

**Board of General Ministries Reports:**  
**ABCUSA/OGS and**  
**Associated Ministry Organizations**

**TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Highlights of Treasurer's Office, Accounting, American Baptist Churches Information System, Building Management, Traffic, AMOs -- December 2014 – June 2015

**ABCUSA:**

- Preparing for 2016 Budget
- Finalized 2014 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
- Staffed Common Budget Covenant Review Committee
- Ongoing Receiving Units (collecting agency) responsibilities for 12 regions
- Completed new Mission and Receipt Form and Definitions. Began testing form with a few selected regions.

**ASSOCIATED MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS (AMOs):**

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

- Completed 2014 Audits
- Accounting functions, ongoing consultations, insurance reviews, renewals, quarterly meetings with AMO executives re: financial and operational matters

**588 ASSOCIATES:**

- Prepared 2014 Audits
- 2014 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)
- Completed installation of new VOIP System.

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

**ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

Report of the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations

**Christian Churches Together**

Neither Rev. Medley nor Rev. Totten was able to attend the annual meeting.

### **National Council of Churches USA**

As chair, Dr. Medley held the February meeting of the executive committee in El Paso, TX where the committee met with churches on both sides of the border in a discussion of immigration issues. At the NCC's annual Christian Unity Gathering and meeting of Convening Tables, ABC was represented as follows: **Intergenerational Think Tank** - June Totten; **Theological Study and Dialogue and Matters of Faith and Order** – Loida Martell-Otero, Christian Collins Winn; **Christian Education, Formation and Leadership Development** -Laura Alden; **Joint Action for Justice and Peace** - Fela Barrueto, Pat Hernandez; **Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue** - Ernest Jones; Cheryl Wade. This year's gathering focused on interfaith concerns and peacemaking.

**NCC Delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women:** Church Women United, Inc. (CWU) and The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (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.

### **Churches for Middle East Peace**

ABCUSA continues to be represented on their board by Wes Brown, though Wes has indicated that his health will not allow him to continue in this role much longer. CMEP continues to advocate for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### **Baptist Muslim Dialogue**

ABCUSA was contacted by the Tony Blair Foundation about pilot projects they aim to support in developing local initiatives in Christian-Muslim cooperation. This information was given to Alan Newton who followed up with them and they showed great interest in some of the work being done in the Rochester area. Alan will continue to pursue the possibility of linkage with them.

Shoulder to Shoulder continues to speak about issues of violence towards the Muslim community in the US and more recently, violence against Christians by radical Muslims. Ernest Jones represents ABC on this board.

Third National Dialogue: Roy Medley continues to work with Rob Sellers of CBF in putting together the proposal for the third national dialogue between Baptists and Muslims.

Roy Medley has been invited to participate in a gathering of US Christian and Middle East Muslim leaders June 11-14 in Geneva.

### **American Baptist-Church of the Brethren Peace Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine**

The second such visit was held in April. June Totten, Ernest Jones, Roy Medley, Jim Ratliff, Dianne Shumaker, and Robert Southard represented ABCUSA. The first two days of the pilgrimage were spent at a Peace Conference co-sponsored by ABCUSA and the European Baptist Federation in partnership with Nazareth Evangelical College and the Association of Baptist Churches of Israel. Speakers spoke of the contributions of evangelicals worldwide to peacemaking and explored the role of Israeli Baptists in peacemaking in the context of the strife in the region. After the conference, the group was led by Telos on a 10 day pilgrimage of listening and presence. This pilgrimage exposed the group to many different perspectives on the conflict. On site visits included the Tent of Nations – a farm owned by Palestinian Christians who use it for conferences and events to promote peace with justice; the Bethlehem Bible College supported by ABC International Ministries, and the Diyar Center of the Lutheran Church – each of which works on economic, cultural and social development in the West Bank. Following the tour, Totten, Medley, and Jones together with John Mendez of PNBC, visited Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan. They were met by Baptist pastor Hanna Massad who was in Gaza but now works in a ministry

that serves refugees that have fled to the Amman area. The stories of the families we met were heart-rending and show the human cost of the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq.

