

President's Report—Don Ng
September 10, 2015

2015 BMS

In June, we proved that it's possible to have the BMS in the same location with a slight decrease in registrations. Most conventioners only saw the public side of who we are. And in God's wisdom, perhaps that's okay. But for the rest of us who are behind the scenes, in the "green room," or have poured over the spreadsheets, we know that like every group, we have our differences and peculiarities. Speakers found themselves interpreting Scriptures in the current state of affairs and at times offended some hearers. I sense that the BMS is still becoming into its mode of worship, reunion, training, or business leading us to relook at the weekend's schedule. After the BGM's decision to suspend the GS Search, the reporting out expectedly led to questions and some confusion among the delegates. Maybe there's no such thing as a "perfect" BMS when everyone's evaluations give a "10" when all of us have over a hundred TV channels or Sirius channels to meet our personal interests. We can also say that there were many great things that happened: the Emerging Theologians continue to identify new theologians; the Exhibit Hall spread out with some much-herald Passport prizes; Table Conversations continue to offer everyone a voice; and AWAB in the Sheraton brought us some healing as a family. There were many other highlights! We have had one evaluation meeting to prepare for 2017. My deep appreciation and gratitude to the competent OGS staff who worked tirelessly to pull off the BMS (again!). On Sept. 16th, Judy and I will thank the OGS staff personally when we share a coffee break with them.

Transitions

After the BMS, I became officially retired from my pastorate at First Chinese, SF. To change my venue, I joined our son and family to visit 12 national parks and 2 Navajo Nation sites in the Colorado Plateau in 9 days! With some good friends, we visited the Manzanar National site, one of the 10 relocation centers for Americans of Japanese ancestry during WWII. Over 10,000 people lived here. And with the love gift from the church, Joy and I took an Alaskan cruise to see glaciers and to complete my bucket list of being in all 50 states! My immediate tasks have been to sort out files and to prepare the office for the church's transitional minister to arrive this Fall.

Upcoming

Before the November BGM meetings, I would have preached at Bethlehem BC, Philadelphia; Rocky Mtn. (Denver); Leominster, MA and Providence, RI. As the new ABC member on the ABA Board (Green Lake), I will be taking Franklin and Marie Onwubuariri out for dinner since Franklin won this prize at the BMS. I have yet to schedule a time to take Judy and Fred Woods, Wichita, KS, the other winners of having "Dinner with the President." I will also attend ABHMS "Space for Grace" in LA and chair the Mission Table that will meet immediately before our BGM Board meetings in November.

Thank you for your prayers and your dedication to serve Christ through the ABC.