



# EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 7, Issue 6

## Take Your Pastor/Family/Friends to the Ball Game!



Join us for the third annual

Take Your Pastor, Family and/or Friends to the Mariners Baseball Game, Monday, June 16, 2008, 7:00 PM. The tickets are 2 for \$20.00.

Send your name, address, church membership, and number of tickets

(2 for \$20.00) with your check or money order to: Evergreen Association of ABC at 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032-5843

You may also phone: 253-859-2226, fax: 253-859-1537 or email: clemeba@comcast.net your request. Then



when payment is received, the tickets will be mailed to you. Remember all orders must be received by 4:00 PM, June 10, 2008.

**Seattle Mariners vs. Florida Marlins**  
**Monday**  
**June 16, 2008**  
**7 PM**

## Curtis Comments

I took a trip to see a friend get married recently, and it turned out to be a great re-uniting of old friends from my days as a camp counselor at Camp Utaba in Utah. Spending time with these life-long friends whom I had

not seen for quite a while, I realized once again that what really lasts is the bond of relationship. Here is a group of people that I knew when I was a teenager and though time has passed, and though we are all in

very different places geographically, socially, spiritually, etc., we still find ourselves connected through a shared experience.



Curtis Price, Chair EA-ABC

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### Prayer Concerns:

- Yoh Nakagawa received word from his doctors that he is cancer free following the surgery- Praise the Lord!
- Thank you for your continued prayers for churches seeking pastoral leadership: Seattle First Baptist Church; Grace Baptist Church—San Jose; The United Church of Moscow, ID and First Baptist Church—Salt Lake City.
- Barry Briscoe visited us at the office recently showing off his progress toward recovery! Let's keep praying!

## Events & Happenings Around the Association



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church** invites the Evergreen family to join with them as they host the *Seattle University Summer Institute Gospel Fest*, July 9, 2008 starting at 7:00p.m.



**Evergreen Association** will present “Godspell”, Friday and Saturday, November 21st and 22nd, 2008, at Seattle First Baptist Church. Please

plan to attend this fundraiser to support the ministries of SHARE/WHEEL and Evergreen.



**Panther Lake Community Church** invites you to the Installation Service of their new pastor, Stan Smith, on Sunday, June 1st at 3:00 PM.



**SFBC Labyrinth Walk**, Sunday June 8th, 6—8 PM

## Annual Reports Due !!

The data gathered from the Annual Reports helps the denomination determine membership, attendance and the general health of our churches.

Please complete your report and submit the info online at [annualreport.abcis.org](http://annualreport.abcis.org) or mail or fax it to the Evergreen office. Thank you.

Rev. James T. Winbush

## A Witness: Evergreen, A Standard?

Take a spiritual walk with me for just a moment. Shut your eyes and picture the church you see everyday or in your local association. How often have you had the opportunity to fellowship or worship with your brothers or sisters in Christ of another culture or race? Where can you experience this in the body of Christ? Where among the body of believers is there opportunity to witness a Baptism service performed in Japanese; or participate as

Blacks serve a southern barbecue meal to Asians, and enjoy the freedom to express your likes and dislikes in an open forum and come away assured that you were heard? It must be Evergreen.

What is Evergreen? I’m talking about the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, an association of churches where the people of color are no longer being informed of what is happening

in their association by Euro-Americans. Evergreen is an association where people of color are providing leadership and formulating policies in partnership with our Euro-American sisters and brothers. Evergreen is where collaborative ministries are an objective not just talking points. Yes it’s Evergreen, it’s not your standard association of tradition but what could become the standard for the future.

## Evergreen Youth to Attend the National More Than a Week Youth Conference



Evergreen Association will be represented at the National Youth Conference by four youth from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church: Quiarra Gipson, Arareonda McCullar, Jordan Moore and Cedric Thomas,

and Clem Winbush—adult chaperone; and from First Baptist Church, Salt Lake City—8 youth: Aaron Barnes, Max Bond, Eliza Borysiuk, Matt Chaney, Chuck McCarty, Ashley Roth, Theo Stephen, Andrew Thompson; 3 peer counselors: Tom Burnett, Abby Reyes and Ash-

leigh Thompson; and 5 adults: Karen Carter, Esther Chelsea McCarty, Jeff Lensman, Chelsea McCarty, and David Winmill

Please pray for our youth as you participate in the “40 Days of Prayer for MTW (see article on page 7).

