



EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 6, Issue 6

2007 BIENNIAL/CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HONORS NAKAGAWA AND LEDBETTER



Rev. Greg Ledbetter

Two Evergreen leaders—one lay and one clergy—

will be honored during the 2007 American Baptist Churches USA Biennial and Centennial celebration. Every two years American Baptists from around the country gather for celebration, information sharing, spiritual renewal, and do-

ing the business of the denomination. This year, marking 100 years since the inception of the then Northern Baptist Convention, now known as American Baptist Churches USA, is a particularly meaningful milestone.

As a part of this historic milestone celebration, Evergreen clergy leader, **Rev. Greg Ledbetter**,



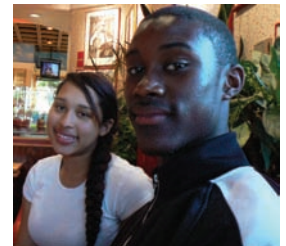
Dr. Yoshitada Nakagawa

pastor of Shell Ridge Community Church, Walnut Creek California, will receive the Ed-

ward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award during the Children in Poverty Breakfast on Saturday, June 30, 2007.

And then, **Dr. Yoshitada (Yosh) Nakagawa**, Evergreen lay leader and member of Japanese Baptist

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Our Biennial Youth Reps
Monique Ramirez; Thomas Davis

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Special points of interest:

- Remember the Association Board Meeting is Saturday, June 9, 2007, Wedgwood, 9 AM.
- The next edition of the Evergreen Notes will be mailed July 11, 2007. By that time we hope to be able to bring you updates from the Biennial/Centennial.
- Continue praying for our sick and church congregations.

Peter's Perspectives

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches has been a constant challenge and learning experience. If I had known this, would I have accepted the call

to serve as Chair? Yes, being a student of continuing education, I probably would have. What did appeal to me was the opportunity to serve the Lord, my God, as an elder, a senior.



I learned early on that the words, "Beginning our worshipful work,

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Events & Happenings

******REPRESENTATION NEEDED FOR ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, JUNE 9, WEDGWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 9 AM**

Member churches are encouraged to send representatives to the Board meeting as we begin discussion and planning for the October 12-13 Annual Meeting. Be sure your voice is heard.

******EURO CAUCUS MEETS FOLLOWING ASSOCIATION BOARD ON JUNE 9, 1-3 PM, WEDGWOOD**

******ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE.** PASTORS, TREASURERS, CLERKS, TRUSTEES, BE SURE YOUR REPORT IS COMPLETED AND RETURNED OR DONE ON-LINE. Call Clem at 253-859-2226 or email: clemeba@comcast.net if you need help.

******COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ISSAQUAH** will begin hosting Tent City 4 on August 11, 2007. A public meeting will be held in the sanctuary of the Community Church of Issaquah (205

Mountain Park Blvd. SW) at 7 PM on June 13 to answer questions about the encampment and the city permit. All are welcome. This may be the final public meeting at Community Church prior to the hosting of Tent City. The Rev. Elizabeth Maupin (425 392 6447 or elipeter@juno.com) will be the general contact for those with questions about TC4 or with a desire to assist in the hosting. Karyn Akishin (kakishin4842@msn.com) will be handling questions related to meals.

How the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Helps

Through the generous giving of American Baptists the One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports our denominational response to disasters at home and around the world. **Please note in the story below that your church can help by giving to One Great Hour of Sharing—mark it as “Greensburg” on the giving receipt.**

TORNADO LEVELS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN GREENSBURG, KANSAS

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 05/08/07) -- First Baptist Church, Greensburg, Kan. has been destroyed by a massive (category F-5) tornado that news sources say leveled some 95 percent of the town of Greensburg on Friday night, May 4. The

church's parsonage, although left standing, also sustained serious damage.

"It is difficult to comprehend how great a loss has been suffered by the people of that community and by our brothers and sisters at First Baptist Church," said the Rev. John Williams, western area minister for American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. Williams said the church's pastor, the Rev. Marvin George, "is praising God for bringing him, his family and his congregation safely through this terrible storm." Williams said Rev. George has been able to locate almost all of his church family, and that all were safe and unharmed and had places to stay with family and friends. He urged American Baptists to be in prayer for all

those affected by this disaster.

