



# Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 9, Issue 5

## MISSIONAL CHURCH LEARNING EXPERIENCE

National Ministries launched a program for local churches around 18 months ago that has had astounding results. It was initially offered for “rural” congregations, but has since been well tested with more urban congregations. The stories will move you. We now have the opportunity to engage in this program.

Evergreen Association and the American Baptist Home Mission Society (National Ministries) are teaming up to cordially invite all Evergreen churches and PCBA churches to enter a learning experience with other churches where you will be led in a step by step process to engage with your community to make a difference. We are offering this experience in two places. There will be meetings in the Bay Area of California and in the Seattle Area in Washington. It is a 14-month experience designed to help churches become more involved with their communities in ways that demonstrate Christ’s love.

In partnership with National Ministries, Evergreen and your local church, will receive 4 training sessions as a group. Every church will design and put into practice a community project that will serve as its learning tool. .

Every church is asked to develop a Missional Church Learning Team of 5 people: the pastor, three adult lay members and one youth member. The Learning Team commits to attending the four training sessions and doing the work generated by those training sessions. We are asking every church to pay \$100 to enter the program\*. This will help cover the cost of food shared at the training events. God will guide the team beyond this commitment.

American Baptist Seminary of the West is joining Evergreen and National Ministries to sponsor this program in California. Utah and Costa Mesa churches are invited to be a part of the

California group. **An introductory session is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2010** (this is a change) at 10:00 AM. The training sessions will be Saturdays— September 11, 2010; January 29, 2011; April 9, 2011 and July 30, 2011. The introductory session will be at Grace Baptist Church, San Jose CA. Not all events will be held at this location. Locations for all events will be announced.

Micky Holmes is the MCLE Coordinator for California. She can be reached at 510-841-1905 (ABSW) or at [mmholmes@absw.edu](mailto:mmholmes@absw.edu).

For our Washington, Moscow and Palmer churches, an introductory workshop will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at Fremont Baptist Church, Seattle at 5:00 PM. The four training events will be held on Sundays— September 12, 2010; January 30, 2011; April 10, 2011; and July 31, 2011. Palmer and Mos-

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### PRAYER CONCERNS

- *Evergreen churches seeking pastors*
- *Newly Ordained Ministerial leaders*
- *New immigrants to the U.S.*
- *The hurting, whatever the hurt and wherever they may be...*

(Continued on page 2)

## Events & Happenings Around the Association



### SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

invites you to experience the labyrinth walks each second Sunday, May 9th, 6—8 PM in the fellowship hall; the lower Seneca Street doors open to the fellowship hall.



### SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

invites you to the Ordination Council for Bruce Chittick, Saturday, May 8, 9:00 AM



### JAPANESE BAPTIST CHURCH

invites you to the Ordination of Woun Kim, Sunday, May 16, 2:00 PM



### GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH

hosts Open House for Shepherd's Garden—new, affordable housing facility for seniors, Wednesday, June 9, 11:00 AM



### UNITED CHURCH OF MOSCOW

will ordain Jodie Tooley, May 1, 2:00 PM

## MISSIONAL CHURCH LEARNING EXPERIENCE

(Continued from page 1)

cow, you're invited to be present on May 16 via SKYPE.

Carol Sutton is the coordinator for the greater Seattle area. She can be reached at

206-932-5608 or  
[carol-dicksutton@comcast.net](mailto:carol-dicksutton@comcast.net)

All are welcome to come to either introductory event to find out more about what might be involved. It is not necessary to bring a team to the introduc-

*continued*

tory meetings. Please give this opportunity to change the world serious consideration.

Grace and Peace,

## The Majority Never Rules in God's Kingdom

Most organizations are governed under Robert's Rules of Order. Here is a short history of how Robert's Rules of Order were established. Henry Martyn Robert was an engineering officer in the regular Army. Without warning he was asked to preside over a public meeting being held in a church in his community and realized that he did not know how. He tried anyway and his embarrassment was supreme. This event, which may seem familiar to many readers, left him determined never to attend another meeting until he knew something of parliamentary law.

Ultimately, he discovered and studied the few books then available on the subject. From time to time, due to his military

duties, he was transferred to various parts of the United States where he found virtual parliamentary anarchy since each member from a different part of the country had differing ideas of correct procedure. To bring order out of chaos he decided to write *Robert's Rules of Order* as it came to be called.

