is his Personal and Ministry Journey.

The Rev. Samuel S. Chetti was elected on May 28, 1996 by the Board of Directors as the sixth Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles. He is the first Asian-American Regional Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches. In 2006, the responsibility of overseeing the American Baptist Churches of Pacific South west and Hawaii was added to his responsibilities. 2014, these two historic Baptist Associations, merged to form American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii.

### **Call to ministry:**

- 1970- Temple Baptist Church youth minister. In the same year, he established Coffee House Ministry in down town Los Angeles.
- 1971-1975- Directed International Students and Scholars Ministry for American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles
- 1975-1981 Appointed American Baptist Chaplain at University Of Southern California. Later in 1978, appointed as Baptist Pastor at Campus Chapel at University Of California at Los Angeles.
- 1981-1986- Director of Ministries in Higher Education for American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles and American Baptist Churches of Pacific Southwest. In this capacity, Rev. Chetti coordinated 8 University Chaplains in, California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii.
- 1986-1994 Director of Division of Public Mission and Congregational Renewal and Development in this capacity Rev. Chetti, developed and executed Contextual Congregational Ministry Resources, Trans-cultural Leadership Development, Cross-cultural Ministries, Church Restarts.
- 1994 - Present Executive Minister/ CEO, of American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, South-West and Hawaii.



## AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT

We thank you for your generous support of the United Mission, Regional Support, and the entire American Baptist Mission Support. Below is a comparison of 2016 and 2017 until the end of August

### 2016

United Mission Basics	\$28,429
America For Christ	\$9,560
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$31,663
World Mission Offering	\$32,248
R.H.M.O.	\$19,040
Regional Offering	\$27,526
Institutional Support	\$10,724
Specifics	\$37,197
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$310,562</b>

### 2017

United Mission Basics	\$70,254
America For Christ	\$13,232
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$18,827
World Mission Offering	\$22,242
R.H.M.O.	\$31,041
Regional Offering	\$40,690
Institutional Support	\$9,682
Specifics	\$31,149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$341,862</b>

- Regional Annual Celebration
- Hawaii Association Annual Meeting
- Latino Ministries Annual Meeting
- Regional New Church Planting Program
- 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 & Women
  - Turkish Connection - Church Planting & Pastoral Care in Turkey
- Specific International Ministries Projects Conducted by our Region-based International Ministries



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans to good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11. This has been Bible verse for 2017. The year has been filled with many joys and even some challenges.

During the past year the Succession Team, chaired by Gloria Marshall, and I have spent much time working to find a replacement for our retiring executive minister, Dr. Chetti. Yes, after 40+ years of service to the Region, Dr. Chetti is retiring. We will celebrate his years of ministry, and his 22 years as our Executive Minister, on Saturday November 4, 2017. Plan on joining us for this joyous time of remembrance.

During the past year, ABCOFLASH has seen positive growth in our spiritual and fiscal stability. This is due, in large part, to the Board of Directors which is comprised of lay leaders, Pastors and business professionals who have dedicated their time and talents to the continued growth of the Region. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of the Board members, and their families, for the sacrifice that they have made in helping us to build God's Kingdom here in Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii.

Special thanks must go out to the Succession Team for the extraordinary time dedicated to our succession process. After gathering information from our focus groups, a job description was prepared and posted in various American Baptist circles. Over time, many qualified members of the ABC family applied. We had applicants that were as varied as we are as a Region. The Succession Team selected the top candidates and on July 14 - 15 face to face interviews were held. Yet there was no one standout candidate.

I and others, once again, sought guidance through prayer and, with consultation, sought discernment about the Lord's plan for our Region. My scripture again came from Jeremiah 29:11 -- I sought the Lord's guidance then approached Rev. Andy Guent to guide us through these times. Rev. Guent accepted this call. Rev. Guent's has a unique background, working in international sales and management before accepting God's call to a life in ministry. He resumed his education at Talbot Seminary and holds a Master's Degree in Biblical and Theological Studies. His ordination with American Baptist Churches was accepted by the Pacific Southwest Region in 1996.

For the next 18 months, Rev. Guent will serve as the "Acting Executive Minister". This is not an interim position. Rather we are placing full authority and responsibility on him, while we have Dr. Chetti available to train and mentor Andy into this important position. During this period Rev. Guent will work closely with me and the Board as we seek to determine his ability to be confirmed as the Executive Minister.

You will meet Andy and Lisa, face to face at the Annual Meeting on October 7th at a reception in their honor.

Yours in Christ,

**Steven A. Simons**

President, ABCOFLASH Board of Directors



STEVEN A. SIMONS



## REGIONAL RESOURCE MINISTER REPORT

With Region Resource Ministers (RRM's), it is all about being with the people of our region. An RRM's work is as varied as the pastors and the churches in our diverse corner of God's vineyard. From staff meetings where, in prayer, we discuss the needs of our area churches, to gatherings, both formal and informal.

An example of more formal meetings are our Advent celebrations. Many in our region are used to meeting faithfully at a central region locale, like last year's celebration at FBC Glendale, where we enjoyed fellowship with those of whom we are in close proximity. This past year, however, we reached out to some of the more "far flung corners." One such gathering was hosted by Van Tarpley and the Bostonia Baptist Church in the San Diego suburb of El Cajon, where ABC retirees and staff from our San Diego churches gathered.

Speaking of San Diego, in National City our journey with The First Baptist Church is indicative of the type of work we do. We learned from the church's former and faithful pastor of 20 years, Rev. Jim Kilinsky, of his plans for retirement. Retirement for pastors is a mixed blessing. While retiring pastors look forward to some well-deserved rest and less structured, less demanding ministry, the transition can be a sentimental one. It was a blessing to celebrate Jim's last service with his loyal flock.

Before and after the celebration, the church needed to plan for the future. We walked with First Baptist while they developed a clear picture of what kind of church they wanted to be as well as what kind of pastor it would take to lead them. After much prayer and several meetings of discernment, the position was posted within our ABC family, locally and nationally, as well as some of the area seminaries. The leadership met with, prayed over, deliberated, then voted for their new pastor. Now, please welcome their new pastor, Seth Clark and his wife Vern, and the imminent arrival of their new baby boy. In addition to their work in National City, to see what the Clarks are up to in Latin America, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txfa7wSbsN0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txfa7wSbsN0).

Some gatherings have more to do with the church as a whole, rather than the individuals that occupy them. Meetings to discuss asset protection take place to protect the church properties and the sacrifices made by previous generations of givers. These givers felt that staying within the ABC family was the best way to serve Christ and their local communities. It is important that we continue to support their legacies.

In this regard, no two situations are alike. For example, First Baptist Church of El Segundo is seeking to strengthen their outreach by combining forces with another church. Under the leadership of Pastor John Svendsen, several planning and prayer meetings were conducted to discern the compatibility of the two churches; FBC is moving toward a grand and glorious future of continued service to their community and ABC missions.

Whether it is "all business," pastoral care where we "weep with those who weep," or just simply meetings at a local coffee shop, the job of the Regional Resource Minister is to connect with other pastors and church leaders. While some would think that the primary outcome is for the RRM to be a blessing to others, often the greater blessing comes from the very people we serve. For instance, hearing First Baptist Church of Claremont's Pastor Joel Fairley's passion for his community is inspiring. Joel's passion can be seen in a recent interview on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5pF\\_A5tT5o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5pF_A5tT5o). Similarly, hearing how Pastor Shawn Zambrows incorporates her experience as a university chaplain into her unique approach at FBC Redlands is a lesson in leadership. Another fascinating approach to ministry is the one undertaken by Pastor Tahlib McMichaux of First Community Baptist Church of Desert Hot Springs and Pastor Bill Godwin of Peace Christian Fellowship, meeting in Palm Springs, who carry a cross across the desert (and beyond) to commemorate Good Friday (<http://www.ksq.com/home/cross-carried-through-desert-/62925055>).

To have the privilege to journey with our lay leaders and pastors is what makes being on the region staff so fulfilling. It is a reminder that with the calling to serve comes the great blessing of getting to know those who are dear to our Lord's heart. Our region is not merely a geographic one, nor is it just a collection of buildings. It is the ecclesia, the wonderfully varied people, made in the image of our God, who faithfully minister day after day, season after season, for our generation, and for generations to come, Lord willing.

