



DR. SAMUEL S. CHETTI RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

November 4, 2017

On April 16, 2016, Dr. Samuel Chetti, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii (ABCOFLASH), announced his plans for retirement on December 31, 2017. Dr. Chetti has completed 45 years in ministry and 21 years of that serving as the Executive Minister.



We thank God for you and always mention you in our prayers. Each time we pray, we tell God our Father about your faith and loving work and about your firm hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



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EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

Rev. Andy Quient

Thank you for allowing me to represent you as I travel to the distant and diverse parts of our incredible Region. I often consider how our varied congregations reflect different tribes and nations. Ethnic diversity is a good thing but unity in Jesus Christ is a great thing, especially considering just how diverse we are. I have had the pleasure of worshiping with the Yavapai and Apache tribes in Northern Arizona. I have celebrated our Lord in predominantly African-American congregations. I've gotten to experience the rich tapestry of our various Latino and Asian-American churches as well. Also, fulfilling a job requirement, I've experienced worship, Hawaiian style, with our churches on Oahu. (Yes, I've heard it before, it's a tough job but someone's got to do it.)



Andy Quient

I've had some unique experiences. I've been with new church plants, long standing legacy churches, traditional, contemporary, and multi-cultural houses of worship. One church service, conducted outdoors by Pastor Richard Holt of First Baptist Church of Palos Verdes, was a reenacted Civil War Sunday service, complete with inquisitive visitors on horse-back.

I've preached at several of our churches. Other times, when I haven't been scheduled to speak, my wife, Lisa, and I have just slipped in and enjoyed services. Without exception, whether in larger or smaller churches, I have heard some great preaching. Whether people knew us or not, the welcome was always warm. If I haven't been to your church yet, let's fix that-invite me! I'm happy to preach or just be blessed to hear one of our talented pastors.

Sundays aside, I've had the opportunity to sit down during the weekdays and share with church leadership, often over a meal. I realize, more than ever: leadership is hard; church leadership is even harder. I have an appreciation for the struggle that many of our church leaders face. I have an even greater appreciation for the steadfast love that they have for the Lord and the Lord's people. Church leader: on the difficult days, remember that you are not alone. You are connected to your Region and to your larger ABC family.

Case in point, last December I was traveling down to San Diego for a meeting with our San Diego association of churches. A fire that later would be named the largest fire in California was raging up north. While on the road I was calling pastors of possibly affected



EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT (CONT.)

churches. Our pastor at First Baptist in Ojai told me that he feared that a couple from their church lost their home. I no sooner hung up the phone when I got a call from Vickie Goff of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, regarding of one of our ABC offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing. I hadn't even called her!

We had never even met! She told me that a check would be on the way for the affected family. So, the first Sunday that the evacuation order was lifted, I went up to still smoldering Ojai



Ortlund Family

and presented the check to the church, which in turn, presented it to the family. It made me so proud to be a Christian, an American Baptist and a representative of your Region. By the way, if you're ever in the Ojai area, say hi to one of our newest pastors, Gavin Ortlund, and his wife, Esther. They are a remarkable couple with a heart for God and their newly adopted community.

It made me so proud to be a Christian, an American Baptist and a representative of your Region. Stronger Together

In my year as your Acting Executive Minister I've had the opportunity to meet with several other executive ministers and ABC staff. Being in the home of our General Secretary, Lee Spitzer, filled me with inspiration for where we are headed as an association of like-minded believers. If you haven't already done so, take some time to get acquainted with Lee; you'll be glad you did.

I know it might seem obligatory to say positive things about the ABCOFLASH staff. However, I speak from the heart when I tell you that our staff is the best team that I have ever worked with. They care about Jesus and they care about you. They work too hard, are paid too little, but love you just right, with the love of the Lord.

Speaking of "unsung heroes," your board of directors have worked especially hard in 2018. This year we challenged our board to expand their service in three key areas: Finance, Ministry, and Board Development. Each of the main areas have sub-committee opportunities. We are seeing volunteers come forward to help with our mission of helping forge stronger churches. While we have some talented people helping us, we need more. If you'd like to share your time and talent with the ABCOFLASH special teams, please contact Deborah Gentry in our office to begin the process.



EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT (CONT.)



At the various events, church services, and one-on-one meetings, we've been able to do a lot of listening. It has become apparent to me that the reason we exist is to help make churches stronger. We endeavor to accomplish this in four key areas. We:

Equip our leaders through a variety of opportunities. Please see the following pages regarding our continuing education events, Global Leadership Summit, new church planting, Covey training, and much more. It's exciting! A big thank you to all that help us with the ongoing expenses-especially the generous grant from the Children's Baptist Home Ministries that funded a large part of our Latino ministries.

Protect church properties when asked. A pastor of an 800-member church once told me, "a church is a fragile thing." Whether large or small, a church can be vulnerable to takeovers either from malicious or benign motivations. We want to see the legacy of past saints honored and the cause of Christ continued.

Intervene when asked to help solve specific church challenges, including pastor searches, conflict resolution, and to give advice. And we pray, calling upon the Creator of the universe to ask for His intervention on your behalf.