The word Ruler is a noun and is defined as a person who rules or governs; sovereign. God does not want his people to be ruled, instead he wants us to live together in unity. How can we be unified if we are governed by a system that allows 51% of the people to rule over the other 49%? That is why we at Evergreen use consensus instead of Robert's Rules of Order. Consensus is a noun defined as general

agreement or concord; harmony. Consensus involves a majority of opinion not a majority of people. There is a difference.



Ken Curl, Evergreen Chair

King David said it best in Psalm 133 (New International Version):

- <sup>1</sup> How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!
- <sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.
- <sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

*Ken*

## Kaleidoscope Institute Leadership Training

Eric Law's Summer Kaleidoscope Institute came to the Northwest last summer and is coming again this summer to Rainbow Lodge Retreat Center, North Bend, August 16-21, 2010. Eric tells about this unique training event:

*"We envision a unique KI training event with the following elements:*

- 1. Each participant will be invited to take the IDI online before arriving at the training event.*
- 2. The first two days will cover*

*the equivalent of the first course of our regular training Institute (Modules I-VII.)*

*3. The last two days will focus on the Intercultural Sensitivity Developmental Theory:*

- a. Creating an individual developmental plan*
- b. Making connections between theology and the stages of intercultural sensitivity*
- c. Reflecting on the implication of our intercultural sensitivity levels for our ministries*
- d. Application of KI skills and*

*tools to different stages of intercultural sensitivity development*

*We are in the process of forming the faculty for this event. We hope to include an expert of the Intercultural Sensitivity Developmental Theory."*

If you have any interest in learning more about Intercultural competency, consider signing up for the Kaleidoscope Institute this summer. Contact Marcia Patton for further details or check out the Kaleidoscope website at: [www.ladiocese.org/ki](http://www.ladiocese.org/ki)

## Daryl Lavway Installed as Pastor of Grace Baptist Church- San Jose



The Lavways  
Pastor Daryl and wife, Tatyana

On April 18, 2010 Grace Baptist Church, San Jose CA,

installed Daryl Lavway as pastor during an afternoon service. Dr. Marcia Patton delivered the charge to the congregation. Welcome Lavways!



Debi Simonsen, Chair of Grace Baptist San Jose Search Committee (Marge Burns' daughter)

## PCBA News

It is not too late to sign up for the Spring Conference at First Baptist Church, 305 North California Avenue, Palo Alto. This promises to be an excellent conference with guest speaker, the Rev. David Gregg from Chicago. David is currently studying for a Ph.D.

and has served for several years on the American Baptist Churches General Board. Come to hear this dynamic speaker. Call First Baptist Church, Palo Alto to make your reservations for lunch 650-327-0561.

Please check your email or look for a postcard for an announcement concerning the next BLT. For certain we will meet on Wednesday, September 8 and Wednesday, October 6. More information as it becomes available.

## Invitation to Join the Haiti Mission Trip

Ron Kirstein, Coordinator

Everybody knows about Haiti due to the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince last January. Some people know that Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Fewer still know that American Baptists missionaries have had a presence in Haiti for over 100 years.

This September the Evergreen Association of American Baptists is sponsoring a mission trip to Haiti. The Haitian Baptiste Convention and Nzunga and Kihomi Mabudiga, our ABC missionaries to Haiti, have invited us and are eagerly awaiting our arrival.

The trip will have two options: those wanting to go for the mission education and experience of Haiti and those wanting to stay on longer to help complete a work project at the eye clinic that Nzunga has in mind for us. The trip will take place on September 14 through 20 for the first group and September 14 through 25 for those wanting to participate in the work project.

At this point the costs are projected to be \$1,300 for the mission only group and \$1,550 for the mission plus work project group. The work

group may want to also consider a fund-raiser of sorts to help raise money to pay for the materials we will be using for our project at the eye clinic. At this time it is very difficult to secure definitive prices because after the earthquake everything is still in big transition in Haiti. Nzunga has conveyed his concern for our safety if we travel overland from Port-au-Prince to Cap-Haitian and will continue to explore options for us once he and Kihomi return to Haiti in May after their deputation. The prices above reflect some inflation to cover all possible alternatives so that we may not be caught with a surprise in the end.