## Report From MMBB

The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), the Benefits for Life arm of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) reports that the average compensation (salary and housing) for ordained pastors of congregations in the Evergreen Association as of January 1, 2008 is \$43,855. That is down 9.49% from January 1, 2007

when the average was \$48,452.

The average compensation for all of ABCUSA is \$47,150 as of January 1, 2008, representing a 2.6% increase over the January 1, 2007 average of \$45,971.

## Missionaries Nzunga in Haiti



The Nzungas

Dear Loved Ones,

May the peace of our Lord be with each and every one of you. We are doing well and growing strong in the Lord..

The eye clinic in Cap-Haitian continues to provide treatment to about 800 patients who come in monthly. Besides the general devotion with patients, we have added the staff devotion each Tuesday and Wednesday. Here we meet and lay down all our

burdens and ask for cleansing before we present ourselves to the patients. Among the 40 operations done each month, each patient to be operated on gets a special individual prayer before each operation.

The Community Health and Evangelism (CHE) program Kihomi is heading is making progress. More and more people are manifesting interest and can testify about the practical result they see in their community.

All these different aspects of ministry would not be possi-

Thank you for your contribution!

Your support of Evergreen makes ministry possible.

If you've not yet contributed, please send your tax-deductible gift to 409 Third Ave. S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032, or you may donate online at [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org)

ble without your support of all kinds. We are thankful and praise God for you. Please be assured that we keep all of you in our daily prayers.

Nzunga & Kihomi

*Send used Eye Glasses for the Eye Clinic in Haiti to:*  
Nzunga Mabudiga  
Agape Flights # 10266  
100 Airport Ave  
Venice, Fl. 34285

## Thanks From ABSW

We are in receipt of a letter of thanks from Michelle Holmes, Vice President of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA. The letter reads in part,

“We...are grateful for your generous gifts representative of your Association’s commitment to theological education ...and are happy to announce that five graduates

were ordained into Christian Ministry during March and have found places of service. Keep them in your prayers as they seek to glorify God.”

## Curtis Comments

*(Continued from page 1)*

Our days at camp and the friendships that grew as we spent years together shaped us, and it represents a common moment to turn to that helps our lives make sense.

I have noticed a similar occurrence in Evergreen as we work together around a common desire to see strong healthy churches and a more inclusive understanding of the Kingdom of God. As we struggle to be faithful to our calling and as we work out how best to be one yet many, it will be the relationships and experiences together that will form the lasting bond. With this understanding I wish to encourage all of us to deliberately seek out these opportunities to deepen our

relationships with each other.

Soon we will be presented with opportunities to respond as an association to the needs of a few of our sister churches. These joint efforts will give us a chance to really build those bridges we keep talking about. Events like the baseball game and the clergy cruise will give us time to get to know someone new. Joint services such as the MLK Day worship and the Easter Sunrise service afford us an opportunity to worship together. We don't have to wait for a formal event. Perhaps a few people could plan to visit a sister church on the fifth Sunday when it occurs. Of course the Annual Meeting is always a chance to connect with people and

continued

strengthen our association.

The point is that our ministry is only going to be as strong as our relationships with one another. When we find opportunities to nurture these friendships, they will be the bond that will hold us together through the hard times.

Grace and Peace be with you all,



Curtis

## ABCUSA TRANSITION TEAM AND GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

The work of the ABC USA Transition Team goes forward. We've spent the month of May getting ready for the General Board meetings the last weekend of June. Evergreen General Board members are Walter Heyman and Terri Simpkins (who serves as President of AB Women's Ministries). Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for the meetings in June. They have

received a narrative some 12 pages or so long about the new structure along with a matrix that is four pages in length.

I don't have the space here to describe the new structure adequately, but we will be doing so in newsletters to come. I do think the new structure returns the ABC to the local church having more input into our ministry and

mission. Structure is often dull at best for many. Structure can help ministry and mission and be a process that allows for creativity and response. This is where we are headed in the new ABC structure. As well we are making movement toward caucuses having some opportunities for significance.

Thanks for your prayers. More to come.

*Marcia*

## News From Friends at MIT & Giving to Myanmar (Burma)

Rev. Paul Aita

Dear Friends,

I've been very moved by the response from our JBC and wider Evergreen family concerning the situation in Myanmar (Burma) following the recent cyclone. I particularly appreciate the contacts and questions I've received asking about the well-being of people we know at the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) in Yangon (Rangoon) and others in that city. Like the rest of us, I get my information primarily through the news media and online, but I do indeed also get personal information from friends.

