

**Board of General Ministries Reports:  
ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary and  
Associated Ministry Organizations**

**TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Highlights of Treasurer's Office, Accounting, American Baptist Churches Information Systems, Building Management, Traffic, AMOs -- December 2015 – June 2016

**ABCUSA:**

- Prepare for 2017 Budget
- Finalized 2015 Audit
- Annual insurance reviews/renewals
- Prepared and presented Analyses and Financial Statements to BGM/ABCUSA Finance Committees, BGM and BGM EC; staffed meetings
- Conferred with Regions and churches on financial and administrative issues
- Oversaw work of legal counsel in several areas
- Personnel supervision for Accounting, ABCIS, Building Management and Warehousing
- Ongoing ABCIS functions, along with additional system enhancements:
  - Added 33 new reports, including four report directories;
  - Added report ID nos. to all 232 reports to make identifying each report more efficient;
  - Created Excel processing templates to streamline specific ABCIS data processes;
  - Updated home page with current news (includes a corresponding printable document);
  - Worked on system upgrades required to move ABCIS forward;
  - Created new Annual Report brochure; and
  - Ran webinar for churches and regions on using new Church Mission Support form.
- Staffed Common Budget Covenant Review Committee
- Ongoing Receiving Units (collecting agency) responsibilities for 13 regions
- Implemented new Mission and Receipt Form and Definitions.

**ASSOCIATED MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS (AMOs):**

(AB Historical Society, AB Women's Ministries, Ministers Council, AB Computer Center)

- Completed 2015 Audits
- Accounting functions, ongoing consultations, insurance reviews, renewals, quarterly meetings with AMO executives re: financial and operational matters

**588 ASSOCIATES:**

- Prepared 2015 Audits
- 2015 Tax Returns; accounting functions; leasing and building management; insurance reviews/renewals
- Supervision of maintenance staff and day-to-day operations
- Worked on putting together Request For Expression of Interest (RFEI)

- Coordinated with consultants for selection of potential joint venture partners.

-- Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer

## **ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

Since we met in November, there have been several major ecumenical/interfaith events.

The Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, ABCUSA General Secretary, retired in December 2015. He was conferred the title of General Secretary Emeritus because of his faithful ministry. He continues to represent ABC and CCUIR in ecumenical areas. His ecumenical report is noted below.

We welcome and look forward to working with Dr. Susan E. Gillies, Interim General Secretary.

**National Council of Churches:** Roy Medley represents ABCUSA on the NCC Board where he now serves as past-chair.

The NCC's Annual Christian Unity Gathering and meeting of Convening Tables was held in Baltimore in May 2016: This year's focus: "Fear Not: God's Love in an Anxious Age". 1 John 4:16-21. ABC was represented at the convening tables as follows:

*Theological Study and Dialogue and Matters of Faith and Order – Loida Martell-Otero, Christian Collins Winn. ABC delegates also attended the NCC Faith & Order Theological Dialogue in December.*  
*Christian Education, Formation and Leadership Development – Laura Alden*  
*Joint Action for Justice and Peace – Fela Barrueto*  
*Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue – Ernest Jones, Raimundo Barreto. Raimundo also subsequently represented ABC at a follow up NCC Muslim-Christian Dialogue.*  
*Intergenerational Think Tank – June Totten; Abner Cotto-Bonilla joined the committee as an emerging leader. He was highly recommended and is also a member of the ABC Hispanic Caucus.*

**NCC Delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women:** Church Women United, Inc. and The NCC engage in the empowerment of women and global women's issues through the ecumenical movement. This work includes the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Pat Hernandez serves as the ABC Representative.

**Baptist World Alliance:** The annual gathering will be held in Vancouver, Canada in July. ABC will be represented by, among others, Roy Medley, Leo Thorne, and Carol Sutton (proxy for Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies). And several ABC representatives serve on various committees and commissions.

**World Council of Churches:** June Totten represents ABC on the WCC Central Committee, and will attend the Central Committee Meeting in Norway, June 22-28.

**Baptist-Muslim Dialogue:** Plans continue for a third national dialogue in the US.

Shoulder to Shoulder - We continue to participate with Shoulder to Shoulder, a vehicle for Christians, Jews and Muslims to speak out against hatred and violence.