Dr. Steve Van Ostran, the Central Region's acting executive minister, will join ABMen of the Central Region disaster team members in assessing the damage to the church and surrounding area.

"We will respond to this calamity with One Great Hour of Sharing undesignated disaster funds," said Kenneth George, National Ministries' coordinator, Intercultural Ministries/Direct Human Services. George noted that additional gifts to help the Greensburg congregation members and community should be designated "One Great Hour of Sharing-Central tornadoes" and sent through normal mission-giving channels. Gifts may also be made through the "Give Now" feature at www.abc-usa.org.

Invitation

You are cordially invited to a Service of Installation for
Rev. Dennis Plourde
as he begins his service as Pastor of the
First Baptist Church of Mountlake Terrace.

The service will be held at the church,
Sunday, June 10, 2007
Beginning at 4:00 p.m.
22800 -56th Avenue West
Mountlake Terrace, WA

In Christian Faith

The Pastoral Search Team:
Chrystal Cooper - Chair, Al Ackley,
Tom Dickison, Charlotte Erickson,
Mary Ellen Harris, Jim Little

BAPTIST BLITZ BUILD

Marcia Patton



Rev. Ted Sandberg, Terry and Chris Herrerger from Chico First Baptist Church were also on this Build. Day one.

I was privileged to participate for a week in a Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 21-29, 2007. I had done some day work in a home in Philadelphia over 20 years ago when I lived in that area, but have not participated with Habitat in Washington.

Habitat is seeking to build affordable homes for people around the world. This par-

ticular project was to build 12 homes in two weeks for people who have been displaced by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The build was called a Baptist Blitz since they had the support both by volunteers and monetarily from several Baptist bodies including American Baptist's National Ministries.

I knew that my labor would be very different from my usual routine, since physical labor is minimal in my lifestyle. I elected to stay in a hotel rather than the provided dormitory because of how different this would be. I made the decision to go on my own because I needed to be involved somehow in response to the Katrina disaster.

Rather than a daily blog—which I was simply too tired at the end of each day to consider

putting together and did not have the technology with me to do that effectively—I've decided to share some thoughts/learnings with you upon my return.

- Habitat is not just about building houses, it is also about the people and



Home sites the first day.

their stories who will inhabit the homes. Miss Fannie who will get the home I participated in building,

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BAPTIST PEACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO PERSONS OF COLOR



**Baptist Peace Fellowship
of North America**

Evergreen Association is grateful to be able to offer a limited number of full scholarships specifically donated to encourage persons of color to attend the 2007 Baptist Peace Camp.

The scholarships will cover

transportation, housing, meals and any other costs associated with attending the

Baptist Peace Camp to be held on July 23-28, 2007 at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

This gift is for the person whose heart for peace is rooted in justice. And this opportunity offers time for

rest, grounding, nurture, fun training, companionship, music, worship, challenge, sustenance and more.

For information about the Baptist Peace Camp go online to <http://www.bpfna.org/summerconference> and for info on the full scholarships, call Marcia Patton at 253-859-2226 or email: clemeba@comcast.net.

Peter's Perspectives

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devotion and prayer," was serious business, almost sacred. It became clear that all that we did in our meetings was, in fact, doing Evergreen ministry for the Lord. I was not just running a meeting as I had done hundreds of times in other settings, but participating in the Lord's work.

The most challenging aspect of chairing meetings was the

use of consensus as a way of arriving at a decision by the body. Wow! I had never heard or used the idea in any context previously. The more I studied the notion, I realized that it was very different from Parliamentary Procedure, but more in tune with the idea of fellowship of believers. This really hit home when I was asked (and I took it as a challenge), "Is consensus scriptural?" I couldn't find the word in my

continued

concordance. Maybe my concordance isn't thick enough.

But, working backwards from how we do things in Evergreen and in our churches, I found that our churches are indeed quite biblical. Sure, we/they fall short, but essentially they are biblical in practice.

In Acts 15:24-26 NAS, we read, "Since we heard that

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Building Blitz

(Continued from page 3)

was so excited that she would have this place for herself and her 5 grandchildren—that they would have a yard to play in—her



So how many hammers do you think it takes to build 12 houses in 2 weeks?

smile made the work easier.