Connect churches with resources, each other, and the larger ABC family, through the ordination process, outings, worship experiences for young and old, and fostering relationships with your local and global missionaries.

In the pages that follow, you'll see many specific examples of where we've made in-roads in helping churches become stronger. Our churches in turn help make your Region stronger. Please take a moment to review this past year. My prayer is that you'll whet your appetite to become even more involved next year. We need each other!

As we look forward to a new year of opportunities and challenges, we can't help but take a glance behind and think of the contributions made by past ABCOFLASH leaders, most recently, Dr. Sam Chetti, whose retirement we celebrated last November, and whose legacy lives on. The Region is fiscally sound and spiritually strong, and we are grateful to our Executive Minister Emeritus and dear friend.

We, the staff and board of ABCOFLASH, are all too aware that we could not face another year without the support of our churches, missionaries, and ministry leaders. We are grateful for your time, talent and treasure that you continue to give. We experience God's deep blessing through your tangible expressions of love.

We are a diverse Region but one that is united in Christ. We are stronger together. In His Service (and yours),

Andy



AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT

We thank you for your generous support of the United Mission, Regional Support, and the entire American Baptist Mission Support. Below is a comparison of 2017 and 2018 until the end of August

	Jan-Aug 2018	Jan-Aug 2017
United Mission	\$67,090.76	\$71,059.53
America for Christ	9,925.29	22,241.53
World Mission Offering	27,887.19	22,241.53
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering	25,184.19	31,040.89
One Great Hour of Sharing	40,904.54	18,826.98
Region Offering	53,222.17	40,690.43
Institutional Support Program	13,109.46	9,681.64
Specifics	69,614.09	31,149.16
Targeted	120,635.81	103,862.19
Total	427,573.50	341,862.19
Portion of Support for ABCOFLASH Ministries	\$105,270.30	\$95,331.57

- Regional Annual Celebration
- Hawaii Association Annual Meeting
- Latino Ministries Annual Meeting
- Regional New Church Planting Program
- Regional Training Events
- Regional Board of Directors
- 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 Ministries

 Mission to Underserved Community
 - FIBCO Family Services

 Ministry to Individuals & Families- Phoenix, AZ
 - 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

Mr. Steve Simons

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow" (I Corinthians 3:6-7 NIV). During the past year, we have watched as the seeds that we have planted and watered over the years have begun to grow. But the true joy has been seeing the fruit that God has grown in our Region. Yet even more seeds have been planted and more water and even more growth will come from our Heavenly Father. Watch as fruit is brought forth and



Front row (left to right) Gloria Marshall, William Thurmond, Steve Simons Back row (left to right) Charlotte Chang, Dave Fields, Lilian Rivera, Lydia Floyd, Andy Quient, Miguel Albanez, William De Leon, David Cheng Not pictured: Shawn Thompson, Walter Clarke

from our Heavenly Father. Watch as fruit is brought forth and God is glorified in our Region.

During the past year, a dedicated Board of Directors has been busy planting new seeds. Our staff, led by the Acting Executive Minister, Rev. Andy Quient, has been watering both the old and new seed. Last November, we celebrated the 40+ years of Dr. Samuel S. Chetti's ministry and service to our Region. It was a joyous time of remembrance and celebration enjoyed by all. Dr. Chetti has remained available, without interfering, to train and mentor Pastor Andy as he learns to fulfill the Executive Minister role.

At this time last year, I wrote to advise you of the appointment of Pastor Andy as the Acting Executive Minister. The Board and I will be meeting in the coming months to evaluate Pastor Andy's progress. I have been privileged to work closely with Pastor Andy and am well aware of the growth he has experienced in this new calling. But I am only one person and I need to hear from you as to your thoughts on Pastor Andy's job performance. Please write me at, president@abcoflash.org, with your praises and/or concerns of your interactions with Pastor Andy during this transition period. I will share your thoughts with the Succession Team and the Board as we prepare to evaluate Pastor Andy for the role of Executive Minister.

During the past year, the ABCOFLASH Board of Directors has met and worked towards development of a stronger system of governance. No, there was nothing wrong with the way we have been doing it. Rather, the Board wanted to move into this new era with a better understanding of God's will in the Region. The Board, which is comprised of lay leaders, Pastors and business professionals, has a diverse background. Each member has dedicated their spare time and talents to support our continued strength and prosperity. Once again, 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 spread the Word in Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii.

Special thanks must go out to Kay Kallander from First Baptist Redlands for leading the Board in our governance process. We would have been lost without her knowledge and patience.

Be sure to join us at any of the many events that we sponsor and host throughout the year. Then let us know how we are doing.