### **Baptist World Alliance**

The BWA will hold its annual gathering and its World Congress which occurs every 5 years this summer in Durban, South Africa. ABC will be represented by June Totten, Ruth Clark, Roy Medley and Leo Thorne, among others. Several ABC people have been invited to serve on the various committees and commissions of the BWA, so we shall continue to be well represented in this expression of the world Baptist family.

Roy Medley has been asked to chair a new commission on interfaith relations, and was recently appointed by the BWA as its ecumenical representative to the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Church which meets in October.

### **State Department Visits, Washington DC**

Roy Medley met with State Department representatives, along with Florence Li, national coordinator for Intercultural Ministries, Asian churches strategist ABCUSA; Saw Ler Htoo, Executive Secretary, Karen Baptist Churches USA; Duh Kam, Executive Minister, Chin Baptist Churches USA (all members of the Burma Refugees Commission); and other international activists.

### **World Council of Churches**

Roy Medley met with Dr. Peter Prove, Director of International Affairs.

### **Funding**

ABCUSA received a pledge of a gift of \$150,000 over three years, 1/3 of which is for the work of the CCUIR on issues of interfaith relationship and peacebuilding.

--A. Roy Medley, General Secretary

## **OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT**

### **Skeletal Report: Department of Development Office (DOD)**

Summary Highlights: June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015

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

### **General Action Steps**

- Continue development of sundry strategic fundraising operational plans and procedures;
- Complete 2014 ABCUSA/OGS/DOD Budget/Fundraising Goals (available upon request);
- Establish Friends of the General Secretary Breakfast Taskforce;
- Research/Review/Evaluate Foundation & Corporate Prospects;
- Research/ Review/Evaluate Top Ten & Twenty Individual Prospects;

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- Orient and Support Chin Baptist Grant Research/Application process;
- Work with General Secretary on cultivation & visits with top individual prospects;
- Attend various ABCUSA, Partner and Affiliate meetings;
- Continue to review internal controls checks and balances with support from Treasure's Office;
- Conduct Introductory/Cultivation/Solicitation/Moves Management Visits (137);
- Facilitate plan for 100% BGM membership Gift Participation Rate
- Inaugurate / Implement ABCUSA Giving Tuesday Fund-drive;
- Conduct ABCUSA Year-end Pledge Drive;
- Produce Year-End Donor Letters of Recognition/Thanks
- Continue Development/Refinement of Naming Opportunities (GS Circles & Mission Center);
- Plan, Cultivation & Solicitation Events (4) – California, Virginia, Kansas, *West Virginia pending*;
- Produce Biennial Mission Summit Brochure and Mailings (Exhibitors/Advertisers/Sponsors);
- Raised *TbyS* \$96,134 (June 1, 2014 to May 31 2015; \$825,236 to \$921,370, documented only);
- Raised WIM \$50,000 Pledge (Endowment) and collaborate development of matching fund;
- Raised Peace & Interfaith Pledge \$50,000;
- Raised General Secretary's Circles \$15,828;
- Raised BGM \$2,960; Mission Summit Biennial \$4,725; Sponsorships \$28,000 (2), includes Friends Breakfast Sponsor - does not include collaborative work between DOD & Travel/Conference to secure 2015 Biennial Exhibitors & Advertisers (\$112,859)

--Kenneth C. Marsenburg, Development Director and Evon Moody, Assistant to Development Director

**OFFICE OF REGIONAL MINISTRIES** (Activity from Jan - June of 2015)

It has been a fun and productive year for regional ministries as Marilyn Tyson and I have taken on new and exciting assignments for ABCUSA. Marilyn continues to provide outstanding administrative support for regional ministries and has been providing logistical support for the General Secretary Search Committee and has been staffing the ABCUSA Nominating Committee. I have listed below the highlights of our activity for the first six months of 2015.

**Mission Summit and Mission Table:** The orientation guide for the facilitators has been produced and the logistical arrangements are on schedule. I am trying to recruit 100 facilitators for the conversations and am making good progress. The evaluation from the 2013 conversations showed strong support for them to be repeated with the only major concern being a desire to start the conversations ahead of time and continue them afterward. That problem has been remedied via our first ever public interactive bulletin board. I am very grateful to Dave Cushman for launching this site and to Bridget Holmstrom for uploading content to it. The recruitment of online moderators

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for each of the 21 MSC topics as well as an overall volunteer moderator to monitor and encourage use of the site proved beneficial. Every MSC topic has had activity prior to the Mission Summit. The Mission Table Planning Team is also in place and have held their first meeting.