**Churches for Middle East Peace:** Roy Medley succeeds Wesley Brown as our representative.

**Christian Churches Together:** June Totten continues to represent ABCUSA.

***Excerpt from A. Roy Medley's General Secretary Emeritus Report to  
ABCUSA Committee on Christian Unity/Interfaith Relations***

I am pleased to present this report of my work as GS Emeritus in areas related to CCU/IR.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:** My 2-year term as chair of the board of the NCC ended December 21, 2015, however, I continue on the board and executive committee for two more years as past-chair. I also serve as chair of the committee on Bible Translation and Utilization which oversees the stewardship of the RSV and NRSV versions of the Bible. The NCC continues its two major emphases: Mass Incarceration and Peace Building through Interfaith Dialogue as well as its commitment of Christian Education and Leadership and Faith and Order conversations within the Christian Church. The Rev. Aundreia Alexander (an American Baptist) as an Associate General Secretary has taken the lead on issues of criminal justice reform. The NCC has been present in Ferguson, MO, Charleston, SC, and other areas where there has been racial tension. It has also been a pioneer and supporter of efforts to normalize relationships with Cuba which ABC has also supported. In addition to its presence in the Egyptian-American dialogues, the NCC was also present in the Marrakesh Declaration Summit in Morocco in 2015, and sponsors active interfaith conversations with both Jews and Muslims and will also initiate dialogue tables with Hindus and Buddhists in the future.

**CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE:** I attended the January board meeting in DC. CMEP is a coalition of Protestant denominations and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and several Catholic religious orders in advocacy for peace between Israelis and Palestinians through support of the two-state solution. At this meeting, the future of a two-state solution was much discussed. It was decided that CMEP would continue its support for this position but will broaden its advocacy efforts to include issues of human rights in the area as well. Ambassador Warren Clark has announced his retirement at year-end.

**BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE:** The BWA is going through a change in all its division heads. In a year's time all department or division heads have left by retirement or resignation. I ask your prayers for Dr. Neville Callam, General Secretary, and Rev. Paul Msiza, President. While such a large number of staff openings create a challenge, they also create an opportunity to re-align staffing patterns/programs. In this next quinquennium I am serving as chair of the newly formed Commission on Interfaith Relations. We have succeeded in pulling together a commission from every continent and at our first meeting in Vancouver we will begin to set our goals and strategies for assisting Baptists around the world in efforts to engage in peace-building where religious conflicts are rife through dialogue and respect for religious liberty. In Vancouver, papers from eight presenters will outline the experience and efforts of Baptists in areas marked by religious conflict. We will also have an evening conversation with Baptist and Muslim leaders in Vancouver, BC about efforts there to foster understanding between Baptist Christians and Muslims in Vancouver and Canada and to discuss the implications of the Marrakesh Declaration for Christian-Muslim relationships.

**MARRAKESH DECLARATION:** In February I attended the Summit on the Marrakesh Declaration representing ABC and the NCC. For several years now our ABC dialogue partner, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) has been working with leading Muslim clerics around the world to build a case for religious liberty and full rights of citizenship for members of minority faiths in Muslim-majority countries. These Muslim scholars have built a legal framework rooted in the actions of Mohammed in Medina where he granted full religious and civil rights to Jewish tribes living there; the teachings of the Koran and Islamic jurisprudence. The summit brought together 250+ Muslim scholars and fifty of us as non-Muslim religious leaders to finalize their work for its adoption. An introduction to this document can

be found at [www.marrakeshdeclaration.org](http://www.marrakeshdeclaration.org). This is a major milestone that will take prayerful effort to introduce into practice throughout the Muslim-majority world.

US BAPTIST-MUSLIM DIALOGUE: In conversations with Lott Carey, Cooperative Baptists, and ISNA, I have gained their support and affirmation for the third dialogue. In addition, Canadian Baptists have also indicated their interest in participating in this next round. The planning continues.

--June Totten, Chair, Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations



## **OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT**

### **Department of Development Office (DOD) Skeletal Report: January 1, to April 30, 2016**

**Summary Highlights:** \$3,713 Raised in 48 Pledges and One-Time Gifts (low \$10 – high \$1,000).

**Responsibilities:** Individual Prospect Identification/Research/Development/Cultivation/Solicitation; Development Advisory Team Resourcing; General Secretary's Circle; *Transformed by the Spirit*; Enhancement of Plan Giving Opportunities; Department/Office Administration; and other duties as assigned.