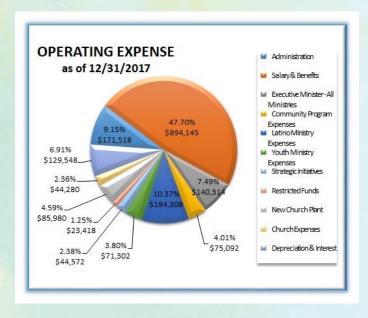
TREASURER REPORT

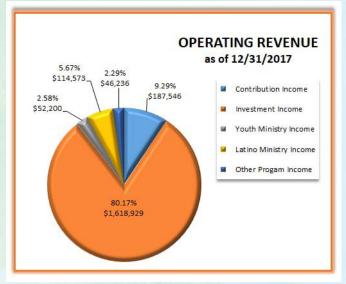
Mrs. Lydia Floyd, Treasurer

In my time as a board member of ABCO-FLASH I have seen immense growth in our region. As Treasurer now, I am honored to be a part of this growth. Our board is focused on developing our committee structure to work as teams to carry out what we believe is necessary to continue to thrive. The board treasurer oversees the Finance Committee and within that committee there are three subcommittees—Investment, Audit and Fund Development.

The committee would like to invite those that are interested in these or any of the other board committees (Board Development or Ministry) to contact the Regional Resource Center as soon as possible; there is work to be done.

It has been my mission as Treasurer to inform the board about what our financial statements are telling us about our Region. I believe they are saying that, although it seems we are at a good place, this cannot last given our current rate of growth. Our mission giving has to grow alongside our ministries. We will be working closely with the Ministry committee to speak with the churches about their needs and how we can work together to form a successful region of committed churches. I am thankful for the congregations that appreciate having a Regional Resource Center to support them and understand the need to sustain the region through their mission giving. Working hand-in -hand with the





churches, I see a bright future of working together to build God's kingdom. We honor Dr. Sam Chetti for his contribution to keeping the region afloat during tough times. It is our duty to continue that legacy and not become complacent.

Please be sure to view the distribution of income and expenses on the graphs and financial statements in this report. Please note that contributions have decreased and encourage your church to increase mission giving. WE are here for YOU/ Please feel free to contact me through the region office if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your faith in our service on the board.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2017	2016
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$245,066	\$916,640
Accounts receivable	77,189	66,143
Prepaid and other assets	19,913	51,990
Land and building held for sale	1,275,853	-
Notes receivable – current	523,721	160,153
Total Current Assets	2,141,742	1,194,926
Investments	3,062,659	3,074,993
Notes receivable, net of current	19,910,840	19,044,440
Certificate of Deposit	52,680	52,680
Certificate of Deposit provided as collateral	280,000	280,000
Investment In real estate	780,000	810,000
Equipment and improvements, at cost, net	118,689	186,055
Total Assets	\$26,346,610	\$24,643,094
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$32,393	\$26,790
Accrued expenses	136,662	66,353
Current portion of notes payable	1,328,683	24,760
Capital leases payable - current	22,895	22,331
Total Current Liabilities	1,520,633	140,234
Notes payable, net of current	-	1,328,685
Capital leases payable, net of current	70,138	93,034
Total Liabilities	\$1,590,771	\$1,561,953
Net Assets Unrestricted:		
Net investment in equipment & improvements	\$25,655	\$70,690
Undesignated	23,059,835	21,374,133
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	23,085,490	21,444,823
Temporarily restricted	247,807	213,776
Permanently restricted	1,422,542	1,422,542
	40/ 755 000	\$23,081,141
Total Net Assets	\$24,755,839	423,001,141

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report, Dec 31, 2017 and 2016



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE Contribution income Investment income Youth Ministry income Latino Ministry income Other income Total Support and Revenue	\$187,546 1,618,929 52,200 114,573 46,236 \$2,019,484	2016 \$242,089 1,324,793 43,485 112,600 29,464 \$1,752,431
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Administration	\$170,670	\$158,584
Bad Debt	848	5,661
Salary and benefits	894,145	814,462
Executive Minister	140,314	48,012
Latino Ministries	194,308	178,663
Youth Ministries	71,302	60,254
Community Programs	74,060	64,722
Region Women Connect	1,032	3,866
Strategic Initiatives	44,572	1,173
Restricted Expenses New Church Plant	23,418 85,980	5,473 85,126
Expenses on Churches	44,280	5,903
Depreciation Depreciation	66,471	62,905
Interest expense	63,077	58,193
Total Expenses	\$1,874,477	\$1,552,997
Change in Net Assets Before Non-operating Revenue	\$145,007	\$199,434
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NONOPERATING REVENUE	1 500 (01	
Gain on sale of property	1,529,691	
Change in Net Assets	\$1,674698	\$199,434
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	23,081,141	22,881,707
Net Assets, End of Year	\$24,755,839	\$23,081,141

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Review Report, Dec 31, 2017 and 2016



ORDINATION STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Rev. Melanie Mar Chow, Chair

Since fall of 2017, the Ordination Standards Committee has seen the successful transition of leadership from Rev. Dr. Sam Chetti to Rev. Andy Quient. The committee is served by Rev. Alvin Tunstill, Dr. Bill Thurmond, Rev. Ruben Casas, Rev. Carlos Arce, Mrs. Gloria Marshall, Rev. John Polite, and Rev. John Smyser.