**Rev. Andy Guient**



REV. ANDY GUIENT



## ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

As I reflect over the past months, there is a good and bad. Never the less, our congregations are alive.

We may identify twenty-one (21) congregations as African American. Of this number,

- (7) Seven are struggling and surviving.
- (5) Five are struggling and needing assistance.
- (2) Two are struggling, thriving and growing.
- (1) One is struggling to expand.

All the rest are just struggling to be a people called Church.

I would suggest the above is true with most American Baptist Congregations...they are in different levels or kinds of struggles, but they are alive.

These Congregations are struggling, yet hope is alive. I am using the term "struggle" deliberately. Without the struggle, there is no life or progress. My fear, however, is a congregation may give up the struggle before fulfilling its calling and potential.

By way of illustration...

The butterfly is beautiful in color and flight. It floats from flower to flower, enjoying the nectar of life and aiding in the pollination event. However, a few days before being so involved, the butterfly was engaged in a struggle for survival, a struggle to free itself from the cocoon. Without the struggle, there is no pollination or life. The struggle makes all the rest possible.

Yes, many of our congregations are struggling. Struggling to become! Struggling to pollinate their communities with the message of Christ. They are struggling because they are alive, because of faith, because of an eternal hope; seeking to follow the example of Christ.

This is not a report in the usual sense, but a solicitation for prayer. One warrior, asking others warriors to pray for our struggling congregations.

- Some are in need of lay leadership.
- Some need to refocus on youth and young adults.
- Some need a focus on Evangelism and discipleship.
- Some need a fresh understanding of Stewardship.
- Some need to prepare leaders to take responsibilities now held by seniors.
- Some pastors need someone to walk with them in the struggle, to know they are not alone.

Even the congregations doing well are struggling with issues...

- At least one needs space to expand.
- One need a pastor
- One needs additional leadership.

Other congregations need...

- a spiritual awareness to address the pressing issues in their communities.
- resources to deal with their physical facilities.
- to rediscover who they are, and what God is calling them to be in this decade, and the next.

However, whatever the struggle, I believe God has not abandoned His Church. I believe Christ is in the struggle with all our congregations, helping them towards self-discovery and wholeness, as they become the Church of Jesus Christ.

God has and is keeping each congregation in the struggle because somebody is praying. I am only providing a reminder for us to continue in prayer for these struggling congregations.

Therefore, my plea for prayer...Pray for and with our congregations and Pastors!



DR. WILLIAM THURMOND

*Dr. William Thurmond*





## ORDINATION COUNCIL

As 2017 brings a leadership transition in the ABCOFLASH Executive Minister role, many opportunities to affirm leadership arise in the receiving of candidates for ordination.

To receive ecclesiastical endorsement for ministry in the American Baptist Churches USA, ABCOFLASH relies heavily on its regional ordination council functions to recognize the ongoing endorsement for ministry to support local churches at the affirmation of the Executive Minister.

The ABCOFLASH 2017 council updated and revisited the process to receive the recognition of a candidate's local church to enter the process of ordination. There is a team in place to coach the candidate involving screening via spiritual, psychological and theological readiness through one-on-one meetings and finally an interview before the ordination council for articulation and affirmation of their call to serve. This process desires to endorse quality candidates.

Also reviewed and re-developed as part of the ordination council in 2017 was how to better support the process of corrective/restorative care when behavior necessitates a review of the ordination granted by ABCUSA in the region. This too affirms the high standards of scholarship and spiritual integrity for those who come before the council.

Also new since 2016(7) is the working relationship for psychological assessment provided by the Asian American Christian Counseling Services (AACCS). Honorable mention must also be noted in gratitude for MMBB that provides scholarships to enable this psychological assessment for these candidates.

In 2017, the committee endorsed Nilo Banquerigo of Followers of the Way Church, recommended by Pr. Jim Schultz for ordination at its February meeting. At that same meeting, the endorsement of the previous ordination of Mike Lowery, American Baptist Churches USA missionary to Congo. In the July, 2017 meeting, two candidates came from the same church before the committee, Jason Ashimoto and Nate Watkins from Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

Dr. Bill Thurmond had provided leadership for much of the year, as the chair of the committee, but viewed his service as interim. Dr. Thurmond and Dr. Chetti called in summer of 2017 a new chair, Rev. Melanie Mar Chow to work with the incoming Executive Minister and provide a smooth transition for the future. There is much gratitude that many of the committee will continue to serve another year as well as receive new appointments to the committee in the addition of Revs. Jini Kilgore and Alvin Tunstill. Ongoing support comes from the regional administrative oversight by Debbie Gentry.

Melanie Mar Chow  
Ruben Casas  
Joe DeRoulhac

Gloria Marshall  
John Polite  
Jini Kilgore

William Thurmond  
Alvin Tunstill  
Bob Wallace

Andy Quient  
Jose Menendez  
Doug Hubbard  
Dennis Casaje



We anticipate the last and final ordination meeting of October, 2017, which coincides with Dr. Chetti's last meeting with one candidate. The committee is looking forward to endorsing several more talented candidates in the year ahead under the leadership of and the appointment of the new Executive Minister.



## REV. DOUG HUBBARD

REGIONAL MINISTER - YOUTH AND GLOBAL MISSIONS

### REGIONAL MINISTRY EQUIPS LEADERS

"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 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." - Ephesians 4:11-13

#### iLead

iLead brings youth together for 5 weekend retreats to help youth grow in their relationship with Christ and develop leadership skills. Our prayer is that those who are a part of iLead become lifelong followers of Jesus and will serve as leaders in their churches and communities.

"Being a part of iLead has been a life changing experience. I learned that if you incorporate God into your everyday life, you can accomplish anything, because He is always there to help you. I learned how to improve my life skills through the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens." Mark - Temple Baptist Church

"Being in iLead is one of the best journeys I've been through. I thank God for another chance to grow and learn and a chance to give and receive love." Akilah - Zion Hill Baptist Church



Making cookies: every student received an ingredient of the recipe to learn how we all bring our gifts into the body of Christ.



The ropes course taught teamwork, built confidence and strengthened endurance in facing challenges as leaders.



The iLead group visited a Jewish Temple, Islamic Center and Buddhist Temple to learn about other faiths and help them focus on our Christian beliefs.



Following the example of Jesus, The Servant Leader, who washed his disciple's feet. Our goal is that every iLead participant develops the passion to serve those around them.



We visited the senior residents of Ather-ton Baptist Homes for conversations about life and faith and concluded the day by leading the chapel service.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY EQUIPS LEADERS



Equip - March 4, 2017 - 200 pastors and laity came together for a day of being equipped for ministry.

*"Very inspiring and equipped me to do more for God. Please do this every year."*

*-Belinda Deguzman, Wilshire Baptist Church*

*"Good experience, I would recommend it to every congregation."*

*-Criste Maldonado, AMDA*

*"Great material, love the smaller group settings."*

*-Sarah Frederickson, The Rock*



Missions workshop led by Chuck Shewver (retired missionary), Richard Freeman (missionary to Turkey), Juan and Denise Aragon (missionaries to Mexico) and Ray Schellinger (Global Consultant).



Carlos Arce leading a workshop on leadership.



Chris Tong, pastor of The Rock Church in Las Vegas, teaches about discipleship.



Brandon Bouldin spoke about understanding the Millennial Generation.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY EQUIPS LEADERS

**Millennials Seminar – June 10 – Dr. Jolene Erlacher came to shed light on the millennial generation and how we can reach this dynamic generation for Christ.**

Pastors, Leaders, & Millennials are invited to

# #MILLENNIALS AND THE CHURCH

A Seminar on How to Engage & Equip the Next Generation of Believers & Leaders

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017**  
**8:30<sup>am</sup> - 3<sup>pm</sup>**

Evergreen Baptist Church  
of Los Angeles  
1255 San Gabriel Blvd  
Rosemead, CA 91770

**\$20**

**Dr. Jolene Erlacher**

BONUS NIGHT  
A Conversation with Jolene  
Friday, June 9 at 7<sup>pm</sup>  
Regional Resource Center  
209 N. Louise St., Glendale, CA  
PLEASE RSVP

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.KCCFLA.ORG/EVENTS/MILLENNIALS-AND-THE-CHURCH](http://WWW.KCCFLA.ORG/EVENTS/MILLENNIALS-AND-THE-CHURCH)  
FOR EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION  
connect@kccfla.org • 818.208.5070



### Urban Youth Workers National Conference May 2017 – Azusa Pacific University

Youth Leaders from our region enjoyed this annual conference that focuses on ministry with urban youth.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY EQUIPS LEADERS

**Global Leadership Summit - August 10-11** - This is the fourth year we have offered the webcast of the Global Leadership Summit which features leadership insights from leaders around the world.