### **General Highlights & Action Steps**

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| • Funds Raised (includes new pledges & one-time gifts only) | <b>\$ 3,713</b> |
| ○ <i>Transformed by the Spirit (TbyS)</i>                   | <b>\$ 1,365</b> |
| ○ ABCUSA Undesignated                                       | <b>\$ - 0-</b>  |
| ○ ABCIS   | <b>\$ - 0-</b>  |
| ○ ABC Office Area   | <b>\$ - 0-</b>  |
| ○ ABCUSA Charitable Trusts                                  | <b>\$ - 0-</b>  |
| ○ Other Targeted Giving                                     | <b>\$ 1,022</b> |
| ○ Peace and Interfaith Initiatives                          | <b>\$ 97</b>    |
| ○ General Secretary's Circles                               | <b>\$ 604</b>   |
| ○ Other Contributions & MRD                                 | <b>\$ 625</b>   |
- 
- Cultivation & solicitation visits with top individual prospects;
  - Review/Evaluate Top Individual Prospects (\$10k+ Ability);
  - Participate in sundry webinars - Power & Influence of Women in Philanthropy, etc.
  - Research/Review/Evaluate Foundations, Vendors & Corporate Prospects;
  - Conduct Introductory/Cultivation/Solicitation/Moves Management Visits/Events (157);
  - Attend Events, Cultivate & Visits (4 Regions) – ABCOTS, DCBC, PBA, ABCONN;
  - Plan/Recruit/Orientate/Implement 2016 ABWIM Annual Appeal & Advisory Team overview;
  - Produce Timely Current & Year-End Donor Letters of Recognition/Thanks/Follow-up;
  - Attend/Participate in ABCUSA, Partner and Affiliate meetings (ABF, ABWIM, Hampton, etc.);

- Continue to review internal controls, checks & balances with support from Treasure's Office;
- Facilitate Development Advisory Team (DAT) Meeting (Strategy, Logistics, Assignments, etc.);
- Facilitate plans to ID/Select/Recruit 3-5 New Development Advisory Team (DAT) members;
- Begin Plans for 2017 General Secretary's Circle of Friends Breakfast;
- Begin review of prospective list of 2017 Biennial Sponsors, Exhibitors and Donors;
- Continue development of sundry strategic fundraising operational plans and procedures; and
- Participate in advancement of Stewardship Action Learning Team (ALT) strategy and plans.

--Kenneth C. Marsenburg, Director of Development & Evon Moody, Assistant to the Director

### **OFFICE OF REGIONAL MINISTRIES (Activity from January - June of 2016)**

Marilyn Tyson and I continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve our regions and congregations of ABCUSA. I have listed below the highlights of our activity for the first half of 2016.

**Mission Summit and Mission Table:** A total of 95 persons attended the Mission Table event, including 30 regional representatives, 5 ABC caucus leaders, 2 ABCUSA officers, 6 seminary and college representatives, 25 national staff persons, and 27 executive ministers. The planning team of Virginia Holmstrom, Perry Hopper, Kenneth Kho, Marcia Patton, and Don Ng did an excellent job. 97% of the attendees who completed an evaluation of the event indicated that the Mission Table event met or exceeded their expectations. The event reduced the 21 Mission Summit topics to a manageable number of seven future priorities for the ABC:

1. Next Generation of Leaders
2. Violence
3. Discipleship
4. Poverty
5. Gospel in a Rapidly Changing Society
6. Women in Ministry
7. Innovative Models of Pastoral Ministry

The expectation is that every ABC entity will embrace at least one priority, but no organization is expected to embrace them all. Case statements, developed by the Mission Table participants, have been posted to the ABCUSA website for each of the seven priorities. Mission Summit 2017 will highlight activity in these seven areas as well as encourage small groups to further develop local church action plans in these areas.