It is blessed to have the support of Regional Resource Ministers, Dr. Dennis Casaje, Rev. Doug Hubbard, Dr. Jose Menendez, and Rev. Van Tarpley. In January, 2018, we rotated off faithful committee servants Dr. Joe DeRoulhac and Dr. Bob Wallace. Rev. Jini Cockroft asked for early termination of her service as she was retiring and moving out of the ABCOFLASH area. Under the faithful leadership of these servants, the committee has interviewed the following candidates for ordination:

- Josh Heimiller, Parkside Church, Bakersfield, CA;
- Bob Ryan, First Baptist Church of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA;
- Nate Watkins, Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, Rosemead, CA;
- Janna Louie, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Graduate Student and Faculty Ministry, Los Angeles, ordained by Epic Church, Fullerton, CA;
- Erin Hamilton, Epic Church, Fullerton, CA.

As the season advances and as our regional churches continue to see growth, challenges and blessings, there are about 15 other men and women who are currently working on their ordination requirements with the committee. Please pray for 2019 as it will be a busy time of evaluating and assisting in the ordination process of those who are called by God to serve His people.



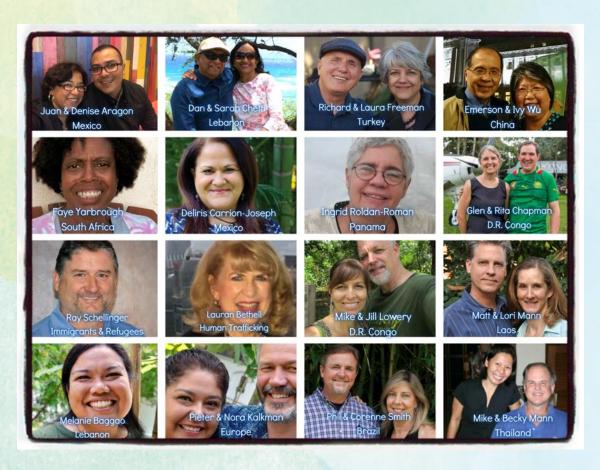
YOUTH & GLOBAL MISSIONS

Rev. Doug Hubbard, Regional Minister

We give thanks to God for a blessed year of ministry! Thank you for your participation and support of Regional Ministry which is designed to impact local churches for effective ministry for God's Kingdom. Here are a few highlights from the past year!

Regional Ministry is Participating in God's Mission

Below are the International Ministries Global Servants, Development Workers and Global Consultants who have connections within our region. Our churches have the opportunity to support and are faithfully supporting these and other American Baptist Global Servants through visits, prayers, and finances. During this past year, we have been blessed to have some of these Global Servants visit our churches and regional events. Please do all that you can to encourage your church to support our Global Servants by receiving the World Mission Offering and putting Global Servants in your church budget. We are celebrating with Trinity Baptist Church in Los Angeles because one of their members, Faye Yarbrough, has been endorsed by International Ministries to serve in South Africa. She will be visiting our churches to seek support in the coming year. More information about these Global Servants can be found at www.internationalministries.org. To arrange a Global Servant visit, please contact the Regional Resource Center.





Regional Ministry Brings Us Together

Feastival - November 18, 2017

Youth from our region gathered for worship and a Thanksgiving Potluck at Ministerios Manantial de Amor in downtown Los Angeles. The Regional Youth Worship Team helped lead everyone into God's presence. Testimonies, dance, scripture readings, and God's Word delivered by Rev. John Polite were meaningful for everyone. A delicious potluck followed. Many thanks to MMDA for hosting this event!

Winter Youth Retreat - Built to Build - February 17-19, 2018

300 youth and leaders came together at Camp Cedar Crest on President's Day Weekend to connect with God and each other. The focus was on calling students into a deeper life of discipleship. Incredible worship, small group times and God's Word presented by Sean Fenner brought students to confirm their need for God in every aspect of their lives.





Regional Ministry Brings Us Together

American Baptist Dodger Night - May 11, 2018

American Baptists who are Los Angeles Dodgers fans within our region came together for an evening of fellowship and baseball. An ABC Pastors Dodgers Day was also offered to our pastors on June 28th.



American Baptist Day at Magic Mountain - August 11, 2018

share a little bit of my heart with our sister congregation."

ABC Day at Magic Mountain brought 200 people from our churches together to deepen their bond with one another. Here are a few reflections from the day:

Pastor Angel Campos brought a group from Monte Vista Cross-Cultural Church in Phoenix to ABC Day at Magic Mountain. Besides enjoying their day at Magic Mountain, they spent time at the beach and were invited by

day at Magic Mountain, they spent time at the beach and were invited by

MAGIC MOUNTAIN

Pastor Eddie Ledesma to stay at New Hope Community Church in Sunland on Friday and Saturday evening. The group attended the Sunday morning worship service. Pastor Angel said: "Sunday service was a wonderful experience. Our youth joined their Sunday School class, and I was able to

Jose McCay from MMDA: "Many times at church, our group talks about meeting and event planning. At Magic Mountain, we were able to connect and talk with new people and let go of our everyday lives."



Regional Ministry Brings Us Together

American Baptist Day at Magic Mountain - August 11, 2018 (Cont.)