Learning from Bill Hybels - the founder of the Global Leadership Summit.



Global Leadership Summit Webcast group at the Regional Resource Center.

*"Direct application for home, public service and ministry; overall increased leadership abilities, skills and tactics"*

- Enrique Sando, Ministerio Marañón de Amor

*"It helped sharpen my leadership skills."*

- Moises Montenegro, Iglesia Esperanza Viva

## REGIONAL MINISTRY BRINGS US TOGETHER

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26-28

**Worship Nights - Coming together to worship our Great and Wonderful God!**  
**Festival - November 2017**



Gathering to worship!



Thanksgiving Potluck



Come to the Altar - May 2017



Crowd breakers before worship begins



Nailing confessions and sins to the cross as we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY BRINGS US TOGETHER

### Regional Christmas Celebration

December 3 - First Baptist Church of Glendale

Pastors and church members enjoyed coming together to celebrate the Advent season.



Christmas music was led by NME Watkins and his family from Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles.



Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner.



Churches were invited to participate in a gift exchange with one another.

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS GIFT...

*The* **God's Gift of His Son**

*Gift of Giving*

WITH THE GIFT

December

Saturday **3rd** 2016



Advent devotional messages were presented on the themes of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Eli Mathis - First Baptist Glendale; Elias Gabriel - First Baptist South Gate; Samuel Cardinal - Filipino American Christian Church; Jill Lowery - Missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Preparing to sing "Silent Night" in candlelit room.





## REGIONAL MINISTRY BRINGS US TOGETHER

**American Baptist Dodger Night - April 28 -** The annual tradition of coming together for a Dodger game continued with a great night of fellowship and baseball.



Ruth Duarte and her family



First Baptist Church of Los Angeles



Jose Menendez and his family

**American Baptist Pastors Day at Dodger Stadium - June 8th.** Pastors from our region came together for a noon game to connect with one another and enjoy an afternoon of baseball.



Daniel Matsuda, John Smyser, Steve Robbins, Jeremy Balon, Dennis Casaja, Kenneth Kho, David McFadden, Bill Godwin and Rosalio Hernandez.



Dodger Stadium



Jared Kilduff and staff from Ocean View Baptist Church were a part of the group.



Juan and Denise Aragon and family enjoyed Dodger baseball while they were in Los Angeles raising support for their mission work in Mexico.





## REGIONAL MINISTRY BRINGS US TOGETHER

**Winter Youth Retreat - February 16-18, 2017 - Camp Cedar Crest - 300 youth and leaders came together to focus on how God can heal our brokenness. Our theme was effectively communicated by Amy Williams from Chicago. Students enjoyed their small groups, the annual talent show, worship led by the regional worship team and connecting with youth from other churches.**

Here are some testimonies from those who attended WYR 2017:

*"It gave me opportunities to spend time with youth from our church. It was good to see so many youth at the retreat"* - Youth Leader

*"My kids have been extremely moved. Two of them have rededicated their lives, and my one who had not accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, finally did! Amazing!"* - Michelle Alvarez

*"It has strengthened my relationship with God."* - Jonathan Perez, Chevy Chase BC

*"I made a better relationship with my brother and I got closer to God and I know He's with me all the time."* - Shannon Guardado

*"It has taught me that no matter how broken I am, God will use me to help others."* - Anonymous Student

*"The WYR has proven to be the most spiritually impactful experience in several of the youth's lives. The change of climate and scenery, getting lost in worship with other teens, hearing new questions and new angles on discipleship. We're grateful for the vision and the dedicated leaders who carry it out each year."* Dr. Seth Pickens - Pastor, Zion Hill Baptist Church.



Winter Youth Retreat Group Picture.



Amy Williams shared how God can bring hope to those without hope through God's love.



Worship is a highlight for many of the students who attend WYR.



Small groups help students get to know each other.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY BRINGS US TOGETHER

### American Baptist Day at Magic Mountain – August 12, 2017

Youth groups came to Magic Mountain to deepen their relationships with one another. A picnic was held during the middle of the day so the youth from different churches could connect with one another.



Park Windsor Baptist Church



Iglesia Bautista El Salvador



First Baptist Church of Los Angeles



First New Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church



Enjoying the picnic together



## REGIONAL MINISTRY IS DOING GOD'S MISSION TOGETHER

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

We honor all of the support that churches in our region give towards mission work in their communities and around the world. Our churches send short-term teams, their own missionaries and provide money to extend God's Kingdom throughout the world. We thank God for the generous support given to American Baptist missionaries and the World Mission offering.

***Our region encourages the support of these American Baptist Global Servants. These Global Servants continue to connect with churches in our region!***



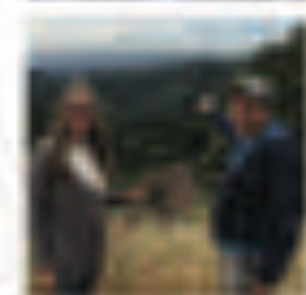
**Juan and Denise Aragon - Mexico** - Denise and Juan recently began serving in Chiapas, Mexico in partnership with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico Inc. They work in training, prevention and education. Juan will focus on theological education and leadership training as he accompanies, coaches and disciples new church leaders. Denise's ministry will seek to empower women, especially those who are victims of domestic abuse.



**Luran Bethell** - Luran is a global consultant for human trafficking. She encourages new grassroots projects addressing the exploitation and abuse of women and children, many of whom are victims of trafficking. Based in the Netherlands, she travels extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas to teach, train and consult.



**Deliris Joseph Carrion - Mexico** - Deliris 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.



**Glen and Rita Chapman - Democratic Republic of the Congo** - Glen is the academic dean of the school of theology at the Kikongo pastoral training school and teaches Old Testament, Hebrew and Baptist distinctives. Rita oversees the library, teaches English and works with the wives of the theology students.



**Richard and Laura Freeman - Turkey** - Laura and Rich in starting new churches in Turkey. They work with Turkish pastors and key Christian leaders to help them in pastoral training, support and church planting.



**Mike and Jill Lowery - Democratic Republic of the Congo** - Mike is 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 for prostitution.



**Michael and Becky Mann - Thailand** - Mike is a global consultant for rural development for International Ministries and he serves as Director of the Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP), through which he ministers among the hill tribes of northern Thailand. Becky helps tribal farmers and women's groups, and works with the parents of special needs children.



**Pieter and Nora Kalkman - Europe** - The Kalkmans are regional global servants who serve as coordinators of short-term mission with the European Baptist Federation. They facilitate life-changing mission experiences by matching the interests of volunteers with the needs of the 50+ Baptist conventions in Europe and the Middle East.



**Matt and Lori Mann - 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. Matt is also involved in leadership development and rural community development.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY IS DOING GOD'S MISSION TOGETHER



**Ingrid Roldan Roman - Panama** - Ingrid works together with the staff at the Federation of Baptist Associations of Costa Rica. As a social extension of the Baptist Theological Center of the Panamanian Caribbean she directs a tutoring and feeding program for elementary and high school students who have fallen behind in their studies.



**Ray Schellinger - Ray** is working 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.



**Philip and Corene Smith - Brazil** - Corene and Philip minister to children at Hope Unlimited, 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.



**Melanie Baggao - Lebanon** - Melanie is learning the Arabic language and culture, building relationships and preparing for future ministry in Arabic-speaking cultures. She is working with many Syrian refugees who are now in Lebanon.



**Daniel and Sarah Chetti - Lebanon** - Dan is an Adjunct Professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. He teaches history of Christianity and historical theology. Sarah has been pioneering a ministry among foreign migrant women working as maids in Lebanon. She runs an integrated Centre for Domestic Workers.