**Search Committee Work:** For the first time since serving in this role, I had no open regions searching for Executive Ministers in January of 2016. That didn't last long. Sam Chetti has announced his impending retirement from ABCOFLASH (the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest, and Hawaii) in December of 2017. Larry Greenfield, former Executive Minister of the ABC of Chicago has accepted a new position as Executive Director of the World Parliament of Religions. Judy Allbee has announced her retirement from the ABC of Connecticut at the end of September, 2016. I am enjoying the beginning stages of search work with these regional executive minister search committees.

**Other Region Consultations:** I recently led regional board retreats for the Evergreen Association of ABC, The Philadelphia Baptist Association, and the ABC of Indiana-Kentucky. I have also held on site

local church consultations for the FBC of Indianapolis, and the FBC of Aberdeen, South Dakota. On site orientations were also conducted in Metro New York, Ohio, and Great Rivers Region.

**Denominational Life:** I attended meetings of the National Leadership Council, the United Mission Task Force, and the Biennial Planning Committee. David Laubach asked me to conduct a performance appraisal for the President of the ABA at Green Lake that included a board survey and a Leadership Circle 360 Assessment with interpreted results and supplementary information on leadership development for the board. I also conducted workshops on innovative teaching and governance for Seminary Deans in the United States. A separate report has been filed for my work with the Transformed by the Spirit initiative.

--C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries and Marilyn K. Tyson, Administrative Assistant.

### **MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MRD)**

Staff: Leo S. Thorne, associate general secretary; Bridget Lipin, assistant director of communications/web manager; Tina Turner, executive assistant to Associate General Secretary; Mark Staples, part-time Communications Consultant.

Ministry responsibilities areas include United Mission, Biennial Mission Summit, Communications, Stewardship, Representing ABCUSA at Various National Meetings and Ecumenical Gatherings; Preaching and Visiting Local Churches and Regions, Matthew 25 Grant administration.

Some major highlights include the following:

- The national promotion of the United Mission is the Vehicle emphasis beginning in the spring.
- Maintaining ABCUSA branding and communication through: timely press releases, video preparations, website content updates, publication of Enewsletters, Connections and other methods.
- Working with national Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team and ABCUSA partners to coordinate the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit and communicating information about the event to the larger ABC family.
- Engaging in numerous preaching opportunities and other ministry activities in ABC Regions and churches as relationship building activities to strengthen churches' giving to United Mission.
- Serving on the Board of Trustees at Bacone College; continuing service in ecumenical settings and on committees related to the Baptist World Alliance and the U.S. State Department's Religious Freedom Task Force, which enhance ABCUSA's connection with a wide constituency.
- Working with deployed stewardship staff, Rev. Stacy Emerson, to encourage generous discipleship in ABC through seminars, webinars, and content for the ABCUSA website.
- Bringing together a team from the national partners to plan the 8th annual reception for ABC attendees at the Hampton Ministers' Conference.
- Reviewing RFPs with Discernment Team to distribute unsolicited funds given by a generous donor in the Matthew 25 Grant program. Over 80 applicants were received this spring.

Staff notes: Leo Thorne has announced his retirement effective August 31, 2016. MRD welcomed Mark Staples as a part-time staff member in mid-April working in the area of Communications. Bridget Lipin will be on maternity leave from July through September. Tina and Mark will work to help fill Bridget's role during this time.

-Leo S. Thorne, Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **American Baptist Historical Society Director's Report May 2016**

#### **Communications**

The current strategic plan commits ABHS to “develop a more robust public presence.” Regular website news stories and email news blasts provide frequent news about ABHS. ABHS staff also communicates regularly with ABC region offices and congregations with information about upcoming church anniversaries and encouraging the use of ABHS certificates recognizing significant anniversary dates—ranging from 25 year anniversaries to 300 years!

In addition to regular emails and conversations with regional staff and scattered ABC congregations, ABHS staff has been proactive in building closer relations with two other ABC regions, West Virginia and Puerto Rico. In both cases, a strong interest in writing and sharing their regional history has created an opening for staff to assist and work with these leaders. The resulting ABQ issue on West Virginia Baptists is a concrete example of what can come of such collaboration.