**Search Committee Work:** I am pleased to announce that the American Baptist Churches of Metro New York have called the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley as their next executive minister and that the DC Baptist Convention has called the Rev. Dr. Robert Cochran as their new executive director and minister. Both the ABC of the South and the ABC of Massachusetts are also in the final stages of their transition process. I am continuing to work with the Great Rivers Region and the ABC of Ohio region in their search processes. Both should be distributing their position announcements this summer.

**Other Region Consultations:** In my regional presentations and conference leadership, I have been emphasizing leadership skills for Transformed by the Spirit that include a more facilitative, generative, and networked style of leadership. I have held consultations this year with TABCOM, the Central Pacific Coast, and IN-KY as well as individual church consultations in the Ohio and Philadelphia regions.

**Transformed by the Spirit:** I have been transitioning into the staffing role for TbyS in my work with the Journey Team and with consultant Al Roxburgh. The primary focus of the work this spring has been on finalizing the three primary resources of TbyS for public distribution and upon enhancing capacities for the public sharing of information and the training of volunteers for the rollout. I will be leading a session on Sunday afternoon of the Mission Summit, showing how congregations can influence culture change by engaging in conversations that go deeper, wider, and beyond. I am also pleased to announce that Rosey Oaks-Lee has been instrumental in creating an online training course for the TbyS Journey Guides. We owe our profound gratitude to our consultant Alan Roxburgh and to the Journey Team chairperson from its inception, Dwight Stinnett. I look forward to working with the new chair, Rev. Nikita McCalister.

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

### **OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE PLANNING (OTCP)**

The Office of Travel & Conference Planning, located at the ABCUSA Mission Center, is comprised of three full-time Staff. The OTCP plans and executes approximately 100 meetings per year. In addition, every other year, OTCP plays a major part in planning the needs for the Biennial Mission Summit and in the past has a major part in planning Orientation to ABC Life every two years.

OTCP works very closely with the coordinator of each meeting. You will, at times, receive e-mails from our office confirming/reconfirming your travel details. We are the ones that compare the arrival and departure lists with your Registration and try to figure out what it is you are really doing. We work on location of the meeting, contract with the hotel for guest rooms, meeting space and audiovisual needs and shuttle. We do our best so the hotel charges do not appear on your credit card and are sent to our office directly. We hate missing deadlines so we appreciate and thank all of you who register in a timely manner and hope that those that who do not, will take lessons and in the future be more prompt. It does make our lives much easier when we do not have to chase after attendees to ask them what color tent they want because they have not registered correctly or at all. We really do want you to have a place to sleep and be included in our meal counts. Speaking of meals and special dietary requests...it is always

helpful for us not to have to guess and read your mind. We appreciate those who register and include their special dietary requests so the appropriate arrangements can be made with the hotel. It takes away from the guess work.

In addition to our work with ABCUSA and the Board of General Ministries, we plan meetings for ABHMS, International Ministries, MMBB, AB Foundation, Ministers Council, ABWM and ABWIM.

(We hope you found our Report humorous and somewhat meaningful because we wanted to see how many people actually read our Report. Please tell us that you did.)

--Annie Marcucci, CTC, CMP; Director of Travel & Conference Planning

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

Staff: Leo S. Thorne, associate general secretary; Bridget Lipin, assistant director of communications and web manager; Tina Turner, executive assistant to Associate General Secretary. Ministry responsibilities include United Mission, Communication, Stewardship, Representing ABCUSA at Various National and International Meetings and Ecumenical Gatherings and on Several Boards; Preaching and Visiting Local Churches and Regions.