**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. 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.

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**Deborah's House - Labor Day Weekend 2017** - A team of nine from four churches traveled to Tijuana to serve with the women and families of Deborah's House. The team ministered to women and children who have experienced the trauma of domestic violence. A highlight, was joining with a Tijuana church, in a beach baptism that included two children of a woman who spent time at Deborah's House several years ago.



Deborah's House Team from ABCOFLASH.



After hearing the stories of the women who are living at Deborah's House we prayed for God to heal them.



Creating crafts together with the mothers and their children.



Washing dishes to give the women a break from their usual routine.



## REGIONAL MINISTRY IS DOING GOD'S MISSION TOGETHER

### Deborah's House - Cont'd



Sam and Myriam Cardinal from Filipino American Christian Church took portraits of the women and their children. They were deeply moved when they received the portraits as most have never had such a beautiful picture taken of themselves and their children.

*"These women and children have blessed me with their powerful testimonies and they are constantly displaying what God's love looks like with one another. Even in adversity, chaos, and dismay, these women embody a Christ-like mind and heart to support each other daily. I am constantly reminded of the women and children there and I cannot wait to serve again in the near future."* Lindsay - Evergreen Baptist Church

*"This weekend was a time of praying and fellowshiping with the women and children living at Deborah's House. I felt the love of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit in each common area we shared. I got to pray for the women and with the women individually. Playing games with the children and doing crafts with the children and the mothers was so much fun. The highlight of our time together, for me was each mother was given a framed family photo. The mothers really appreciated this special act of kindness."* Faye - Trinity Baptist Church

**Stations of Hope Camp - August 11-13** - Idyllwild Pines Camp - Rev. Fela Barrueto from the American Baptist Home Mission Society has partnered with Iglesia Bautista Calvario, Iglesia Bautista Paraiso and Ministerios Manantial de Amor to provide a camp for children with a parent in prison. This camp brought together children, parents and leaders to provide the love of Christ to these children. For many of the children who come, this camp is the only time during the year that they get to experience a different environment beyond where they live.



Group Picture

Water Balloon Toss   Chapel Service

*"The absence of a father in a family is very sad. But to be able to see the children happy, and to be able to share with them, that with the Lord everything is possible ...priceless."* - Javier Hernandez - Ministerios Manantial de Amor

*"The camp is always such a blessing for all who attend. The children have something to look forward to and always have such an amazing time where they get the opportunity to take a break from life back at home and just enjoy being children. Every year I see them open up more and help newcomers."* - Michelle Alvarez - Iglesia Bautista Calvario



## ASIAN MINISTRY REPORT

**"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16**



Wishine Baptist Church's Annual Camp 2017, "Guardians of the Faith" Celebrating their 105th Church Anniversary.



Indonesian Baptist Church, Baptism at Marina del Rey with Rev. Eddy Lookmono



Followers Of The Way Church with Rev. Nilo Banquerigo



***Serving the Lord with all diligence.***



Filipino American Christian Church celebrating 39 years under Rev. Delfin Cardinal's leadership!



## ABGIRLS

### A life of excellence in Relationship, Leadership and Service

Greetings ABCFLASH Family,

2017 was a little quiet, as AB GIRLS did not have a National Conference, due to our Biennial meeting in Portland, Oregon. BUT we had the pleasure of participating in the American Baptist Home Mission Society work week "Till the work is Done," in New Orleans, Louisiana.

We were housed by the wonderful staff/facility of Camp Restore for our work week participating in service projects in the lower East end and 9th Ward. There were about 12 AB Girls from Utah, Kansas Virginia, Iowa, Wisconsin and Boston.

We worked on such projects as:

- Cutting grass and pulling weeds in a local garden, repairing and painting a few houses for homeowners.
- Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter, filing forms for adoption, walking dogs and cleaning cages.
- Bethel Colony Thrift store where some helped with the thrift store inventory (clothing and furniture) and packing large bundles of clothing to ship out of the country for profit.
- Love in Action Food pantry assisting patrons in obtaining their monthly allowance of food.
- Giving Hope Food pantry and meal distribution, where some assisted patron with obtaining food and others packed freshly cooked food that would be delivered to Senior citizens and available for pick up for others. The meal contained, (freshly) bake or fried fish, rice and peaches.
- And during morning worship the AB GIRLS NLT lead with song, devotional and prayer in French.

Please get ready for next year's annual Conference at Judson College in Chicago. You don't want to miss this opportunity.



### Regionally,

We had one event of a Healthy you inside and out. We were taught a short Praise dance routine and discussed how this too can be a form of exercise in addition to an expression of praise to the Lord. Thereafter, we discussed eating habits and being physically healthy parallels being spiritually healthy. As we take care of our bodies spiritual watching what we allow in and around us, we must do the same for our physical bodies. All is required to live the life God has called in each of us.

Please join us (Regionally) next year as we plan on to gather in January, April and September. And our National event will be held at Judson University, Elgin, Illinois; July 19, 2018 thru July 22, 2018. Please check [abcflash.org](http://abcflash.org) for Regional updates and [www.abministries.org/events](http://www.abministries.org/events) for National.



## LATINO MINISTRIES

### Year End Report 2017 - Latino & Family Ministries

*This report is from July 2016 thru July 2017.*

Before the end of 2016, we had three different events. In August, at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Oxnard we had our annual "Retreat for Latino Pastors and their Spouses". Where we had a very good participation from all of our Latino churches. The theme of the retreat was "Preaching and Living the Word of God". One pastor shared "I've been blessed by participating in this retreat. Where my wife and I had a very refreshing time."

On the second weekend of September we had our annual "Lay Couples Retreat" at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel. At this event we had the highest attendance we've ever had since we started doing this event in our Region. We had over 200 couples and used four different Hotels in the city of Oxnard. At this retreat many couples are restored, motivated and strengthened in their relationships, marriages and their entire families. The theme for this retreat was "Bases for Families in Postmodern Times". We also had 5 couples who renewed their wedding vows and one wedding ceremony.



#### Dinner Concert for Latino Lay Couples

In order to maintain the flame, we had a "Dinner Concert for Latino Lay Couples" in November. The event took place at the Almansor Court Banquet Hall in Alhambra with 120 couples attending, many for the first time. The couples were blessed in spending time together and having fellowship time with other couples from all the Latino churches that participated.

As I travel and visit all of our Latino churches located in three different states, I have seen how God is moving tremendously among our many churches. I have seen many lives as they are being healed, restored, and transformed by the grace of Christ. I'm more convinced that we are living in a very crucial time. Our Pastors are confronting many obstacles everyday, but I admire their courage and perseverance as they continuously serve the Lord.

We have seen God's will fulfil itself according to His promises and faithfulness. We find ourselves in a spiritual battle against evil forces that oppose the light of Jesus as it shines on the people's souls and hearts. I will share with you my brothers and sisters, how God is moving in our many Latino churches. Whom are moved not by human will, nor wisdom of men, but by His power among us?

#### Latino Ministries and Associations

We have continuously strengthened the Latino Youth Ministry under the leadership of Jorge and Ana Siguemza. Youth leaders from one of our Latino churches whom willingly give their time, and serve with their gifts. From the moment they started three years ago.

Our Women Ministry continues very strongly under the leadership of Pastor Nora Martinez. With her team of very dedicated women whom love God and serve Him with all their enthusiasm and charisma.

Last year we launched the Men's Ministry under the leadership of Pastor Gabriel Aguirre and a supportive team. At first we saw this ministry start slowly but now it is strongly growing.



## LATINO MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

We have also seen the Latino Children's Ministry and its Leaders grow under the leadership of Pastor Cristina Arce. They have planned a "Kid's Concert" for this September where we are expecting more than 200 children to participate from all of our Latino churches.

We have seven associations among Latino churches that are being led by the leadership of different pastors; they are Pastor Ernesto Bermudez, Rev. Hector Mancillas, Pastor Ruperto Ucan, Dr. Miguel Altamirano (whom organized a couples retreat in Prescott, Arizona), and Pastor Ramiro Ortiz.

This year the San Diego Association organized two workshops and training events for lay leaders. They are also planning a couples retreat where we expect to have around 30 couples assisting.

We also have Dr. Carlos Arce as a leader for all the Latino Ministers. The ministers council had a training going on that started in May and will end in October. The training is about being purpose driven, we have around 55 pastors and leaders attending these classes.