The projected itinerary follows:

**Sept. 14**—Leave Seattle 10:50 pm for Miami

**Sept. 15**—Arrive Miami and leave 9:40 am for Port-au-Prince; Arrive Port-au-Prince 10:45 am: Tour earthquake damage and spend night in mission hostel

**Sept. 16**—Ground transportation or flight to Cap-Haitian; tour mission grounds; establish ground base for the week.

**Sept. 17-19**—Visit mission sites and worship on Sunday

in local churches.

**Sept. 20**—*Mission only group* return to Port-au-Prince via ground transportation or flight; return to Miami on 4:15 pm flight. This group will spend the night in Miami. (Individual arrangements need to be made.)

**Sept. 21**—*Mission only group* will fly at 8:40 am to Seattle arriving at 12:20 pm.

**Sept. 20-24** *Work group* will work on project at the eye clinic.

**Sept. 25**—*Work group* will return to Port-au-Prince via Ground transportation or flight; return to Miami on 4:15 pm flight. This group will spend the night in Miami (Individual arrangements need to be made.) and fly

**Sept. 26** at 8:40 am to Seattle arriving at 12:20 pm.

We are hoping to have a good contingent of Evergreen people experience Haiti firsthand and convey our experiences at the Annual Meeting in October.

For any questions, comments or reservations, please contact Ron Kirstein at [rkirstein@verizon.net](mailto:rkirstein@verizon.net) or 206-533-9285.

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## Hampton University Ministers' Conference and Choir Directors & Organists Guild Workshop June 6–11, 2010, Hampton Virginia

To register for conference go to <http://minconf.hamptonu.edu/registration.cfm>

**AB Attendees are invited to the 5th Annual Reception at the Embassy Suites-Hampton Roads Conference Center, Wed., June 9, 9:30 PM -10:30 PM, Conference Room A, for networking, fellowship, and refreshments.**

## CHALLENGE

We have many challenges these days—raising money for Haiti, going to Haiti for that matter! Raising money for Evergreen so we can stay afloat, keeping our local churches on track and with God so we know we are doing what God would have us do. We are challenged to be mindful of the earth, to care for our neighbors and those farther away who have little or nothing. I have another challenge for Evergreen.

Last year about this time, we began a partnership with Companis and Paul Roby to give some more time, energy and focus to our work with Refugees from Burma. This particular group of refugees is important to us because they are coming in record numbers to the US from camps in Thailand and other places. Many of them are already Baptists, their heritage being from the work of Adiniron Judson and those who followed him. And the challenge continues because they come at a time in our economy when the usually tough road for a refugee is even worse. Originally it was thought that these documented immigrants might take the jobs that heretofore had been offered to non-documented im-

migrants. However, those jobs are being taken by others who find themselves unemployed. Simple problem, jobs are almost impossible to be had for people whose English is poor at best.

The Challenge for us is in order to keep our relationship with Companis and keep Paul Roby “on staff” with Evergreen we need to raise an additional \$18,000 this year over and above our budget. What has Paul done? He has helped coordinate in a thousand ways relations between this organization and individuals. He’s help connect two congregations to Panther Lake Community Church so they are still meeting there. He has helped the Coalition for Refugees from Burma in many ways, including securing office/meeting space!

But we figure there is much more to do. Solution to the problem of creating a sustainable future for these new immigrants is huge. Paul is great at looking at the systemic problem these wonderful refugees face. We are working toward keeping Paul on our staff and asking that he work hard toward developing a means of employment for these folks. Possibilities include, but are not limited

to:

\*\*Finding a space where multiple families can live and “work” (the work may be teaching English or participating in a Choir that sings from place to place). One of the needs of these refugees is having a place where they can have community. This space could be a building no longer in use (school, other building space) that can be converted to housing (work for folk) and meeting space.

*“...we need to raise an additional \$18,000 this year over and above our budget.”*

\*\*Starting a job placement service where people are not only supervised by those who hire them, but are tracked by the placement service to make sure there are not cultural problems facing the worker or the folks hiring them because of things unforeseen (this may be as simple as hygiene issues that are different, or communication styles that are different).