• Habitat is not just about building homes, it is about teaching new skills. Although few of

continued

us will use these new skills professionally, it is still good to know how one's house is put together. I learned about siding (do you know how many different pieces there are to complete a siding job!), blue board, bird boxes, corner

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GRANTS FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERS

The *Cultivating New Life* program sponsored by National Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA, provides grants to American Baptist ministerial leaders to attend conferences, workshops and seminars focused on personal and congregational renewal. These grants support leaders of new churches and leaders working in congregational transformation.

Grants should be used for study in areas such as providing leadership for change, congregational transformation, discipleship, church administration, evangelism and spiritual formation. Grants of up to \$300 are available annually to ministerial leaders listed in the current American Baptist Professional Registry.

Applications should be

submitted to the Office of Financial Aid for Studies, National Ministries ABC/USA, POB 851, Valley Forge PA 19482-0851 prior to participation in an event.

For more information call: 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2067 or visit: www.nationalministries.org

Youth Pastor, Noriko leaving JBC

Japanese Baptist Church was saddened to learn that they are losing the leadership of their Youth Pastor, Rev. Noriko Kussman and her husband Gary. Since Gary has been transferred to the Los Angeles area, Noriko will be moving with him. She has made a significant impact on Japanese Baptist Church during her ministry through

continuing to nurture the youth group, and giving a special ministry to the young adults, too. One of the things they appreciated was that Noriko named the group: FYI. I recommend you check out with them for what those letters stand.

Noriko's ministry was special at the church because

as a native Japanese, she was able to communicate with the Nichigo congregation as well as the English-speaking youth and parents.

Japanese Baptist Church recognized Noriko and her husband (he has served the church as Treasurer and will be missed as well) during worship on May
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Peter's Perspectives

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some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls. It seemed good to us, having BECOME of ONE MIND, to select men to send to you with our brother Barnabas and Paul...Judas and Silas".

Then I hit the jack-pot. Oops, this isn't Scriptural for sure, not for Baptists anyway. Then the Lord pointed me to Philippians 2:1-4, William's Translation, "So, if there is any appeal in our union with Christ, if there is any persuasive power in love, if we have any common share in the Spirit, if you have any tender-

continued

heartedness and sympathy, fill up my cup of joy by living in harmony, by fostering the same disposition of love, your hearts beating in unison, your minds set on one purpose. Stop acting from motives of selfish strife or petty ambition, but in humility practice treating one another as your superiors. Stop look-

(Continued on page 6)

PURCHASE CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR JOURNAL

American Baptist Churches USA will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Northern Baptist Convention, now American Baptist Churches, USA, as part of the 2007 Biennial Meeting in Washington, DC, June 29-July 2, 2007.

One element of that celebration is a limited edition Cen-

tennial Souvenir Journal, a collector's edition of over 300 8.5x11 pages, with hardcover artistic design, which will encompass the history of our denominational life and ministry.

If you and/or your church would like to purchase one of these journals @ \$35.00 (including shipping and handling) please send your name,

address and check or money order payable to American Baptist Churches USA, to: American Baptist Churches USA, C/O Rev. Beverlee Everett, P O Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851 as soon as possible. You may also call Rev. Beverlee Everett at 1-800-ABC-3USA and say her name when you hear the recording.

Peter's Perspectives

(Continued from page 5)

ing after your own interests only but practice looking out for the interests of others too."

I am convinced that consensus is not only built but really grows out of an environment - conditions as described in the passage. I commend this to Evergreen and to all of our member congregations. May

cont.

this lead more of you to practice consensus decision-making in your meetings.

May the Lord continue to richly bless your work in God's kingdom on earth.

Amen.

Peter Koshi

Building Blitz

(Continued from page 4)

wrapping, and strong bodies, just as examples.

- Some jobs are just simply more efficiently and effectively done by professionals. The electrical, plumbing and dry walling was done by such crews. A volunteer crew did all the shingling work on all

the houses, I think this was a safety issue.

- ¼ inches do count.
- You can be too tired to lift your arm to take a drink of water.
- It is work to hold a ladder...sometimes you are grateful someone is holding that ladder.

continued

- When there are 12 crews working there are never enough...ladders, brooms, hammers, utility knives, cats claws, tape measures, hard hats, gloves, sharpened pencils, etc.
- Do you know how many different kinds of nails are needed to build a house?