As for MIT, the report I received said that the fourth floor of the newest and largest school building was damaged extensively. This floor contained the guest apartment where Gail and I have lived ..., the school's computer lab and a number of faculty offices. The report also said that the roof to the building was severely damaged—a significant problem, since the rainy season has begun in that part of the world and the crisis means that roofing materials are not available. (The Seattle Times said that even nails are un-

available in Yangon.)

Worse than the damage to the school building is the fact that homes on the campus were badly damaged. The damaged homes that were specifically mentioned house members of the faculty and other school staff.

...With a bottle of water (though I don't know of what size) costing the equivalent of two days' pay...

One of the issues we've read about in the paper was also communicated to me in a personal way by one of MIT's faculty members now in Hong Kong—namely the price of bottled water. MIT's younger faculty members especially have had difficulty simply buying rice for their families with their school salaries. With a bottle of water (though I don't know of what size) costing the equivalent of two days' pay, they do not know how they will be able to survive with even a minimum of basic necessities.

If there is good news concerning MIT, it is that the reports I received concerning that school dealt only with property damage. I did not hear of any deaths or even injuries at MIT related to the cyclone. I pray that will prove to be so.

Rev. Paul Aita

## American Baptists News Service Reports

*Burmese Baptists Suffer Heavy Toll; American Baptists Called To Prayer(5/22/08)*

The Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) lost more than 10,000 members who died as a result of the cyclone. More than 94,000 other members have suffered loss of home and other property. Many church buildings were destroyed, and the headquarters of the MBC was badly damaged. The MBC, a national umbrella organization for many regional and ethnic conventions, is a partner of American Baptist International Ministries.

The assistance is literally saving lives at this point, with situations of widespread diarrhea, and serious electricity and water shortages, a team leader said.

It is reported that the total death toll is now estimated at 134,000. Cyclone Nargis destroyed rice fields and the animals used in agricultural work, leaving thousands with no hope for food for the next year. Furthermore, locals refuse to continue fishing from the contaminated water.

American Baptists will be releasing \$25,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds for Cyclone Nargis relief and an additional \$1055 has been received from individual donors. Those wishing to support these efforts can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support, designating contributions "OGHS-Cyclone." For online contributions, click on the Give menu button at the [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) website or click here: <https://dlq4.donatelinq.net/donatelinq4/default.aspx?MerchantID=ABChurches>. Remember to type in "OGHS-Cyclone" in the Comments field of the form.

## Camp Burton Open House and Retreat Center Dedication

You are invited to the open house of Camp Burton and the dedication of the new Retreat Center designed to better meet the needs of 36 adult guests from non-profit groups, on Sunday afternoon, June 8, 2008, beginning at 3 PM. The camp is located at 9326 SW Bayview Dr., Vashon Island, WA 98070-7024. No reservation is required, just come out, enjoy the festivities and look over the camp.

Additionally, Camp Burton will offer week-long camping experiences throughout the summer for families, elemen-



tary, junior high and senior high youth. Those experiences include music and singing, team building challenges, crazy games and events, great food, canoeing, swimming, crafts, archery, campfires, devotions and opportunities to learn about and talk about faith and God.

The week of July 13—19, 2008 will feature Music

Camp—a week long Christian camping experience for youth entering grades 6 to 9 who have had at least one year's experience playing a band or orchestra instrument, or who are vocalists.

Facilities at the camp include heated and carpeted cabins, saltwater shoreline, a health center, an indoor dining hall and outdoor recreation.

For more information regarding camping and/or the open house and dedication call 206-463-2512, email [campburton1@centurytel.net](mailto:campburton1@centurytel.net) or visit their website at [www.campburton.com](http://www.campburton.com)

## Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Camp 2008

You are invited to gather this summer, July 14—19, 2008 at John Abbott College in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, Canada for a focus on what each of us can do in our own personal lives to create peace—starting with peace within ourselves and circling out to own ways of being in our families, churches, neighborhoods...and the world.

All people who long for peace are welcome. Come to add your own insight and to enrich

your own journey! We'll have opportunity to explore everything from creating peace within marriage to supporting the just recovery of New Orleans, or addressing lasting issues of injustice toward First Nations people and communities.