### Latino Women and Men Ministries

The Women's ministry organized an event in March where around 350 women attended. They also have a retreat scheduled in October where they are expecting many to attend. The leader from the Association of Los Angeles organized vigil and prayer meetings in different churches. Where they are interceding for the needs and challenges that women face daily. The Men's ministry has a retreat planned for September and expects to have a good attendance group from all of our Latino churches.



### New Church Planters and New Pastors Training Events

We have had four classes about Baptist Government, Policies, Doctrines, and Ethics for all new church planters, new pastors, and those who are interested in starting their ordination process. Some pastors had commented on the importance for them to attend these classes. In July we had two additional New Church Planter workshops.





## LATINO MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

### Continued Education for Latino Pastors

Our Region continues to organize "Continued Education Retreats" for all Latino pastors, which are being sponsored by ABCOFLASH and Children's Baptist Home. In May we had a "Continued Education Event", 42 pastors attended. In October we will have the second retreat in one of our churches. One pastor told me: "Praise be to God for your vision to train us and equip us. So that we may serve better in our ministries".



### Dinner for Friends of the Seminarian Students

The American Baptist Theological Center has a BA program with the University of Laverne. The Center provides a Bachelor Degree in two concentrations with the University of Laverne. We also started a Master in Theology with Palmer Seminary for Latino pastors as a result of Dr. Adalia Gutierrez that works with International Ministries. She created this program with the support of ABHMS and ABCOFLASH. In these programs we have students enrolled that come from our Latino churches. On April 1 we had the annual dinner for ABTC students.

### Reaching the Second and Third Generation in our Latino Churches

As a result of three consecutive years of having consultations with Professor Dr. Daniel Rodriguez from Pepperdine University. We now have eight churches that started services in English and are reaching the second and third generation. These churches have sought to adapt because our social context has changed and the millennial generation is leaving the church. They saw the need in our Latino churches to not lose them, but to reach them and return them to the church.

### Latino Churches Seeking a New Pastor

We have supported and helped four churches in finding a new pastor. The first being the First Mexican Baptist Church of San Diego, which called Pastor Jorge Candoza. After four years of searching, his installation was on July 9. The second church being Iglesia Bautista Monte de Sion, which called Pastor Carlos Vásquez as their new pastor. The third was the Hispanic church at Valley Park Baptist Church which called Pastor Juan Pablo Plaza. The final church was First Baptist Church of Shafter which called Pastor Armando Gonzalez as their new pastor.





## LATINO MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

### Latino Churches Annual Celebration

We celebrated our annual Latino gathering with all our churches at Iglesia Bautista Camino al Cielo in City of Commerce were Pastors German and Zandra Galvez hosted us. We had a great group of pastors, lay people and church members attend the celebration. We also had separate group gatherings for men, women, youths, children's ministry leaders, and pastors. We concluded with a final session which had a blessed worship, with two vibrant worship groups (Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel and Iglesia Bautista Camino al Cielo). We concluded the celebration with a powerful sermon from our special guest speaker Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez-Lee (Area Director for Iberoamerica & the Caribbean, International Ministries).



### Family Ministry Program and Events

Our Region continuous with the Pastor Couples retreat in August and the "Lay Couples Retreat" in September. For the "Lay Couples Retreat" we accommodate participants in four Hotels in the City of Oxnard. This year we hope to have around 300 couples attending. The Lord is moving tremendously among the couples. Many marriages have been restored. Couples have been saved. Families that the social system had destroyed are restored and given tools in how to be a successful family.

I want to conclude with the words of the apostle Paul in Galatians 6:14 "If I will receive glory, I will do it in the cross of Jesus Christ my Savior".

I give to God the glory and honor, because we are only His Servants!

*Dr. José Menéndez, Regional Minister of the Latino and Family Ministries.*



## RAINBOW ACRES - GARY WAGNER

**Warmest Greetings from the Ranchers and Employees of Rainbow Acres!** The seasons are beginning to change and the hot days of summer are being followed by cool evenings. This makes evenings ideal for Ranchers to walk with friends after dinner.

With this letter we want to share a number of updates from across the Ranch, so sit back and relax and enjoy the news.

- We are thrilled to introduce four new Ranchers who have joined the Rainbow Acres community in 2017:
- Alan Drehman, from Moline, Illinois, moved into Casa Esperanza
- Molly Rodgers, from Durango, Colorado, moved into Frese House
- Sarah Monsey, from Seattle, Washington, moved into Frese House
- Charlie Cordivin, from Sedona, AZ, moved into Agape House

We are also pleased to introduce several new Caregivers to the Rainbow Acres Community:

- Margy Andrews, Guidance Counselor for Apartments and Casa Esperanza
- Laura Daley, currently on the Dakin House Team
- Julianne Brogdon, on the Dakin House Team
- Gaylin Satola, currently on the Agape House Team
- Dori Kockler, on the Agape House Team
- Cindy Shaw, on the Agape House Team and
- Betty Mendoza, currently on the Frese House Team



Rainbow  
Acres

We bid farewell to Rancher, Gordon Stewart, after 32 years at Rainbow, as a result of declining health, he has transitioned to Verde Views Assisted Living.

Retirement came way too soon for Dee Whitt, Admissions Coordinator for the past 10 years. Her last official day of service was July 31st. It was a special loss for Chris Walker who has known her for over 28 years and me who has known her for 21 years.

### **This has been a busy summer at Rainbow Acres!**

All Women's Houses at Rainbow Acres are full. The next house to open and serve women at Rainbow Acres will be Oikos HOUSE. What a joy that day will be!

Dori Kockler has accepted the special assignment of being Co-Director of the Rainbow Acres Rancher Choir, with Mark Larson, on piano and guitar respectively. Dori will also be taking the lead weekday afternoons in Clavinova Connection. The schedule for our Traveling Rancher Choir in Arizona Churches is filling up fast. The Traveling Choir will be comprised of 14 members and two alternates. For Ranchers to participate in the Traveling Choir, each Rancher must audition and demonstrate the ability to memorize the words, grasp the melody of the music, blend their voices with others, and show exemplary citizenship on the Ranch.

Jackie Brown, Rancher Benefits Coordinator has taken the lead to energize and staff the Recreation Center in the Daehler Building. The REC Center fulfills several important Rainbow Goals:

- Recreational and socialization experiences each afternoon for the Ranchers.
- A safe and supervised environment for Ranchers to meet and hang-out with friends
- Activities that include Board Games, Pool, Ping Pong, Shuffle Board and Four Square
- An option for Ranchers when their Caregiver is out of their house on Medical Trips. Daily attendance averages 25-30 Ranchers.

**Educational Partners Enrich the Ranchers lives!** This spring and summer, nine Undergraduate and Graduate Students in Speech Therapy (ST) from Northern Arizona University and five Occupational Therapy (OT) from NAU/Phoenix Campus conducted weekly Educational and Therapeutic Groups to assist the Ranchers in developing and improving a wide range of skill sets. The University programs are coordinated by Christine Walker, Director of Health & Wellness. Just one of the many successes of the summer was one OT Group assisted five Ranchers (Chipeta, Hari, Tiffany, Molly, and Alan D.) during the opening of the New Rainbow Acres Gift Shop in the Daehler Building. They served over forty shoppers from the Milpitas Mission Team who accrued over \$1,823.00 in Craft Gift sales.

**Saturday Field Trips for the Ranchers.** Dr. Rodolfo Morales Martinez, Coordinator of the Horticulture Program, has partnered with Lisa Page, Coordinator of the Animal Program, to develop one day Discovery Field Trips exploring Oak Creek Canyon, Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon Caverns, Montezuma's Well, and Y Bar V Heritage Site, which has the largest petroglyphs in Arizona. Participation averages around 25-30 Ranchers from across the Ranch. Caregivers provide extra staff support and Chef, April Palmer, provides lunches for the Rancher to enjoy during these educational field trips.

**Movie Night.** Jen Murphree, Director of Admissions, and Rolene Dugi, Coordinator of Rancher Services, hosted an impromptu Movie Night in July, to see the latest Spider Man flick.



## RAINBOW ACRES - GARY WAGNER (CONTINUED)

**Saturday Hiking for the Ranchers.** Andy Rogers, Coordinator of Vocational Programs and his wife, Sara's, love for hiking has introduced Ranchers to a wide range of scenic hiking trails across Northern Arizona. They are able to accommodate up to 30 Ranchers per-hike. The difficulty of the trail is determined by the agility and stamina of Ranchers who sign up.