Some major highlights include the following:

- Providing staff leadership for ABCUSA's UM ACT and UM AD group to address UM's decline and UM promotion.
- Reviewing RFPs with Discernment Team to distribute unsolicited funds given by a generous donor in the Matthew 25 grant program. About 80 applicants each in Spring and Fall cycles.
- Maintaining communication effectiveness and ABCUSA branding through: timely press releases; video preparations and photography; website maintenance with content and user-friendliness; publication of Enewsletters and Connections; attendance at communication workshops and professional conferences; team support for communication about Transformed by the Spirit initiative and several other area of ABC life.
- Working with national planning group and ABCUSA partners to coordinate the Biennial mission Summit, while providing critical staff support to undergird the whole event.
- Bringing together a broad-based ABC team to plan and sustain an annual Reception for ABC attendees at the Hampton Ministers' Conference, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year.
- Engaging in numerous preaching opportunities and other ministry activities in ABC regions and churches as relationship building activities to strengthen churches' giving to UM.
- Serving on several boards, including Bacone College, Baptists Today, and the American Baptist Assembly as a way of enhancing ABCUSA's connection with a wide constituency. This connection also includes 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.
- Working with deployed stewardship staff to encourage generous discipleship in ABC through seminars, workshops, webinars, and content for the ABCUSA Web site.
- Distributing and promoting denomination-wide the *Inspired... Transformed* short movie in a year-long emphasis. The film was well-received as a way of celebrating ABC's past and encouraging thankfulness to God as we look ahead to the future.

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

### **AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

1. *“At Your Fingertips” fund-raising campaign.* The Board of Directors voted last year to move forward with “At Your Fingertips,” a campaign to raise \$550,000 to provide greater digital access to the Society’s collections. Funds will be used to create a new position, Digital Asset Archivist. Working collaboratively with the ABHS staff and web designer, Mercer University Libraries staff, Mercer University IT staff, and ABC-USA partners, the Digital Asset Archivist will develop sustainable practices and processes to ensure the availability and integrity of digital assets that chronicle American Baptist history. Campaign funds will also be used purchase needed equipment and other technologies to create, preserve, and share digital objects. Prospective donors contacted in the silent phase of the campaign have been extremely encouraging and we are almost at the halfway point in reaching our goal. The public phase will be launched this month at the American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit in Overland Park, KS.

2. *Implementation of ArchivesSpace.* In collaboration with Mercer Libraries, ABHS has implemented ArchivesSpace, an open-source software for describing, managing, and providing access to archives, manuscripts, and digital objects. To date, descriptions for 358 manuscript collections have been added; and work is underway to describe the American Baptist Foreign Mission Board Missionary Correspondence collection (approximately 3500 missionaries). The prototype is now accessible at <http://libraries.mercer.edu/archivesspace>.

3. *Collaborative digitization project with Denison University.* The Historical Society is partnering with Denison University to bring to light more information about Burma missionaries. Archivist Jan Ballard is working with Joshua Finnell, Humanities Librarian in the William Howard Doane Library, Denison University. This project has been awarded an *Ohio 5 Andrew W. Mellon Digital Scholarship: Projects & Pedagogy Grant*. The Historical Society will be working with the Denison Museum, the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, the Yale Divinity Library, and Axis Maps, to assist in constructing a digital, cartographic narrative of American Baptist Missionary activity throughout Burma in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The project will invite 21<sup>st</sup> century students to study the worldview of Denison-affiliated missionaries. Selections of materials to be digitized began in the fall, and the project team hopes to have the map publicly available by the end of summer 2015.

4. *National Film Preservation Grant.* This year ABHS applied for and received in May 2015 an \$8,000 grant to support the preservation of a silent color film produced by the Northern Baptist Convention (now ABC), *Crow Indians on the Jesus Trail* (1940s). ABHS is also planning to preserve and copy another film about the Lodge Grass Crow, *Song of the Shining Mountain*.

5. *American Baptist Quarterly.* The most recent issue, now at the printer, is a special sesquicentennial issue on West Virginia Baptists.

6. *ABC Biennial Programing.* ABHS is providing a pre-biennial workshop on doing local church history, developed at the request of Native American church leaders from the Central Region and adaptable for other groups. Additionally we are sponsoring a breakfast program with a lecture about home missionary to the Kiowa, Isabel Crawford.

--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.

**Mission: ACCESS!**

- Advocating for equal access in placement and opportunities for ministry
- Cultivating women's call to ministry
- Celebrating the gifts women bring to ministry
- Educating congregations about the biblical basis for women in ministry
- Shining the Spotlight on American Baptist Women in Ministry!

**Forming the 2015 Advisory Team are:** Rev. Charles C. Adams, Pastor Laura Ayala, Rev. Steve Bills, Jeremy Fackenthal, Ph.D, Rev. Dr. Michelle Holmes, Rev. Nikita McCalister, Rev. Miriam Mendez, Rev. Jackie Saxon, Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles, Rev. Karen Yee, and Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley.