Over the last few summers, the Stations of Hope camp has been offered by the American Baptist Home Missions Society for children who have an incarcerated parent. Volunteers from Iglesia Bautista El Calvario gathered some of these children and their parents who attended this camp last summer for this special day at Magic Mountain since the camp was not held this year. The children had a great time and for many of them, this was their first time to come to Magic Mountain. The funding for their attendance was provided by the generous offering received for them at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Thank you for making this special day happen for these children!





Regional Ministry Equips Leaders

Be Still Retreat - January 5-6, 2018

A small group of youth leaders came together at Rancho Ybarra to start off the New Year with a time of prayer, reflection and sharing life with one another. Everyone was deeply enriched by their time together and their time alone to connect with God. Archie Honrado led us through our time together.



Global Leadership Summit Webcast - August 9-10, 2018

Pastors and Leaders gathered at Evergreen Baptist Church of L.A. for the webcast of the Global Leadership Summit which features leaders in the world of business and the church speaking about effective leadership principles from Willow Creek Church in Barrington, Illinois. The GLS inspires and challenges leaders and impacts the 400,000 participants from around the world to be better leaders.



Pastor Enrique Santis brought a team from Ministerios Manantial de Amor to the webcast. "One thing I value as a pastor is development. The GLS is a great place with a lot of great content for the church and business people. As pastors, we need to consider how to integrate both the workplace and the church, where Christian members can be Christians in the workplace and at church. It was great to bring a team from my church."

Rev. David Good, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Monrovia, remarked: "One of the things that I learned was that even in failure we can learn – we can be positive and do things in the future. The more we listen to those who have made a difference in the world, we learn that we can be a difference in this world."

Equip/Equipar 2018

Equip/Equipar 2018 was held at Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles on March 3rd. After the opening session, the 200 participants attended workshops in English and Spanish that focused on strengthening ministry in the local church.



Regional Ministry Equips Leaders

Equip/Equipar 2018 (Cont.)

"I love that professionals in the workshop area were leading the workshops. I like the bilingual worship and many topics to choose from. Also, plenty of information to take back to my church." Chelsea Williams – Tabernacle of Faith

"I can't thank God enough for the opportunity to attend such an awesome event with lots of wonderfully useful information."

Elsie DeLeon – First Mexican Baptist Church of San Diego

"I've been to this event for the last 2 years, and every time I leave with the desire to learn more! It's excellent!"







ASIAN MINISTRIES

Pastor Dennis Casaje







Rev. Delfin Cardinal

Groundbreaking church building June 1969 Iligan, Philippines



Christmas celebration Sunday
December 1989



April 2003 25th Church Anniversary Long Beach, California



Retirement Service December 2017 62 Years of Ministry



April 2018 Filipino American Christian Church 40th Anniversary with Pastor Sam Cardinal commissioned as lead pastor



June 16, 2018, Youth and officers of Wilshire Baptist, Filipino American Christian, and Valley Christian Outreach Churches, attended a comprehensive two days leadership seminar facilitated by Dr. Samuel S. Chetti.



LATINO MINISTRIES

Dr. Jose Menendez, Regional Resource Minister

Greetings to all at our annual regional celebration. This year 2018 has brought us many changes and challenges. In the midst of all the events we have accomplished, we realize how our great Lord has sustained our churches and pastors in doing the mission that He sends us to do. Praise God for all our churches, pastors and lay leaders that dedicate their time, gifts, and talents to glorify Him.

I want to express my gratitude to all support staff, and all the pastors and leaders that have dedicated their time and used their gifts in cooperating with the Latino Ministries in our Region.

Starting in January, we had a training for youth leaders with our new leader for this coming year, Salomon Ramos. He is a dedicated leader from one of our Latino Churches in Los Angeles.

On January 20th we had a men's breakfast meeting at Iglesia Bautista Unida with the assistance of men from different Latino churches. On January 27th, we had two workshops with the Association of San Diego.





LATINO MINISTRIES (CONT.)

The children's ministry had their leaders and teachers training on February 3rd. On the 23rd thru 25th we had the lay couples retreat with the Latino churches in the Association of Arizona and Nevada. On March 17, we had the Latino women's breakfast meeting at Quiet Cannon with more than 300 women from all Latino churches. Later, in the month of April, we had our first new church planters training.



Summer is the busiest time for Latino churches. For many, it is vacation and family time, but for our Latino Ministries, it is a time for more events. Throughout the year we organize two trainings for new church planters, and in April we had the first training with good group participation. On May 18th and 19th we had our 41st year of continued education for pastors and spouses in Oxnard CA.





LATINO MINISTRIES (CONT.)

We are motivating our pastors and local churches to support our Latino men's ministry, and this year we hope to engage more men from other Latino churches. In June we had a lunch attended by a good group of men. In September the leader, Pastor Armando Gonzalez, planned a retreat at Victory Ranch. On June 23rd we had our Latino churches celebration in the First Baptist church of South Gate, attended by around 450 people. Rev Andy Quient was the preacher.