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OOPS111
The editor apologizes to both Rev. Dennis Plourde and Rev. Bill Clarke for misspelling their names in the May newsletter.
CORRECT TIME :
Plourde's installation – June 10, 2007 at Mountlake Terrace—4:00 PM

(Continued from page 1)

Church, will be honored with the Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award during the New Life 2010 Breakfast, Monday, July 2, 2007.

Evergreen is also excited to share that on Friday, June 29th at the opening of the exhibition hall at 3 PM, Dr. Nakagawa will present to Dr. Roy Medley, General Secre-

tary of ABC-USA, the exhibition entitled "Nikkei Voices of Gratitude" uplifting the American Baptists who did ministry inside and outside the interment camps. The exhibition is presented on behalf of the 120,000 Nikkei (inclusive of both Japanese immigrants (Issei) and Japanese Americans (Nisei)) interned during World War II.

If you are going to be at the Biennial, stop in at the **Evergreen Hospitality Room #305** in the Convention Center. Especially drop by on Friday and/or Sunday after evening worship, when we will gather as a region.

JEWELS & TREASURES

What follows are three vignettes, or kingdom moments. Can you find the common theme or themes in the following stories? Prizes described at the end.

1. "What does it mean to be a man?" That was the question being discussed by a group of Baptist men here recently. In trying to answer the question we came to see that society, culture, and even the church had defined manhood in ways that were unrealistic, unhelpful, and even dangerous. We shared about the stereotypical man: head of the house, sole provider, tough guy who keeps his woman (or women) in line, never loses, and never shows emotion, except anger. Many of the men at the meeting confessed that they had bought into the model in some ways, but certainly weren't happy with it. We then talked

about the model of Jesus, a strong man if there ever was one. But Jesus' strength led him to serve, to weep, and to express emotions.

The setting was a one day workshop on masculinity and domestic violence led by our friend Dave Matthews, a therapist from First Baptist Church of St. Paul, Minnesota. Dave's expertise and his openness led us to new insights, and helped the group reflect honestly.

A man named Alvaro shared about how his self-esteem had been affected by a serious illness that made it impossible for him to work full-time. He simply couldn't perform like he had before, and couldn't provide for all the needs of his family. He felt weak and insecure. The man's pastor, Jose Soto, was present and shared how in the life of the

Missionary Gary Baits

Domestic violence is a big problem here, just as it is all around the world.

church, that man had set a true example of manhood with his bravery and his humility. There was silence. The kind of good silence when you know you are on holy ground. The man's teenage son, Andres, was also there. Someone asked him what he thought of his father. The boy responded that he respected his Dad more than he ever had. It was a kingdom moment, a Jesus moment.

Domestic violence is a big problem here, just as it is all around the world. There may be many causes and a variety of treatments, but certainly definitions

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Building Blitz

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- If we divide up into two teams to work on two sides of the house it means we need at least two of everything... including ladders.
- How many ladders does it take? More than you have.

JEWELS & TREASURES

(Continued from page 7)

of manhood play a role. Dave also led other workshops while here with key Costa Rican judges and an ecumenical group in Limon gathered by our colleague Marlene Dell, rector of the Caribbean Theological Center.

Please pray for the men of Costa Rica, and for the men in your life, that we can "be transformed by the renewing of our minds." (Romans 12:1)

2. Many of you who have been praying for the Alajuelita church will be happy to know that they just called a pastor, Olman Gonzalez (David's father, if that helps). The church has been without pastoral leadership for a long time now, and Olman, along with his wife Guiselle, have been looking for a congregation to serve. So far we are hearing good things about his first weeks there. His preaching and visitation are being well received. Meanwhile,

- Louisiana is dusty.
- After a rain (The area got three inches of rain the Tuesday night of our week), Louisiana is MUDDY! Mud is slippery. Mud is heavy. Mud is messy! I prefer dust.
- He may borrow the ladder for just a moment, but it doesn't mean he will return

Mario continues coordinating the construction project and bit by bit the kitchen is coming together. Much of this has been made possible by matching funds sent by one of our Illinois congregations. On a sad note, the church's guard dog, Tommy, was recently poisoned by some neighborhood troublemakers.