**Highlights:**

- Partnered with Virginia Holmstrom, Trinette McCray, and Metro Chicago regional staff in a new paradigm gathering in ABC Metro Chicago
- As NCC representative to Ecumenical Women participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women and partnered in a workshop on violence against women
- Advisory Team met in Puerto Rico, the region with the highest percentage of women serving as senior or solo pastors
- Participated in National Council of Churches' Christian Unity Gathering as a representative at the Joint Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace convening table
- Partnered with AB Women's Ministries on a project "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," which involved a trip to the Republic of Georgia funded by a Palmer Grant
- Completed doctoral work on a project exploring the practices that create access for women seeking to fulfill calls to senior or solo ministry positions
- Stoles with the ABWIM logo have been produced as a fundraiser. Stop by the ABWIM booth to purchase one for a woman in ministry or supporter of women in ministry!

### **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.

**Important components of the program include:**



**Ministers-At-Large** – Retired and experienced ABC clergy who live and work with a church 4 1/2 days a week during the interim time between pastors.

**Appointed Interim Pastors** – Active and experienced ABC pastors who desire a transitional position as they search for their next call.

**Interim Ministry Specialists** – Active or retired ABC pastors with special training and skills to lead an intentional interim assignment.

As this ministry resource continues to develop from what was formerly Interim Ministries, we have had over 20 new assignments. All of the current cadre of assigned interims are interims who have been newly assigned through Transition Ministries. As the program grows, we continue to partner with regions and resource churches as we provide leadership for changing times.

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 Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, 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**



#### **Accomplishments:**

- Published the new 2015-17 Ministry Resource for church women’s groups, based on our new 2-year ministry focus: “See . . .” (“Vean . . .” in Spanish).
- Rev. Sandra Hasenauer, associate executive director, produced for local churches an ABC immigration resource on behalf of, and in partnership with, the ABC Immigration Task Force. The complimentary resource in English and Spanish is available for download at <https://files.secureserver.net/0fsX0CYsKOJ1xb>
- Provided an internship experience for Thaw Eh Moo, a Christian religious educator and Baptist Karen woman from Yangon, Myanmar, in March-May 2015.

#### **Major projects:**

- Through ABWM’s Transformed by the Spirit process, God’s Spirit has led us from a ministry challenge of “effectively managing change” to the deeper adaptive change work to “draw women and girls into transformational relationships with Christ and one another, and to send them out to engage as partners in God’s transformation of the world.” We’re conducting experiments now.
- We invited 577 American Baptists to participate in a Cultural Audit to discern our stakeholders’ strongest levels of support in identification of goals that will drive ABWM’s work to design how ABWM lives out our cultural reality into God’s intentional desire.

- We're partnering with American Baptist Women in Ministry to break barriers and build bridges between lay and clergy women, implementing initiatives with ABC of Metro Chicago and with the Evangelical Baptist Church in the Republic of Georgia, which also includes bridge building between Muslims and Baptists. \$22,000 from grants is helping to fund these initiatives.

--Virginia R. Holmstrom, Executive Director

## **MINISTERS COUNCIL**

May 2015

### Initiatives

- 1) Program Development - 7R's of Sanctuary
  - a) Ministers Council received a grant from Imago Dei Foundation to implement a pilot program for clergy to engage in spiritual practice and renewal while realizing increased effectiveness in leadership.
  - b) Implementation plans are underway
    - i) Cohort solicitation
    - ii) Retreat facility has been secured – Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington, MA for September 28-30.
    - iii) Facilitators are being organized.
  - c) Currently seeking additional grant funds to extend the program beyond the Massachusetts pilot.
- 2) Governance / Organization
  - a) The Ministers Council Annual Meeting will be held June 23-25, featuring new structure:
    - i) Board of Governors will meet on June 23-24, managing governance and organizational sustainability.
    - ii) Ministries Team will meet on June 24-25, with a focus on programmatic directions for 2015-2016.
    - iii) Ministers Council Retreat – first retreat will be held post-Mission Summit. This year's theme promotes Sabbath keeping and will be led by Rev. Dr. Heather Entrekin of Central Baptist Theological Seminary and held at Unity Village Retreat and Conference Center.
  - b) Membership Outreach
    - i) Expanding support for Hispanic-speaking community through the development of Spanish language collateral.
    - ii) Meeting with the Portuguese-speaking Caucus to investigate the viability of a Portuguese-speaking Ministers Council Chapter.
- 3) Fund Development
  - a) Launched the Ministers Council Annual Fund
    - i) Featured the first annual Giving Day on May 20, 2015
    - ii) We raised \$7443.15 in our first annual appeal.
  - b) Completed Together in Ministry Capital Campaign
    - i) Postmortem review identified programmatic overspend which left insufficient funding for capital campaign expenses.
    - ii) Net cash raised for the campaign was \$146,000