#### **Development & Professional Standards**

ABHS is in the middle of its current campaign, *At Your Fingertips*, with the \$550,000 goal to provide funding for a digital archivist. To date \$340,000 has been pledged and of those dollars, \$280,000 received. Churches receiving anniversary certificates or consultations from ABHS staff will be receiving a targeted request for campaign support. With an increasing quantity of documents being born digital, professional standards must include, along with best practices for the care of documents, best practices for the preservation of electronic records—the primary reason for the campaign, *At Your Fingertips*.

*ArchivesSpace* is another technological means ABHS staff has selected to provide better access to holdings. A cutting edge, open-source software program, *ArchivesSpace* provides ABHS staff with the means to catalogue materials and to do so in a way that distant users can view these holdings on-line. This new way of cataloguing materials is possible for ABHS to adopt because it is open-source, allowing for ABHS staff to design special features appropriate to our holdings, and is also possible because of technical support provided by Mercer University's digital librarian, Jeremy Brown.

#### **Research & Publications**

This area continues to be at the heart of the ABHS mission to share content from our holdings, often through the publications of those who use our collections. One way this happens is through our journal, the *American Baptist Quarterly*. The editors of the ABQ, Curtis Freeman and Laura Levine, have mapped out content and recruited authors needed to produce the eight issues (over the coming year) that will bring the journal back up to a timely publishing schedule. Projected issues include authors presenting at the last ABC Emerging Theologians Conference and the Walter Rauschenbusch conference scheduled for June 2018. Staff researches and scans images used as illustrations for these issues, providing readers with an attractive sampling of our collections.

Digitization of the journal illustrates how we can implement this goal while at the same time addressing another key goal; collaboration. All back issues of the ABQ have been digitized through collaboration with the American Theological Library Association, which will continue to digitize new issues.

--Deborah Van Broekhoven, Executive Director

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY & TRANSITION MINISTRIES**

### **ABWIM**

**Vision:** ABWIM seeks the full participation and full partnership of men and women in ministry in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts and fully live out their God-given call.

#### **Some Highlights:**

- Launched first ever ABWIM Annual Appeal in conjunction with Ken Marsenburg, Director of Development, ABCUSA
- Creative Promise for Women's Leadership: presented doctoral work exploring the practices that create access for women seeking to fulfill calls to senior or solo ministry positions
- Planned and participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women
- Continue to partner with AB Women's Ministries on "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," a project funded by a Palmer Grant. Plans continue to develop for a 2016 return trip to the Republic of Georgia
- Upcoming event: "The Soul of Leadership," July 25 - 27
- Stoles with the ABWIM logo have been produced as a fundraiser. Ask about them!

### **Transition Ministries**

**The goal** of Transition Ministries ABCUSA is to partner with regions in resourcing churches during times of transition in a way which enhances their ministry and empowers them to journey into the future as vibrant missional congregations.

**Our mission** is to provide intentional interim ministers who are adept and experienced in leading churches through transitions. These interim pastors guide the congregation on a journey which involves celebrating their history, clarifying their identity, articulating their mission, and moving into a fruitful future.

As this ministry resource continues to develop from what was formerly Interim Ministries, we have begun to offer training events. In partnership with ABC-NYS, we offered a day and a half event. We are also developing a partnership with the Center for Congregational Health to offer high quality, standard training for intentional interims. As part of this partnership, Rev. Dr. Larry Swain is serving on a volunteer basis as the Transition Ministries Training Coordinator. We have offered such an event in ABCOPAD.

In such times unique resources are needed. **Transition Ministries ABCUSA** serves as the hands and feet of Christ, connecting with regions and congregations in ways that move mission and ministry forward.

In both of these ministry resource areas –ABWIM and Transition Ministries—I am thankful for the wisdom, guidance and support of Susan Gillies, Interim General Secretary, the ABCUSA Leadership Team, the ABWIM Advisory Team and the Board of General Ministries—without whom none of this could happen. Thank-you!

--Patricia P. Hernandez, National Director ABWIM and Transition Ministries



## **AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Strengthening relationships has characterized a turning point for AB Women's Ministries. We identified as an adaptive challenge for our organization a challenge to draw women and girls into transformational relationships with Christ and with one another, and send them out to engage as partners in God's transformation of the world. Relationship was further defined in survey data that McCray Consultants had helped us collect from a SchellingPoint cultural audit in which 255 American Baptist leaders assessed AB Women's Ministries strengths and growth areas for multicultural inclusivity. Four strategic themes emerged for our board's attention and work to appropriately appreciate, facilitate, and empower diversity throughout the organization. These themes are: strengthened relationships, inclusive leadership, relevant and vital programming/ministries, and culturally-competent and responsive governance.