**Our Volunteers have made a profound difference.** In 2016, Volunteers gave 11,935 hours of service to the Ranchers and Rainbow Acres! From providing daily assistance in meal preparation, to teaching cooking classes, leading Drum Circle, Therapy Dog visits, painting, renovation and construction projects. Doreen Snow from Danville, New Hampshire, is in her 17th year of service.

We also hosted 15 Mission Work Teams of youth and adults from as far as Petersburg, Indiana; Corvallis, Oregon; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Kearney, Nebraska; and Hanford, California. In addition, they've also completed a wide range of improvement projects. The Ranchers gain a variety of social, educational and spiritual experiences shared by our volunteers that are "Priceless!"

Rancher families frequently ask, "Do you have any special needs?" Support for new equipment and/or new dimensions of the enrichment programs for the Ranchers are always appreciated; support for Greenhouses, Clavinova Connection, Care and Feeding of the Animals at the Barn, Fine Arts Painting, and Special Olympics. Many of these programs were initially funded or enhanced by visionary Parents and Guardians.



There are always a number of capital improvement projects on the priority list, but not included in the Annual Operating Budget. To explore needed capital projects, please call the President's Office 928.567.5231.

**AZ Tax Credit.** Rancher Families and Friends residing in Arizona may wish to take advantage of the Arizona Tax Credit for contributions going towards the Scholarship Fund. It is a dollar for dollar tax credit up to \$400 for a single person, and \$800 for a married couple. Please contact Dawn Jones in the Advancement Office for specific information or email at dawn@rainbowacres.com.

**Special Olympics.** Under the leadership of Sandy Koonce, Special Olympics Coordinator, and in partnership with Judy and Allen Roughton (Rancher Stephanie's parents), who will be hosting the Special Olympics Regional Bocce Ball Tournament on September 30th at their Camp Verde home. Come join the fun as a Cheering Spectator or an able bodied Volunteer. There will be over 200 Special Olympians in attendance from all across Northern Arizona. It is truly a "One of a Kind" tournament in Arizona Special Olympics.



## RAINBOW ACRES - GARY WAGNER (CONTINUED)

**Family and Friends Weekend October 26th - 28th!** "An Old Fashioned Roundup" is the theme for this year's Family and Friends Weekend. There will be an Open House hosted in two Ranch Homes, Program Updates, Greenhouse Presentations, Horsemanship Demonstrations, Rancher Choir Concert, and an All Ranch Talent Show. Special Guests will include National Award Winning, Jim & Jeanne Martin, Blazin' M Ranch Cowboy Musicians, Arizona Rangers and lots of good vittles, too! If you would like to participate in the all ranch talent show, please email Mark Larson at mark@rainbowacres.com. A detailed schedule of Family & Friends weekend will be coming soon. Linda and Art will join in the Talent Show again this year.

All Trustees, Former Trustees, Parents and Guardians are Cordially invited to attend the complimentary Legacy of Love luncheon on Friday, October 28th. Attending this festive event will give you an opportunity to meet those individuals who have a strong commitment to the success of Rainbow Acres. I know that you will want to add your words of Thanks and Appreciation. Ranchers will have lunch in their respective houses on Friday during the time of the luncheon. If you are on Ranch Friday, and would like to attend, please RSVP to karenwebster@rainbowacres.com when providing your information for all other Family and Friends Weekend Events.

### **Important Dates:**

- October 26th- 28th, Family and Friends Weekend
- Thursday, October 26th, Parents dine with Ranchers in their homes.
- Friday, October 27th, Legacy Luncheon from 12 Noon to 1:30 PM. BBQ Dinner at 5:00 PM and Talent Show at 6:30 PM.
- Saturday, October 28th, Open House 9 AM to 1:30 PM.
- November 30th is the Annual Rancher Christmas Shopping Trip to Arizona Mills, in Tempe.
- Caregiver Appreciation Gift in by December 1st. Over the years, Rancher Parents and Guardian have expressed their desire to share their appreciation for the loving care and support of the Caregivers for their Rancher. Rainbow Acres has established a Caregiver Appreciation Fund that is shared equitably among the Caregivers during the Christmas Season.
- December 5th the Holiday Travel scramble begins. We strive to give every employee a well-deserved vacation over the Holidays.
- December 10th is the Annual Christmas Candlelight Service in Palmer Community Center at 6:30 PM. Families and Friends are welcome. December 13th is the All Ranch Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange at 5:30 PM. To everyone's delight Santa will make an appearance. Seating for this event is limited to Ranchers and Employees and their immediate families.

On Tuesday, August 8th we conducted an Emergency Evacuation Drill all across the Ranch. It went very well! We the last vehicle left the Ranch in 37 minutes. The Maintenance Staff checked every building on the Ranch and gave the ALL CLEAR in 57 minutes from the start of the Drill. We have one more drill to complete soon to be in compliance with DHS regulations requiring (2) drills per year.

### **I would be remiss if I did not mention several other items:**

- Our Caregivers are working incredibly hard, many pulling over-time because we had the departures of several poor performing Caregivers. They are loyal and faithful because they love the Ranchers and because of our excellent benefits.
- We are in need of three new Caregivers and a new Night Watchman/Caregiver. Please make this a matter of prayer and concern. Your assistance in meeting this challenge will be greatly appreciated.
- Mission Support from ABCOFLASH Churches makes a difference in the Ranchers lives, not only in safe and secure residences, quality programs, but also in Scholarships/Financial Aid to bridge the gap between a Ranchers resources and the cost of living at Rainbow Acres. THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!

This summer would have been incredibly overwhelmingly challenging without the support of Claudia Ault, Charlie German, and Judith Glenn, The Annual Campaign Committee and the loyal and faithful Trustees who have supported this committee with the Donor Thank You notes and phone calls. Thank you! We have received very positive feedback from those receiving calls. And Callers have received valuable information that strengthens our donor records. Words are inadequate to express my appreciation for each one's efforts. Thank you again.

We are blessed to have loyal Senior Staff Team: Paul Higgins, Christine Walker, and Kevin Jones. Several others deserve special mention: Susan Hall, Steve Roblee, Jen Murphree, Jackie Brown, and Rolene Dugi. They are tireless in their service to Rainbow Acres and have stepped up their leadership in numerous ways, visible and invisible! I am deeply grateful to each them.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President and serving the Rancher. If you have questions, concerns and/or need special assistance, please email or call me or my colleagues on the Senior Team, Christine Walker, Director of Health and Wellness; Paul Higgins, Vice President for Finance and Kevin Jones, Director of Buildings and Grounds.



## FAITH IN CHRIST - GWYNN BROWNE

**Faith in Christ Ministries**, a ministry with a purpose as it is stated in Isaiah 61:1-3, connects people who want to make a difference with people who need and want a difference. God's sustaining power keeps us here using the hands of 895 volunteers and going forward we invite you to "come and see" what God is doing right at the corner of 45th Street and Western Avenue.

Pastor Pica Song and his entire family have settled into the ministry at FICM. Along with supporting Pastor Joe with pulpit duties, Pastor Song has developed our media support for Sunday worship, his entire family serves in the Saturday morning community breakfast, and he assists with our Tuesday food program.

We have enjoyed pulpit support from Rev. Marie Snipes (Park Windsor Baptist Church), Rev. Greg Nelson (CLC Worship Center), and visiting lay persons like our long time good friend, Miguel Gutierrez (First Baptist Church, Glendale).

Since the beginning of FICM, seeds of faith have been planted and nurtured. This year we are enjoying the growth of new fruit that is young, vibrant, wanting to serve and share the love of Christ with a new generation of youth. These young people have teamed up with Director, Gwynn Browne to restart our S.A.Y. Yes! Youth Development Center which is a biblically-based program that is a safe place for at-risk children to gain a solid foundation so they can have a successful future. Summer Discovery Camps for children in our community offering fun academic enrichment ending with a field trip each week during the month of July.