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- c) Continuing to engage contract resources to help increase fund development capacity.
- 4) Partnerships
  - a) Coordinated efforts with ABCUSA “family” to develop a promotional booklet to be distributed at the ABCUSA Reception to be held during the Hampton Ministers Conference on June 10. Booklet was so well received that 1000 copies are being ordered to make them available at the Mission Summit.
  - b) Presenter and collaborator with Pastoral Excellence Network to present Leadership Effectiveness workshops for *Peer Power* retreat program – May 4-6 in Burlingame, CA.
  - c) Ministers Council will host a Prayer Room during the Space4Grace event host by ABHMS.
  - d) Will teach the intensive January 2016 session for ABSW / Graduate Theological Union’s DMin program in Womanist Studies. Course will be on Transformational Leadership.
- 5) Transformed by the Spirit
  - a) Women in Ministry Action Learning Team
    - i) Reporting final results during Mission Summit.
  - b) Pastoral Attrition Action Learning Team
    - i) Reporting final results during Mission Summit.
    - ii) Opportunity to publish survey results based on participant interest in sharing their personal stories.
- 6) Cutting Edge
  - a) Have been asked to work with and teach in a new Th. M. degree program in Leadership at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. The first cohort will begin in 2016.
    - i) Requested Courses – Topics in Leadership (Adaptive Leadership, Servant Leadership, Differentiated Leadership) at the Th. M. level; DMin level intensive course work in Leadership.
    - ii) Potential to secure significant partner discounts in tuition for Ministers Council Members.
- 7) Upcoming Events
  - a) Hampton Ministers Conference, June 10.
  - b) Ministers Council Annual Meeting, June 23-25.
  - c) Mission Summit, June 26-28.
  - d) Ministers Council Retreat, June 29-July 1.
  - e) Christian Leadership Initiative Fellowship, Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem– July 13-24.
  - f) 7R’s of Sanctuary Pilot Retreat – September 28-30.

--Debora Jackson, Executive Director

**CHIN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA [CBCUSA]**  
**7105 Chimney Rock Ct, Indianapolis, IN 46217; [www.cbcusa.org](http://www.cbcusa.org)**

The Chin Baptist Churches USA has 92 churches in the 26 states of the USA. It is affiliated with the ABCUSA as one of the Associated Ministry Organizations in June 2014. It is also affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance in July 2014.

**Statement of Purpose**

1. To work joint mission together
2. To facilitate the spiritual growth of the Chin Baptist churches in the USA by having fellowship and holding conferences.
3. To promote the development of education and spirituality and physical growth for the Chins in the USA as well as in Myanmar.
4. To maintain the cultures, literature and language as the gospel is rooted in cultures, literature and languages.

**Mission**

As stated above, the CBCUSA officially started the International Chin Baptist Mission [ICBM] on July 13, 2013. The main office of the ICBM in Myanmar is located in Hakha, Chin State. This mission is to work among the Chins in four townships in the Southern Chin State including Paletwa, Kanpalet, Mindat and Gangaw. It practices holistic mission, focusing on the spiritual and physical salvation for all the Chins. Seventy local missionaries are preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who never heard the Good News.

The Chin churches from Europe, Australia, India and Malaysia also participate in this mission. The ICBM Myanmar director and assistant director and four mission field directors are working with our local missionaries. Since the beginning of the ICBM program in July 2013, there are 124 new converts from the practice of Buddhism and animism. We hope and pray that this mission will become the power of the Chin Baptist Churches in the globe.