Every year we organize two trainings for new church planters. They are exposed to different paradigms of how to plant a new congregation, how to make churches grow, how to develop organizational skills and to develop leaders so new churches can achieve the potential to be independent local congregations. In July we had our second training.

August is the time when children go back to school, and we finished all events for teenagers and youth in our churches. This month we organized a retreat for pastors and their spouses. Here they are ministered to as pastoral families and get their time to learn and have fellowship and worship together as a body. On September 7th thru 9th we had our Lay couples retreat in Oxnard where more than 260 couples attended. We emphasize family values and Biblical foundations. In this month we also had training for children's ministriy leaders and Sunday school teachers where more than



300 leaders attended. We also had the men's retreat on the last weekend. For the second time this year the lay couples retreat with the churches in San Diego took place.

In the month of October we have a dinner of appreciation for Latino pastors. On the third weekend we will have an annual women's retreat at Quiet Cannon, and on the last weekend we will have our continued education event in which many of our Latino pastors attend. Our last event for Latino churches is going to be on November 17. We expect to have a good group attending our Latino lay couples dinner in Alhambra.

We have seven Associations functioning among Latino churches, and we also have five ministries in our churches. These are: Men, Women, Youth, Children and The Minister's council of Latino pastors.



ARIZONA ASSOCIATION

Rev. Stan Crews

The Arizona Association of Churches of ABCOFLASH is made up of 11 churches. The need to form an association had been discussed in 2016 when Dr. Sam Chetti gathered together churches from Arizona that were still aligned with American Baptists. We met at the First Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix. At that time, it was discussed how we could work together as churches with such a strong diversity. After the meeting in March of 2016, the churches began to reach out to each other. By the beginning of 2017, there was a call for another annual meeting and a group of leaders from the 11 churches gathered at Rainbow Acres to plan for the next annual meeting.





The annual meeting was held March 10 at FBC Scottsdale with over 200 in attendance. Our speaker was the Rev. Andy Quient and the

gathering was a great success. We had a great time of worship together, a great lunch and fellowship around the tables, and workshops covering many church issues. The youth had a volleyball tournament and all was followed by an ice cream social. During the first general session, it was asked how many of those in attendance were under the age of 30 and over half raised their hands. Our new association is very diverse and the theme for the day was "Unity in our Diversity." We are not only diverse in our ages but in our cultures and languages.

During this last year, our churches have continued to reach out to each other. The Arizona Karen Baptist Church has spent time with the Poston Community Church, the Bethany Community Church in Clarkdale and the First Institutional Baptist Church. They recently had their annual retreat at Tonto Rim Camp and invited the youth from the Monte Vista Cross Cultural church to join them. During the summer, Pastor Larry Jackson from Bethany Community took a three-month sabbatical and many of the association churches helped out on Sunday mornings. At the end of April, Pastor Miguel Altamirano of Iglesia Bautista Hispana, Glendale, AZ, invited Andy Quient and myself to their church's 95th anniversary celebration. In August, the Monte Vista Cross Cultural Church had an ordination service for Marisol Campos. Pastor Altamirano and his wife were in attendance along with the Rev. Cindy Darby, pastor of the Monte Vista Baptist Church. Dr. Jose Menendez was the speaker and also led the ordination exam. On September 22, we gathered at the First Institutional Baptist Church for a meal prior to going to a Diamondbacks baseball game. It was a great time of fellowship and fun.

In the next year, we need to expand our association to include the Rock Church in Las Vegas, Nevada and two other Hispanic churches. The three churches on the reservation in northern Arizona also need our support. They are all going through a time of transition and need our prayers. Our hope in the coming year is to have another annual meeting in March, 2019, at the Monte Vista Baptist Church, where three of our association churches meet for worship.

Keep on Moving in Christ.



SAN DIEGO / ORANGE COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Rev. Van Tarpley, Regional Resource Minister

In 2018, my work as Regional Resource Minister has had three major prongs: Becoming more familiar with the region, in particular the churches in the greater San Diego area, helping ministerial colleagues further their vocational goals, and encouraging and supporting pastors and congregations in the vagaries in our common walk. In the furtherance of these goals, I...

- Went on listening/sharing/praying visits to local congregations such as OB1 and the Refinery
- Participated in the creation of a Service of Installation for Pastor David Wright at University Avenue Baptist Church
- Guided two local candidates, Seth Clark and Summer Armentrout, in the ordination process
- Provided connection for retired ministers and chaplains such as George Snelling, Scotty Thomson, Carl Jennings and Charles Molnar
- Worked with wise mentors and the Ordination Committee of ABCOFLASH on a "Baptist History and Polity Self-Study Guide"
- Organized a luncheon for local pastoral leaders in which we shared stories about "Where God has Lent us Courage" in ministry
- Encouraged local congregations to take part in ABCOFLASH opportunities such as Deborah's House mission trips, the Winter Youth Retreat, and support for International Ministries servants
- Served as an encourager and resource for local church pastors and moderators on a wide range of issues relating to congregational life, leadership and mission

My thanks go out to all of the pastors and congregants who have been so generous with time and prayer as we seek to fulfill God's vision for our region!