Saturday Community Outreach Activities were held from 11 am to 1 pm- these are family, friendly engaging events held during the year:

- Easter
- Back To School
- Fall Pumpkin Party
- Community Christmas Party
- Saturday Kid's Club

### Food Program

Saturday Community Breakfast -serving an average of 45 people each weekend

- Food prep begins at 7:30 am, 4-6 volunteers are welcome each week

Tuesday Food Distribution- serving an average of 40 families

- Food sorted and organized begins at 7:30 am

Thanksgiving Day Celebration - serving over 3,500 hot meals

- Volunteers are needed beginning Nov. 18, 2017

Christmas Day Celebration- serving over 500 hot meals

- Volunteers are needed during the hours of 9:30 am to 1:30 pm on Dec. 25th.

Monthly Women's Gathering - Every 2nd Thursday

- Volunteers can provide lunch, lead a craft and just come and fellowship.

### Women's Day Program

Plans are being made for expanding services for women residing in shelters/living in cars or living on the streets; to include showers, partnership with laundry facilities, adult development and discipleship.

### Spark Community Outreach Program for Empowerment (SCOPE)

Founded in 1994 as an outreach program of FICM, to expand the compassionate outreach and neighborhood development ministries of the church in the face of mounting problems of poverty and injustice in the surrounding community. It is a not-for-profit non-sectarian organization to engage the business community and other organizations working for the good of the community and its residents.





## HIGHWAY MINISTRIES - JINI COCKROFT

**HighWay Ministries**, a Christian mission in South Los Angeles, began in late 2006 as a van and park ministry conducted by Pastor Willie Cockroft and his wife Rev. Jini Kilgore Cockroft. The two visited a park in their neighborhood each Sunday afternoon, taking refreshments and inviting people to eat and hear a Gospel message. In 2008, HighWay Ministries began using its present Slauson Avenue location to engage the surrounding community through evangelistic preaching and teaching. In the immediate neighborhood, bound by West Boulevard on the west and Crenshaw Boulevard on the east, many people struggle with such issues as poverty, substance abuse, homelessness, and often, hopelessness, so HighWay prayerfully sought God for ways to serve the community. Thus, Sunday mornings at HighWay feature a free hot breakfast, Sunday school, worship service, and van transportation to and from the ministry. On Wednesday at noon, HighWay offers Bible study and prayer service. In 2009, HighWay House, a sober living home that offers affordable rooms for men and women, was opened at the same location. HighWay House is run by a competent and committed resident manager who maintains a model home and is an experienced substance abuse counselor with a decade and a half of sobriety, himself. Another way that HighWay tries to respond to the community's needs is through a monthly clothing give-away held on Saturdays, that helps many individuals and families with children who are struggling to obtain necessities in difficult economic times. Overall, HighWay Ministries is committed to preaching the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to the unsaved, to nurturing Christian growth among the saved, and to offering tangible help to those in need. HighWay Ministries is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) public benefit corporation, and your donations of clothing, food, and money are tax-deductible and welcomed. HighWay Ministries is affiliated with American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii.



Rev. Jini Kilgore Cockroft and Pastor Willie Cockroft.

Pastor Willie Cockroft and I are retiring as of December 31, 2017. Interim Pastor Elder Dennis Bullock will come in January 2018. We are also tentatively looking at the second Sunday in January 2018 as the date for our farewell service. Pastor Willie and I will be moving to the Atlanta area in late October 2017. He will return after we move in our new home there to complete the year here. We will miss the wonderful ABCOFLASH fellowship that we have enjoyed through the years.

We solicit the prayers of our ABCOFLASH brothers and sisters in Christ both for our new season in life and for our beloved HighWay Ministries, and we are praying for ABCOFLASH's new season in leadership and service, as well. Much love, Willie and Jini Kilgore Cockroft.





## HANDS FOR HOPE - LYDIA FLOYD

**HANDS4HOPE LA** afterschool program, located in First Baptist Church of North Hollywood has proudly served North Hollywood & neighboring communities for the past 17 years.

**Our Mission:** Hands4Hope LA provides support to at-risk youth ages 8 to 18 from low-income, predominantly minority households to improve their quality through free S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) based after-school programs, low-cost Academic Summer Camp and semi-annual single parent resource fairs.

Our **YOUTH** participated in a variety of performing arts and health & wellness classes throughout the year and had the opportunity to showcase all their new skills and talents to their parents at the end of year showcase in June. This year we debuted a cooking competition where the kids went home and taught their parents how to make a healthy dish that they learned to make in cooking class. Also, in partnership with California Science Academy and Girl Scouts we explored citizen science and engineering.

Our **TEENS** had an exciting year to say the least. From monthly college prep workshops with AKA SLO Sorority, to creating their driver safety film under the guidance of New York Film Academy on Universal Backlot, to horse back riding field trips, they've had many great opportunities to discover their strengths, develop their skills and learn from professionals in their desired field.

Our **SINGLE PARENTS** continually benefit from the Annual Single Parent Resource Fair held every December. This year however, they had many unique surprises - a Christmas shopping spree in December, a Mothers day pamper event in May, and most recently a single mom with five kids received a refrigerator filled with food. We stay committed to supporting single parents and helping them get their needs met by connecting them to resources.

**EVENTS** Our dance team, vocal group and rock band opened the show for our Annual Starlight Serenade Benefit Concert this past March. The show with special guest Sinbad also featured musical performances by Paul Jackson Jr., Dr. Bobby Rodriguez and more. Our 17th Annual HopeWalk, held in May was a fun-filled family day centered on fitness activities for all ages with food from local restaurants.



Got Milk with Liz & Carmen Millan at launch of California Thrives on milk campaign at Hands4Hope LA



Hands4Hope LA Teens Volunteering at Jim Pickens' (from Grey's Anatomy) Rodeo Competition



Got Milk with Liz & Carmen Millan at launch of California Thrives on milk campaign at Hands4Hope LA



Hands4Hope LA Teens Volunteering at Jim Pickens' (from Grey's Anatomy) Rodeo Competition

FOLLOW US @HANDS4HOPELA





## TURKISH CONNECTION - RICH FREEMAN

*"Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill treated, since you yourselves are also in the body." Hebrews 13:3*

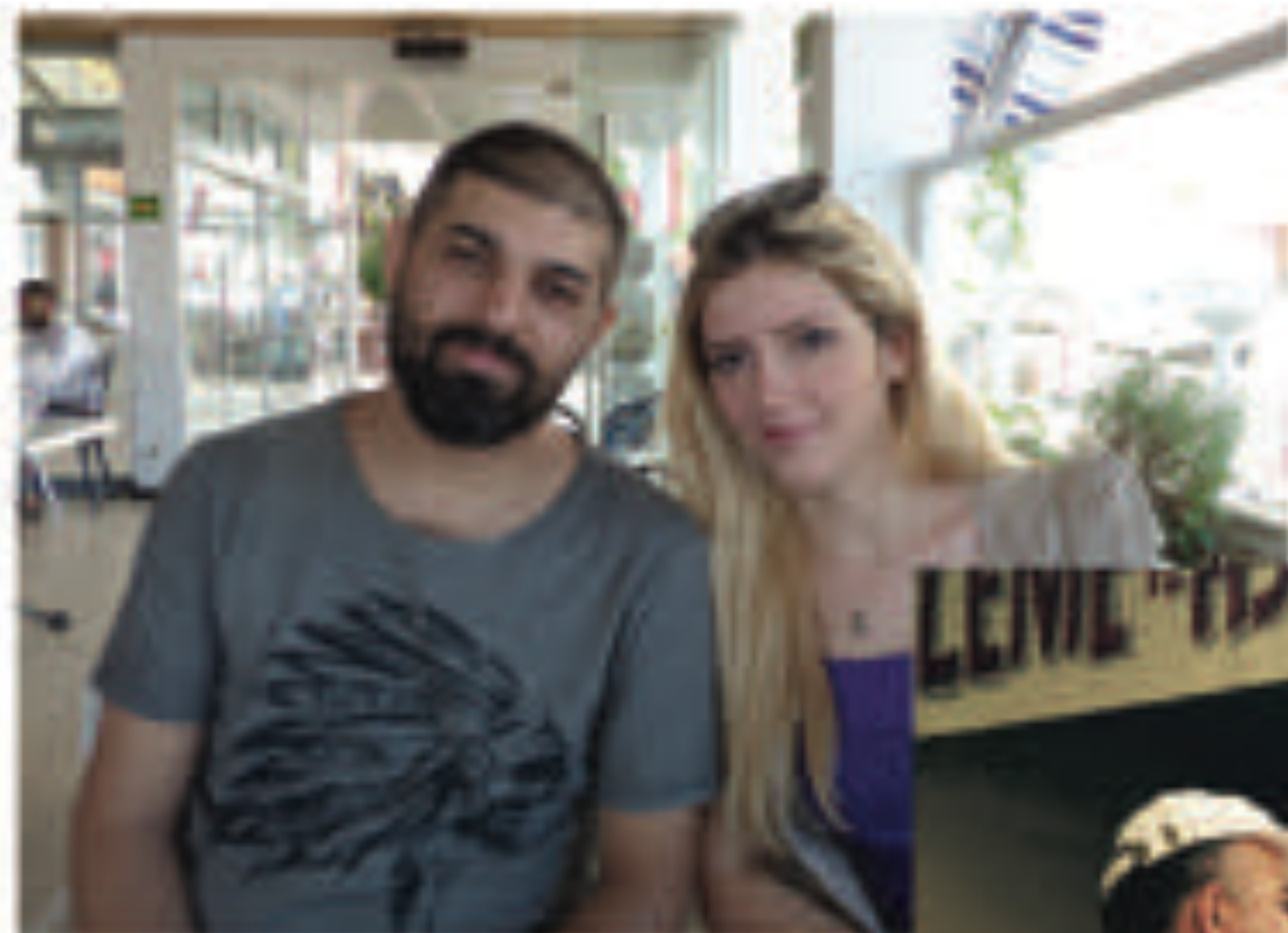
We are so thankful for the support of our ABCOFLASH region in partnering with our work in Turkey. Our goal is to help establish 100 churches in one of the most unreached countries in the world. The Turkish Christians of Turkey are so grateful to know that their brothers and sisters in America care about their struggles and want to stand with them.