**Christian Education and Literature [CE & L]**

The program of Children Sunday School is the priority of the CBCUSA. They are taught in the Chin language in all Chin churches. The CBCUSA has a full time director of the CE & L department who is writing the Bible teaching books for five levels based on the student age groups. These books are also distributed to other Chin churches in other countries. In summer holidays, many churches have a program of Chin literature class. Many children can read the Chin Bible and recite Bible verses. They start their spiritual growth.

**CBCUSA Youth Department**

The CBCUSA youths are actively involved in the gospel music, leading praise and worship in every churches. Once a year the CBCUSA youth training is conducted for their spiritual and educational growth. They have a program of gospel music recording and distribute the gospel DVDs and CDs to the Chin churches. The CBCUSA youths are asked to work for the triennial conference of the CBCUSA. In 2016, the CBCUSA will have a full time youth director.

**CBCUSA Women Department**

We are very pleased the Chin women are actively involved in the prayer groups of the Chin churches. They fast and pray to God every Saturday. They are raising fund to help the orphanages in Myanmar. They are helping the Chin Student Organization that runs the school programs for the refugee children in Malaysia for they are not qualified to study in the government schools.

The CBCUSA Women Department has the program of training once a year. They are working to develop the life of the Chin women in different ways.

--C. Duh Kam, Executive Minister

**THE KAREN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN THE USA**

Karen Baptist Churches, USA was founded on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. KBCUSA has 89 member churches with 25,600 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 Plaw Hsoe 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 advocates for immigrants from Burma who are resettling in the United States.

KBCUSA also works to protect the rights of diaspora groups who are oppressed by the Burmese military.

G. Trip to Burma and Thailand in 2015

Rev. Saw Ler Htoo, the Executive Secretary of KBCUSA joined the delegation team of the American Baptist Churches and the National Council of Churches in the USA to travel to Burma and Thailand from January 30 to February 22, 2015. The team met with leaders of Myanmar Council of Churches, the ethnic conventions in Burma, internally displaced people of Kachin State, and the officers of the government. The team also met the IDP's people in Thailand, some of the ethnic armed forces groups of Burma, the U.S. Embassy and the UNHCR office in Thailand.

H. Scholarship for Seminarian students

KBCUSA has organized scholarship for the seminarian students who are from Burma and studying in the United States. KBCUSA has supported five students from Karen Baptist Convention and a student from Pwo Karen Conference of Burma in 2015.

I. Award

KBCUSA has received the American Baptist Home Mission Societies highest recognition for religious freedom, the Suzan Johnson Cook Religious Freedom Award in 2015.

We thank God for allowing us to do mission work in the United States, strongly partnering 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

## **RAINBOW ACRES**

In January 2015, Rainbow Acres Board of Trustees installed five new representatives of American Baptist Churches to serve on the Board of Trustees: Charity Matic, Pastor Pedro Martinez, Lynn Wakefield, Al Wright, and Rev. Dr. Tim Deatrick.

American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii (aka) ABCOFLASH is the first region to adopt a major capital project at Rainbow Acres. The Region is committed to underwriting the cost of construction of Oikos House, the 12<sup>th</sup> and final new home to be constructed at Rainbow Acres.

In March 2015, Rainbow Acres received its third EAGLE Accreditation (for four years); it is the only faith-based Accreditation Organization in the United States. One of its strongest principles for accreditation is "fulfilling the Christian mission" of the Church. Rainbow Acres was also recognized with the Best Practice Award for the Fine Arts Painting program for the Ranchers.

In April, Rainbow Acres was recognized by Arizona Assisted Living Federation with its third Shining Star Award, for Caregiver of the Year: Sandy Koonce who has 20 years of service in the ministry. Previous Shining Star Awards were for the Clavinova Connect (a music integration program) and Nurse of the Year: Christine Walker for her innovative and holistic nursing care for the Ranchers.

Rainbow Acres is launching a new Admission Initiative to reach-out to qualified new Ranchers to become a part of Rainbow Acres Christian Community.

**BGM Item Parking Lot Issues**  
**1202:6/15**

Our ties to American Baptist Churches run deep and provide the very DNA that distinguishes Rainbow Acres for other agencies serving the disabilities community. We continue to celebrate Rainbow Acres signing of the covenant with ABCUSA and the special relationship that signifies.

--Rev. Gary Wagner, President & CEO