HAWAII ASSOCIATION

Rev. Barry Lovett, Regional Resource Minister

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Hawaii Association of American Baptists is a two-day event. First Baptist Church of Honolulu, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and New Life Baptist Church will come together on October 13 and 14, 2018.

Dr. Anthony J. Cook & Regina Cook

Dr. Cook, Pastor of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church will bring the "Good Word" on the 13th, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. We will be blessed by a combined choir of membership congregations followed by a potluck dinner at 6:15 p.m.





Rev. Andy Quient

Andy, Acting Executive Minister of ABCOFLASH, will lead a workshop on Sunday, Oct. 14 at the FBC of Honolulu from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.





ABGIRLS

Pastor Deneen Ray

The AB GIRLS (American Baptist Girls in Relationship, Leadership, and Service) is a national ministry for girls ages 8-18 of the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM). We have had a busy year promoting this ministry in both our regional and national settings.

In January, 2018, we held an in-service meeting with a psychiatrist on the topic of human trafficking, which included questions and discussion for our young ladies at Panorama Baptist Church,



Arleta, CA. The event was such a success that we decided to follow it up with two additional days of meetings and discussion on the issue of Mental Health and Wellness.



Deneen Ray

On March 3, 2018, we conducted a workshop called "Equipping, Empowering Girls: Teenagers to Young Adult" as part of the ABCOFLASH Equip: Leadership Training Conference at Evergreen Baptist Church of LA, Rosemead, CA. The workshop was designed to help local churches start a ministry for girls, create safe spaces for girls to ask and deal with tough questions in their lives, and discover ways for girls to build close relationships with each other.

On April 14, 2018, we had a fellowship meeting at the Regional Resource Center. The girls talked about what it was to be "wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), discussed topics on self-image, and made new friends from other churches.

Part of our work is to offer support and follow-up of newly-formed AB GIRLS groups and to encourage already-existing, long-standing ones within our region. My hope is to continue providing resources to all these groups to build up, equip, and empower the young women of this generation.

On the national front, the AB GIRLS National Leadership Team (NLT), with the support of the ABWM, planned and led an amazing National Gathering for Girls Conference on the campus of Judson Univer-

sity in Elgin, Illinois on July 19-22, 2018. The event focused on the theme of "Transitions" based in Joshua 1:9 and Ecclesiastes 3:1 and was held concurrently with the FEEL (Fully Exploring and Engaging in God's Love) Conference for women, which was jointly-sponsored by ABWM, AB Women in Ministry and AB Home Mission Societies in regional ministry. If you would like to begin AB GIRLS in your church, please contact me through the Regional Resource Center in Glendale, CA.





ABGIRLS (CONT.)

The girls' conference started with ice breakers and a dinner which gave the participants a chance to make new friends. It was followed by a worship service and a small group session jointly attended by the girls and women from the other conference. The conference also included a tour of Judson University. It was a significant activity as some girls were considering attending Judson in the future. During their "Transition" activity, they painted rocks, wrote letters to those away in the military, did origami and created a vision board.

An overflow of God's love, laughter and relationship-building was evident throughout the conference and I pray that it will have a lasting impact on the participants.





On the other hand, the NLT, composed of four teenage girls and two adults, continues to experience growth in their leadership skills and their relationship with each other as they move on to plan for the next activities for children and youth.

Please join us in prayer as we continue the ministry of the AB GIRLS in our region. If you are interested in regional ministry and would like to begin AB GIRLS in your church, please contact me through the Regional Resource Center in Glendale, CA.

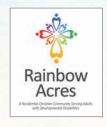






RAINBOW ACRES

Rev. Gary Wagner



Rainbow Acres is a Christian community with heart that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose. Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is an independent, not-for-profit Christian ministry associated with the American Baptist Churches USA.



Thank you for helping us make 2017 one of the best years ever for Rainbow Acres, as we served 103 resident Ranchers from 21 U.S. states; welcomed new Ranchers, caregivers and staff; established new therapeutic activities for the Ranchers and hosted mission teams from Baptist and Presbyterian congregations from across the nation who truly gave from the heart in service to our Ranchers.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Rainbow Acres! In 2017, 463 volunteers donated 11,466 hours, bringing value to every area of Rainbow Acres. Groups from 17 churches helped with projects, from hosting programs and events for the Ranchers to completing improvements for the buildings and grounds.

Here are some of Rainbow Acres' highlights from 2017: achieved a balanced budget and continued to operate "in the black" at year's end; welcomed 5 new Ranchers and conducted 49 tours for prospective Ranchers, developed individualized approaches for caregivers' engagement with the Ranchers, engaged Ranchers for more than 18,200 hours of educational programs in the Learning Center, relocated two greenhouses and established an "agricultural area" with the horse barn, completed the agriculture road and Dakin House roof projects, added a new Gift Shop and upgraded the craft rooms in the Daehler Building, conducted a successful Annual Fund campaign to help underwrite operations, secured capital funds for special projects, cultivated new relationships with churches, foundations and other supporters, and, introduced Senior Staff development workshops with professional leaders.