As a part of this initiative to live out our cultural reality into God's intentional desire, AB Women's Ministries hosted an online virtual mission encounter in March on "Beloved Community" that was well-received.

AB Women's Ministries will hold national conference gatherings for women and girls in Washington DC in July, followed by an offering of after-event seminars. In August, AB Women's Ministries and American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) shall co-sponsor a 10-day Baptist/Muslim spiritual pilgrimage to the Republic of Georgia. Eight American Baptist and Muslim women will break barriers and build bridges of understanding and relationship with Georgian Baptist and Muslim women.

--Virginia R. Holmstrom, Executive Director; Rev. Angel L. Sullivan, President

## **MINISTERS COUNCIL**

### **Report of the Ministers Council**

May 2016

- 1) Program Development
  - a) 7Rs of Sanctuary program
    - i) Led retreat for Clergy – April 2016.
    - ii) Received approval to reallocate previously awarded grant money to program expansion of the 7Rs of Sanctuary program.
      - (1) Retreat facility has been secured – Wisdom House Conference Center in Litchfield, CT
      - (2) Originally planned to begin next cohort in June. That has been rescheduled for September based on low registration.
  - b) Continued programming
    - i) Ministers Council is working to expand our offerings to provide webinars for constituents.
    - ii) Grant has been submitted to the Pastoral Excellence Network for a program combining leadership and family systems theory – May 2016.
- 2) Governance / Organization
  - a) Staffing turnover
    - i) Released Administrative Assistant in March.
    - ii) Working with Laura Miraz of ABHMS to source a temp to perm employee.
    - iii) Also interviewing applicants identified through networking.
    - iv) Working with Accounting to identify new ways to continue operations without a staff person in the office.

- b) Launched Annual Fund drive for May 2016.
- c) Preparing for the Ministers Council Annual Meeting to be held August 21-22, 2016.
- 3) Partnerships
  - a) Taught Finding Sanctuary in the Midst of Leadership – Winter intensive class offered at ABSW – January 2016
  - b) Co-led Peer Power – Peer Group training workshop and Mid-Career Clergy retreat with the Pastoral Excellence Network – January and May 2016.
  - c) Presented at First Fridays at Virginia Union – Promoting the Ministers Council, ABCUSA, and Dr. Jackson’s book – March 2016.
  - d) Coordinated efforts with ABCUSA “family” to host the 2016 Ministers Conference from August 22-25 at the 4H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. OGS/BGM, ABF, ABHMS, MMBB, and Ministers Council are co-sponsors. DCBC is offering scholarships to 40 clergy to attend.
  - e) Working with Hispanic Coordinator in ABHMS, Regional Exec in Evergreen, and Ministers Council of Greater Bay Area to develop specific 7Rs of Sanctuary cohorts.
  - f) Co leading the Women in Ministry After Event in July 2016 with Dr. Margaret Benefiel of the Shalem Institute after co leading her board’s retreat in February.

--Debora Jackson, Executive Director

### **RAINBOW ACRES**

Good News update!

The good news at Rainbow Acres throughout the first half of 2016 includes:

- Three new Ranchers arrived to live on the Ranch full-time, Dale Czarnecki from Scottsdale, AZ.; Mark Johnston from Kalamazoo, MI; and Connor Kaufman from Palo Alto, CA. All three have transitioned well to Rainbow. Dale portrayed Christ in the Good Friday reenactment of the Crucifixion and he did a wonderful job.
- Our Special Projects fund continues to grow and enable us to update the Daehler Building with a new HVAC System; and remodeling of four Craft Rooms and a Gift Shop.
- Rancher Pauline won a Blue Ribbon for her Black & White Contemporary Style Woven Vest at the Verde Valley Fair. In all, 33 Ranchers exhibited their Weaving and Stepping Stones projects. Jack Wadleigh’s woven American Flag won him popular acclaim.
- Rainbow Acres hosted the Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries of ABCUSA.
- Rainbow also hosted the Arizona American Baptist Indian Ministries gathering on May 28<sup>th</sup>; 15 delegates represented six congregations.
- Rainbow Acres has hosted 5 Mission Work Groups by the end of May and there are 14 more Mission Work Groups scheduled through the remainder of the year. They accomplish exceptional tasks and create lasting friendships with the Ranchers.