\*\*Starting a small business that offers translation ser-

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Challenge

*(Continued from page 5)*

vices across distances

**\*\*Starting a small business that would make the native clothes here and sell them here (starting a whole new fashion craze!).**

We don't know which, if any, of these will be possible/viable, but we do know that something must be done and we know that there is no agency or person at the moment standing ready to address the long-term stability issue. God is calling not only

Paul, but us to support Paul that this work might go forward.

Can you help today?

Do you know of resources in your congregation that might help in one of these possibilities?

**\*\*Someone who owns property that might be converted to housing/meeting space?**

**\*\*Someone who knows the ins/outs of day/on-call/temporary labor services?**

**\*\*People who have grant funds for new small busi-**

*continued*

nesses, especially for refugees?

**\*\*Someone who can help us fund Paul's ministry for the year?**

We need your help. We need your prayers and your gifts. Please add this challenge to your prayer list and help us as we seek to find what God would have us to do.

Marcia Patton

# First Karenni New Year celebrated in the U.S.

Refugees, exiles, and supporters from the Southeast Asian country of Burma (Myanmar) joined hands in Seattle (Tukwila) on Saturday April 10, 2010, for the first annual Karenni New Year featuring dance, music and food from their Karenni homeland. Many Karenni refugees are at risk of

homelessness due to the lack of services they can access: owing to their lack of English and/or not enough time to become assimilated within the eight months they are given social support by the US and State governments. It is very important to keep the cultures of our refugees alive as they become

contributing members of our (U.S.A.) society. (See article entitled "Challenge" on pages 5-6 about how Evergreen hopes to help address these concerns.)



## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS)



The month of May has been designated for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS). It is one of the four annual offerings promoted by ABCUSA in addition to the on-going United Missions contributions. OGHS offering provides funds for the Ameri-

can Baptist response to disaster relief and development assistance in the United States and overseas. In cooperation with other denominations, OGHS is a channel for national and international aid in times of crisis.

Your support of the annual offerings and giving to the United Mission means dollars and resources are available immediately when there is a need around the world, allowing you to be a part of many areas of ministry.



## Take Pastor to Mariners Vs Twins Game—Monday, June 1



### BASEBALL TICKET(S) ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ 2 for \$20 or \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

Mail Tickets to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to Evergreen Association; send to 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032

You may also phone (253-859-2226), fax (253-859-1537) or email (clem@ea-abc.org) your request, and when payment is received, the ticket (s) will be mailed to you.

**ORDERS MUST BE IN THE KENT OFFICE BY 4:30 PM ON MAY 18, 2010**

## Prepare for Craft Sale at Annual Meeting

Evergreen churches and their members are encouraged to be donate hand-made items to Evergreen for a craft sale that will be held at this year's annual meeting. Sponsored by our Asian Caucus, the sale will be a fund-raiser to help support the Association's operating budget. The five

months between now and the annual meeting should give some of our creative folks time to plan and make some truly wonderful things. Please spread the word among your church groups and encourage your members to be working on this. Then come to the an-

nual meeting prepared to purchase items your friends and colleagues have made.

Details about when and where to bring your donated items will follow. Additional venues for sale of craft items will also be considered.

## Spirit of God Moving: Panther Lake Community Church



Dr. Paul Roby  
Burma Refugee  
Services Coordinator

In April, the **Washington Burmese Christian Fellowship** held their first regular Sunday worship at

Panther Lake Community Church (PLCC). This month, **Seattle Karen Community** will begin regular services there.

The Burmese Fellowship worships in the Burmese language, led by Rev. Joshua Lian. The Karen church, speaking S'gaw language, is led by Ms. Maggie Po, an educator who plans to lead wor-

ship until an ordained minister is called. Both pastors minister not only to those in their faith community, but also to the people in Burma and camps in neighboring lands.

The collocation is not a merger. PLCC remains an English language church, and the independent congregations worship at different times on Sunday. Yet, PLCC wants to be more than just a landlord to the refugee churches. "We've wanted a significant new mission for a long time," said Pastor Stan Smith. A committee, comprising leaders from the three churches, meets regularly to work out details of sharing the worship space.

Panther Lake has opened a little-used building on its campus, to serve as a refugee community clothing bank.