If you have prayed for Rainbow Acres, volunteered here, or provided a contribution this past year, then you played a role in our success. Thank you! As we look ahead, Rainbow Acres plans to further expand its horizons for the Ranchers with your prayers and assistance. May God bless you for your support!



HANDS FOR HOPE

Mrs. Lydia Floyd

HANDS4HOPE LA after-school program, located in First Baptist Church of North Hollywood, has proudly served North Hollywood & neighboring communities for the past 18 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.



Kids enjoying time at Hands4Hope LA as they learn many new things.



It has truly been a pleasure for our Founder/Executive Director, Lydia Floyd, to serve on the board of ABCO-FLASH and to work with an amazing leader like Dr. Samuel Chetti. We are proud to honor Dr. Chetti at our 18th Anniversary Gala on 11/11/18. Come one, come all – sponsor, attend the event, place an ad for Dr. Chetti. His support for organizations like Hands4Hope LA has been invaluable. We will also be honoring actress Christina Milian and her family and celebrating the retirement of our Founder. Hope to see you there!



Kids performing and participating in our annual Walk and Concert events



In the words of Pastor Michael Woodcock of First Baptist Church of NOHO (where we are based), "Hands4Hope LA is doing the work of the church – serving the community. Many church members have gotten involved over the years and support the organization as volunteers, donors and some as parents who have kids in the program." We are reaching out to all churches in the ABCOFLASH Region to let us know if we can help YOU have a program like Hands4Hope LA at your church. Please see our website www.hands4hopela.org or Facebook page @hands4hopela for more information about the anniversary event or our programs for kids and single parents. We are looking forward to hearing from you and working with you to continue to serve God's people together.



TURKISH MINISTIRES

Rev. Rich and Mrs. Laura 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 2017/2018, we were blessed to see:

- * The establishment of five new churches throughout Turkey. One of these new churches is an Arabic fellowship that is reaching Syrian refugees in Izmir. They will soon baptize 28 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!



FAITH IN CHRIST MINISTRIES

Pastor Joe and Mrs. Gwynn Browne

King Solomon realized with all his vast experiences in life, that there is nothing new under the sun. We too, realize 2 things: change is inevitable and yet the needs of mankind remain the same. People need food, shelter and to be loved and accepted. 2018 has brought lots of adjustments in our continuum of care for our community. We are exploring the development of an internship program to give leadership experience to possible iLead graduates and to provide opportunity for spiritual growth and development for members of our local Region. We welcome your input.

We have been blessed to have our young adult leaders, Elayne, Elizabeth and Iris, complete the 2017-2018 school year, starting with 2 students and ending with 17 students. God is opening opportunities for new leadership because our leaders are continuing their education, and their careers are increasing their responsibilities.



Our summer Discovery Camp had to be revised this year; groups from Center for Student Missions came and ministered to the children in our community for a total of 5 fun-filled Summer Fun Days. God orchestrated the summer activities that several children from one family were able to experience one-on-one connections with various youth. This was a major boost to improving their socialization skills and building self confidence by participating in group activities. We are truly grateful.

We are so grateful for our long term relationship with Athletes in Action under the leadership of Mr. Michael Sylvester at USC. Young men and women athletes give a month of their summer to seek God's direction for their lives while lending us a hand in the ministry which also included working with our community youth.

Our weekly food program has been blessed to acquire additional food resources providing a healthier choice of food items for the men and women who come to supplement their food supply. We have a dedicated team that sorts and distributes our food items. Please pray for their health as one member is facing the challenge of cancer and 2 others are in need of joint replacement surgery.

Our Saturday community breakfast program continues to provide nourishing meals to residents from the local shelters, homeless who live in their cars and our regular community street people.

Our Women's Program has been a source of stability for a number of ladies who come for the fellowship of other women and are experience spiritual growth in their lives through the study of God's Word. We are pleased that one of our ladies who came to us 8 years ago as a homeless mother with her 5 children feels God is leading her to take on more responsibility for our Women's Program.

We look forward to meeting and hopefully work together with some of you in our ABCOFLASH Region in the coming year. Please know you are welcome to serve with us and join us on Thanksgiving Day to make the day special for the guests who will join us from 12 to 2 pm, right on our parking lot at 4521 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. For additional information, please call our office at 323-291-9636.



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REGIONAL MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Andy Quient, Acting Executive Minister

Rev. Dennis Casaje, Regional Resource Minister, Asian Ministries

Rev. Stan Crews, Regional Resource Minister, Arizona Association

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

Dr. Barry Lovett, Regional Resource Minister, Hawaii Association

Dr. Jose Menendez, Regional Resource Minister, Latino Ministries

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

Dr. Samuel Chetti, Executive Minister Emeritus

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ms. Charlotte Chang, Regional Business Manager

Ms. Deborah Gentry, Regional Coordinator

REGIONAL SUPPORT TEAM

Mrs. Gloria Bravo, Staff Support

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

Ms. Tina Tome, Administrative Assistant, Accounting

Ms. Berta Villacorta, Administrative Assistant, Latino Ministries