**As a result of your support during 2016/2017, we were blessed to see:**

- The establishment of six new churches throughout Turkey. One of these new churches is an Arabic fellowship that is reaching Syrian refugees. They will soon baptize 45 new believers.
- The encouragement of many Turkish pastors and their families. Christians are viewed as "traitors" to the country as they do not follow the majority faith of Islam. Threats and persecution are a common occurrence. We stand with these dear Christians on your behalf.
- The enlargement of ministries to Syrian refugees. The Turkish pastors we work with are active in showing the love of Jesus to refugees. They are setting up care and learning centers and are making a huge difference!

Thank you for your partnership!

Rich and Laura Freeman



Pastor Arman





# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## Statement of Financial Position

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 918,640	\$ 628,217
Accounts receivable	66,143	57,532
Prepaid and other assets	51,990	53,903
Notes receivable - current	160,153	337,158
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,194,926</b>	<b>976,810</b>
Certificate of Deposit	52,680	88,723
Certificate of Deposit provided as collateral	280,000	280,000
Investments	3,074,993	2,795,629
Notes receivable, net of current	19,044,440	19,280,724
Investment in real estate	810,000	840,000
Equipment and improvements, at cost, net	186,055	181,811
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 24,643,094</b>	<b>\$ 24,423,697</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 26,790	\$ 30,669
Accrued expenses	66,353	73,793
Current portion of notes payable	24,760	23,674
Capital leases payable - current	22,331	20,485
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>140,234</b>	<b>148,621</b>
Notes payable, net of current	1,328,685	1,353,428
Capital leases payable, net of current	93,034	39,941
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,561,953</b>	<b>\$ 1,541,990</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Net investment in equipment & improvements	\$ 70,690	\$ 101,385
Undesignated	21,374,133	21,174,168
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>21,444,823</b>	<b>21,275,553</b>
Temporarily restricted	213,776	183,582
Permanently restricted	1,422,542	1,422,542
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 23,081,141</b>	<b>\$ 22,881,707</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 24,643,094</b>	<b>\$ 24,423,697</b>

*Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report, Dec 31, 2016 and 2015*

<b>Charitable Nonprofit Sustainability Metrics</b>	
Net Available Assets as of 12/31/16	\$11,658,399
Total Expenses of 2016	\$1,552,997
Working Capital Ratio (years)	13.9
<i>Also our current working capital ratio is 13.9 years in terms of charitable non-profit sustainability</i>	



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

### Statement of Activity

	2016	2015
<b><u>OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE</u></b>		
Contribution income	\$ 242,089	\$ 247,705
Investment income	1,324,793	980,768
Other income	185,549	215,769
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 1,752,431	\$ 1,444,240
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>		
Administration	\$ 169,981	191,595
Salary and benefits	814,482	764,329
Office of Executive Minister	48,011	35,910
Office of Latino/a Ministries	178,863	190,963
Office of Youth Ministries	60,254	59,252
Community Programs	84,722	70,728
Strategic Initiatives	1,173	11,893
New Church Plant	85,126	111,543
Region Women Connect	3,866	3,870
Campaign - Rainbow Acres Oikos House	-	247,717
Depreciation	82,905	64,292
Bad debt	5,681	-
Interest expense	58,193	75,058
Total Expenses	\$ 1,552,997	\$ 1,827,150
Change in Net Assets Before Non-operating Revenue	\$ 199,434	\$ (382,910)
<b><u>NONOPERATING REVENUE</u></b>		
Gain on sale of property	-	805,915
Change in Net Assets	\$ 199,434	\$ 423,005
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	22,881,707	22,458,702
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 23,081,141	\$ 22,881,707

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report, Dec 31, 2016 and 2015



# Relax! Stress-Free Home Financing & Buying!

Stressed about buying a new home? No worries! From finding a real estate agent to choosing the right loan for your budget, Christian Community Credit Union can make each step easier to owning your own home. Need to refinance instead? We've got you covered with our affordable fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgages.

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\$500!

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Power!

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OF CREDIT**

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APR\***

\*Offer ends 10/31/17

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INTRODUCTORY  
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RATE!**

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Call 800.347.CCCU (2228), ext. 551

Mention Group Code 90445H

Membership eligibility requirements apply. Visit [myCCCU.com/membership](http://myCCCU.com/membership).

Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. A \$25 one-time membership fee applies if you do not have a deposit account at Christian Community Credit Union. Fee will be waived if you have a deposit account or you open one within 30 days of loan approval. Visit [myCCCU.com/deposit](http://myCCCU.com/deposit). NCMA ID Number is 5242917.

\$1000 waiver for loans up to \$200,000. \$400 waiver for loans between \$200,001 to \$400,000. \$200 waiver for loans over \$400,000. Not available for HELOC loans.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. HELOC Introductory APR of 1.99% effective 10/01/17 and is valid for six months after the funding date; thereafter, APR will convert to the "adjustable monthly HELOC rate" currently as low as 4.52% APR and a maximum 18.52% as of 10/01/2017. "Adjustable monthly HELOC rate" is variable and is based on The Wall Street Journal Prime Rate plus a margin that is based on your credit score and the rate of your mortgage loan balance to your home value, known as your loan-to-value (LTV). Introductory APR valid for applications received between 09/01/17 to 10/31/17, closed and funded by 11/01/17. Maximum: \$25,000. Maximum: \$400,000. Available on new Home Equity Lines of Credit. This is an open-end line of credit secured by the equity in your home. Estimated approval fee at \$450 applies. Other fees may be associated with this loan. Rates and terms effective 10/01/2017 and are subject to change without notice.

Christian Community Credit Union is proudly insured by American Share Insurance up to \$250,000 per account. By members' choice the Credit Union is not federally insured or insured by any state government.





## NOTES



## NOTES





### **REGIONAL MINISTERIAL TEAM**

**Dr. Samuel S Chetti**, Executive Minister  
**Rev. Dennis Casaje**, Regional Resource Minister, Asian Ministries  
**Rev. Stan Crews**, Regional Minister, Arizona Association  
**Rev. Doug Hubbard**, Regional Resource Minister, Youth and Global Missions  
**Dr. Barry Lovett**, Regional Resource Minister, Hawaii  
**Dr. Jose Menendez**, Regional Resource Minister, Latino Ministries  
**Rev. Andrew Gulent**, Regional Resource Minister, San Diego, Orange Counties, and Inland Empire  
**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  
**Ms. Berta Villacorta**, Administrative Assistant, Latino Ministries  
**Ms. Tina Tome**, Administrative Assistant, Accounting