Respectfully Submitted,

--Gary W. Wagner, President and CEO

## **CHIN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA [CBCUSA]**

### **CBCUSA's Office**

We have a new office building on US 31 South in Indianapolis, Indiana. Everyone is warmly welcome to our new office in the name of Jesus Christ.



### **Member churches: 98**

There are five CBCUSA areas in the USA:

1. Eastern Area
2. Central Area
3. Southern Area
4. Western Area
5. Mid American Baptist Fellowship

We hope that new churches will join the CBCUSA this year. If more Chin churches are affiliated with CBCUSA, we are hopeful that the CBCUSA ministry will grow in mission and social ministries in the USA as well as in Myanmar.

The growth of the CBCUSA in number of membership will be slow for only very few Chin refugees are resettled in the USA.

### **CBCUSA Calendar 2016**

1. **January 28, 2016: Chin Relief and Rebuilding Committee Meeting** in Denver, CO
2. **January 29, 2016: CBCUSA Board of Directors Meeting** in Denver, CO
3. **March 9-10, 2016: CBCUSA Board of Trustees Meeting** in Dallas, Texas
4. **May 20-21, 2-16: CBCUSA Southern Area Training**, Camp Copass, E. McKinney, Denton, Texas
5. **June 2, 2016 Thursday: EO meeting**, CBCUSA office, Indianapolis, IN
6. **June 3, 2016 Friday: CRRC meeting**, CBCUSA Office, Indianapolis, IN
7. **June 30 – July 3, 2016: 3<sup>rd</sup> CBCUSA Women Training**, Jacksonville Chin Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida
8. **July 1-3, 2016: 2<sup>nd</sup> CBCUSA Youth Conference**, Bethel College, Indiana
9. **July 21-23, 2016: CBCUSA Mission Consultation**, CEBC, Indianapolis, Indiana
10. **August 17-20, 2016: CBCUSA MC Retreat**, Niagara Falls, NY
11. **June 2016: ICBM Revival Teams Visit to CBCUSA churches, USA**
12. **Summer 2016: CRRC Fund Raising Musical Concert in CBCUSA Areas, USA**

**CBCUSA Mission**  
**[International Chin Baptist Mission (ICBM)]**

Our mission program is going well. We are sending 76 local missionaries to four townships in Southern Chin State. The CBCUSA local churches and families are providing financial assistance to our missionaries. Our ICBM Myanmar Director and Assistant Myanmar Director and four field directors are working with our local missionaries. We have been building churches and missionaries' homes in our mission fields.

**CBCUSA's Net Working**

CBCUSA provides a little financial support to the Chin Baptist Convention and two Bible Colleges in Chin State.

The CBCUSA is building net working with Chin church organizations on the globe:

- 1) Chin Association for Christian Communication in Hakha, Chin State
- 2) Chin Christian Council in Australia [CCCA], Melbourne, Europe
- 3) Chin Christian Association of Europe [CCAE], Norway, Europe
- 4) Evangelical Christian Churches in Bawm, Bangladesh
- 5) Lairam Jesus Christ Baptist Church in Lawngtlai, Mizoram, India.

**Political Situation in Myanmar**

We are still watching how the Burmese military leaders will behave after the National League for Democracy [NLD] has taken the country leadership. Fighting between the Burmese military and the ethnic minority fighters still happens in Myanmar.

--C. Duh Kam, Executive Minister, CBCUSA

**THE KAREN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN THE USA**

Karen Baptist Churches, USA was founded on April 28th, 2009. KBCUSA has 91 member churches with 2,600 members. We are going to celebrate the 7th Anniversary Celebration of KBCUSA on July 21-24 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**A. Current Leadership:**

- Chairperson: Rev. Hsa Moo
- Vice-Chairperson: Rev. Htee Hgay
- Executive Secretary: Rev. Saw Ler Htoo
- Joint-Secretary: Rev. Ler Mu Martin
- Treasurer: Saw Winner
- Director of Women's Department: Thramu Maylary Htoo
- Director of Youth Department: Thra PlawHsoe Thaw
- Director of Minister's Council: Rev. Livingstone Zan
- Director of Christian Education: Rev. Debora
- Director of Evangelism: Rev. Lincoln
- Office Manager: Laueh Roland

**B. Regions**

The KBCUSA has seven regions.