Interested in joining with SFBC's Partners in Peacemaking for the trip, contact Gordon Harper at 206-720-6647 or email him at [gharper1@mindspring.com](mailto:gharper1@mindspring.com)

**2008 Conference**  
**July 14-19, 2008**  
**Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue**  
**Quebec**  
**Online Registration**  
**Now Available at**  
**[www.bpfna.org/conference](http://www.bpfna.org/conference)**

## Call to Prayer for AB Youth at MTW

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 05/22/08)** — National Ministries, sponsor of the upcoming National Gathering of American Baptist Youth, encourages American Baptists to support this vital ministry—before, during and after the event—through “40 Days of Prayer for MTW.”

Hundreds of youth and youth ministry workers are expected at the gathering, “MtW: More Than a Week” in Estes Park, Colo., July 5-11. The prayer effort launches Sun., June 8, and concludes Thurs., July 17.

A collection of daily devotions leading to prayers for the youth and the workers who will attend the gathering is available for download from National Ministries’ Web site, along with a bulletin insert to promote the effort in Sunday worship.

Prayers for the planning team and leadership as well as guest speakers and workshop leaders are also encouraged. More specifically, pray:

- For wisdom and diligence for those preparing the event.
- That each person will ex-

perience the presence of God and leave a changed person.

- That after youth go home, they will make room, even in the midst of living at warp speed, for the spiritual dimensions of life.

- That the experience will last “More Than a Week”—rather, for a lifetime!

Encourage support of “40 Days of Prayer for MtW” in your congregation with the bulletin insert suitable for Sunday worship. Download the insert and the daily devotions and prayers at [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org) or [www.morethanaweek.org](http://www.morethanaweek.org).

## Call to Compassion Sundays

Roy Medley

In the face of the tragedies in Burma and China, the global food crisis, the impact of refugee resettlement upon local churches, the growing financial problems facing US families, and the continuing struggles faced in rebuilding the Gulf Coast, *we are asking American Baptist congregations to declare the first Sunday of each month from June – December 2008 as Compassion Sundays.*

On these Sundays, we call upon all American Baptists to show our solidarity with those who suffer as we remember them in prayer and commit ourselves to respond in tangible ways to their suffering as the hands and feet of Christ. For some this will lead to fasting and contributing the money normally spent on the meal to local efforts such as food pantries. For many it will mean contributing all or a portion of their income tax return for relief efforts. For others it will mean

joining the next ABC build on the Gulf Coast as a volunteer.

Compassion Sunday builds upon our tradition of receiving a deacon’s offering for the relief of those in need as we gather around the table of our Lord. At this table we recall that we are one with Christians of every country and every circumstance through our common faith in Christ Jesus, from the person in the pew next to us to the person farthest from our reach.

In the face of a great famine affecting the church in Jerusalem, Paul appealed to the church in Corinth to support relief efforts there. He reminded them: “<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> Under the test of this service, you will

glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others (2 Corinthians 9:11-13).

Our hope is that through our worship and prayers on these Compassion Sundays we will realize more fully our unity and our following of Jesus’ way of radical love, *αγαπε*. American Baptists have always been marked by our sacrificial following of Christ in response to the needs of others.

To assist you, we will be providing a downloadable litany of prayer that may be used each Sunday as a worship resource. Our prayer is that through this spiritual exercise we will more fully realize the meaning of the table of our Lord and will be drawn into a deeper embrace of our discipleship and our neighbor.

Roy, Medley  
General Secretary, ABCUSA



## Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for 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.

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Building Bridges Between Communities

## Calendar of upcoming Events

### JUNE

- 2—Diana Butler Bass, Author, Seattle FBC, 7 PM
- 6—Executive Committee



- 16—Take your pastor, family and/or friends to the Mariners versus Marlins Baseball Game, 7 PM

### JULY

- 5—11 MTW—national youth gathering, Estes Park CO
- 14—19 BPFNA Peace Camp, Quebec Canada.

- 19—Auditions for "Godspell"
- 25—Executive Committee

### AUGUST

- 19—Minister & Spouse Cruise. Clergy, save the date.
- 23—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood Community Church, 10 AM

### OCTOBER

- 10—11 6TH Annual Meeting, New Hope Baptist Church, Seattle.

### NOVEMBER

- 21 & 22—"Godspell", a fundraiser for Tent Cities and Evergreen Association, Seattle First Baptist Church, 7 PM each evening.

## 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.