Please pray for the security of the community.

3. The Baptist church in La Guacima de Alajuela was blessed by the visit of an ABC team from Midland, IN. The group helped the church members lay ceramic tile and paint their playground. A doctor and some nurses attended and several people from the community. Lice, scabies, and high blood pressure are prevalent in the community and this group allowed the church to minister to some of those needs. Other team members gave haircuts and played with community kids.

Pray for the people of La

continued

it in just a moment.

- Habitat volunteers are polite, but they will still borrow the ladder.
- It helps if you are in construction to be ambidextrous. My Dad is. I'm not. It especially helps if you are putting something up and

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continued

Guacima, and for their pastor Xinia (one of my Old Testament students)

I have to confess that there were some bureaucratic headaches and governmental hoops to jump through in preparing for the group to come. I also have to confess that I didn't think things would work out. But God surprised us all with how well things went.

Okay, I hope you saw the following themes.

1. God answers prayer.
2. God works through His people.
3. Mission partnerships are great things. All the events described above involve partnerships between Baptist churches in the U.S. and Costa Rican Baptist churches.

There may be more themes than that, and if so, you win bonus points, or as my Granny used to say, "jewels in your crown." Enjoy your "treasure in heaven."

PRAY FOR OUR BIENNIAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Monique Ramirez; Thomas Davis

Building Blitz

(Continued from page 8)

you need to use a ladder. If you are ambidextrous, you need to move the ladder less often. I had to move the ladder a lot. Sometimes it is better to hold the ladder for someone who is ambidextrous.

- Just because it is called a Baptist Blitz Build does not mean that everyone there is Baptist.
- The pencil is rarely exactly where you need it, but it is most likely where you left it (unlike your ladder).
- If you are filling holes with foam spray insulation, there is a creature that makes holes while your back is turned. I was sure I had looked carefully at all the walls and had put foam in ALL the holes, yet my house leader still found two the creature made while my back



Myself, Chris and Terry and Ted at the end of the week.

was turned and I found one

more!
Crafty creature!

- Another use for Duct tape is name tags— front and back (sometimes you do need to say something important to someone whose back is toward you). I'm allergic to the adhesive used on Duct Tape—even through T-shirts. I found this out the hard way—you wouldn't believe the rash I have!

- It is amazing how much house can be put up in just a few days.
- There is a growing community among Habitat home builders; people for whom building homes is an expression of their faith.

continued

- You can bring your own tools to a Habitat build site, but you need to tie them to yourself if you plan on getting them back (or something like that). It is a risk.
- The rule is, you can borrow the ladder as long as someone isn't counting on it to come down. But how do you know that someone is counting on it to come down?



Home I worked on the day I left (6 days after start).

- It is good to have companions on the journey of a build, to share stories and meals. I was glad Ted, Terry, and Chris were there to share the adventure.

continued

Noriko Leaving

(Continued from page 5)

20, 2007. The congregation also had a feast after church in her honor.

Evergreen will miss

her enthusiasm and smile. We pray for Noriko and Gary as they move south, and are asking God's grace to go with them, knowing that another community of faith will be

blessed as we have been.

Marcía

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Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for the member Churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly.

Please submit articles by the 25th of the month prior to expected publication.

You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles.

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Building Bridges Between Communities

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 4—The Baseball Game—Mariners vs. Orioles, SAFECO Field, 7:05 PM
- 9—(Note Change from May 19) Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM
- 9—Euro Caucus Gathering at Wedgwood, 1:00-4:00 PM
- 10—Dennis Plourde Installation as Pastor of Mountlake Terrace, 4 PM
- JUNE 29—July 2 Biennial Meeting/Centennial Celebration, Convention Center, Washington DC

JULY

- 9—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM
- 16—Ministerial Standards Committee.

AUGUST

- 6—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM
- 14—Clergy & Spouse Dinner Cruise, 6 PM
- 25—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM

SEPTEMBER

- 15—Building Bridges Event, Location & Time TBD
- 28—29 ACT Weekend

OCTOBER

- 12—13 Annual Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will

- Build bridges between communities;
- Provide resources to equip member churches to share Christ, and teach God's word; and
- Translate our unity to the world.