1. West Coast
2. East Coast North
3. East Coast South
4. Central North
5. Central South
6. Midwest North
7. Midwest South

**C. KBCUSA Conference and Training Dates in 2015**

- Youth Conference: June 18-20, 2015 in Amarillo, Texas
- KBCUSA's Annual Meeting: July 23-25, 2015 in Buffalo, New York
- Women's Leadership Training: June 11-13, 2015 in Lincoln, Nebraska
- Ministers' Conference: September 24-26, 2015 in Oakland, California
- Church School Teacher's Training: August 6-8, 2015 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**D. Affiliation**

KBCUSA is an Associate Ministries Organization of American Baptist Churches USA.

**E. Partnerships**

- American Baptist Churches
- Global Karen Baptist Fellowship
- Karen Baptist Convention
- Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Churches
- Thailand Karen Baptist Convention

**F. Advocacy**

KBCUSA actively advocate for Karen immigrants from Burma who are resettling in the United States.

**G. Training / Mission school**

KBCUSA assists the local Karen Baptist Churches for leadership training and started bible school in Karen Language for Diploma in Theology and Certificate of Theological Study programs in 20016. There are 32 students straying at the programs.

**H. Partnership**

KBCUSA has established the partnership with Karen Baptist Convention to support twelve evangelists in mission work of Karen Baptist Convention in Myanmar and twelve students from Karen Baptist Theological Seminary as well.

**I. Financial assistance for seminary students from KBC**

Through seven regions, KBCUSA supports the seminary students from Karen Baptist Convention who are studying in the United States.

We thank God for allowing us to do mission work in the United States, strongly partnership with local Baptist organizations and overseas as well.

Sincerely,

Rev. Saw Ler Htoo, Executive Secretary

KBCUSA Baptist Churches, USA was founded on April 28th, 2009. KBCUSA has 89 member churches with 2,560 members.

**A. Current Leadership:**

- Chairperson: Rev. Hsa Moo
- Vice-Chairperson: Rev. Htee Hgay
- Executive Secretary: Rev. Saw Ler Htoo
- Joint-Secretary: Rev. Ler Mu Martin
- Treasurer: Saw Winner
- Director of Women's Department: Thramu Maylary Htoo
- Director of Youth Department: Thra PlawHsoe Thaw
- Director of Minister's Council: Rev. Livingstone Zan
- Director of Christian Education: Rev. Debora
- Director of Evangelism: Rev. Lincoln

**B. Regions**

The KBCUSA has seven regions.

1. West Coast
2. East Coast North
3. East Coast South
4. Central North
5. Central South
6. Midwest North
7. Midwest South

**C. KBCUSA Conference and Training Dates in 2015**

- Youth Conference: June 18-20, 2015 in Amarillo, Texas
- KBCUSA's Annual Meeting: July 23-25, 2015 in Buffalo, New York
- Women's Leadership Training: June 11-13, 2015 in Lincoln, Nebraska
- Ministers' Conference: September 24-26, 2015 in Oakland, California
- Church School Teacher's Training: August 6-8, 2015 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**D. Affiliation**

KBCUSA is an Associate Ministries Organization of American Baptist Churches USA.

**E. Partnerships**

- American Baptist Churches
- Global Karen Baptist Fellowship
- Karen Baptist Convention
- Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Churches
- Thailand Karen Baptist Convention

F. **Advocacy**

KBCUSA actively advocate for immigrants from Burma who are resettling in the United States. KBCUSA also work to protect the rights of diaspora groups who are oppressed by the Burmese military.

We thank God for allowing us to do mission work in the United States, strongly partnership with the American Baptist Churches USA. We really appreciate the ABC churches for supporting us in many ways to carry the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord in the great land to be a light to the nations.

--Saw Ler Htoo, Executive Secretary, KBCUSA