Only time will tell how the communities interact as the refugee churches grow, and their people learn English. But, people at Panther Lake find the youthful refugee congregations' worship energy exciting, and envision new fellowship and mission opportunities. Rev. Smith observed "I have a sense that our long-sought new mission may be coming, and connected to these new relationships. We don't yet know the form it will take, but this is very promising."



Coalition for Refugees from Burma

Invites You to the  
**Third Annual Greater Seattle Burma Refugees  
Potluck/Picnic**

Saturday, July 31, 2010 11:00am - 3:30pm

Lincoln Park, Seattle, picnic shelter #5, 8011 Fauntleroy Way SW, Seattle, WA 98136

For more info go to: [tinyurl.com/burma-picnic-2010](http://tinyurl.com/burma-picnic-2010)

## ABSW Thank-You Note

Michelle Holmes, Vice President of American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) writes:

"Thank you for your gift of \$349.58\* to the Annual Fund. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. This gift...strengthens us in our efforts to prepare ministers of the Good News for a world in desperate need of good news.

This past week-end we held our annual Open House for prospective students. It was well attended. A high point ...was...the stories of...alums [which] were a testimony to the quality of education that a student receives at ABSW...a seminary that cares for its students in the general community as well as

in the classroom.

May you be blessed by the knowledge of your association's vital role in educating ministers of the Gospel."

**\*Editor's Note:** *This figure represents 4% of the total amount given by Evergreen churches to United Mission in one month.*



AMERICAN BAPTIST  
SEMINARY OF THE WEST

## Black Caucus Bar-be-que Fundraiser Benefiting Evergreen Association



Virginia Grace helps Chef Ken and her dad, Vice Chair Curtis, handle the Bake Sale/Auction at 2009 Bar-be-que.

Put the date on your calen-

### General Secretary Roy Medley Reflects on Community

...Across the country, I find us talking much more about the church as community. How refreshing this is for a number of reasons. First, it signals to me a much healthier theological engagement about what it means to be church. Secondly, if converging lines of evidence are signs of the movement of the Spirit, then this is a place where God is at work among us. Third, it is one aspect of the healing that God is doing in our life as ABCUSA.

The truth is that fear has had a field day among us: first, the fear of the absolute fracturing of ABCUSA over the issue of homosexuality, and then, the fear of financial implosion

#### Prayer Concern From Marcia

I realized after I made a presentation to the GEC, that I don't tell this wonderful Evergreen Community enough of what I am doing. So, I'd like to ask for your prayers as I travel to Valley Forge to be present on Thursday, May 6 for an *ABC*

dar—July 17, 2010, invite your friends and family to do the same. Oh yes, and pray for a sunny, warm, NW picnic kinda day for the gathering!

Tickets will soon be available at your local church. We hope to have another grand time together.

The chefs each still believes he is the best at grilling (We

think they're all great, but the best—so we'll just keep sharing how much we enjoy their food, and perhaps they'll just keep cooking and working to get that “edge”!)

Hope you'll plan to be with us at the Cedar River Trail Shelter.

brought on by the Great Recession. Neither has occurred.

If it is true that “perfect love casts out fear,” then the obverse is also true, that “fear casts out perfect love.” Fear undermines community and the care we have for one another. Fear triggers our “reptilian brain,” our instinctual survival behaviors and thinking; and in fear we act for self and not for others or for community. Fear restricts both our compassion and range of behaviors; agape love enlarges both our compassion and our range of behaviors....

The church as covenanted community is not about my psychological needs for affirmation and belonging, or for that mat-

ter, any of my other felt needs—although by the grace of God those needs are fully met in community. The paradox is that these needs are seldom met through making them the focus of our life.

Their fulfillment, rather, is a by-product of our practice of love, peace and justice in community.

NOTE: Above are snippets of the article published on-line at [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org), In & Around ABCUSA, pg 2, GS Message Board.



*Family Conversation on Immigration.* I think Immigration is an important concern in this day and age and important for the ABC. I am looking forward to the conversation (to listen more than speak). Thanks for your prayers as we meet.

PS: The presentation at GEC went very well, thanks I am sure to your daily prayers.

I do know of some of your prayers for me and for the Association, and appreciate them.



## Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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Return Service Requested

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 **23rd** 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, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### MAY

1—Ordination Service for Jodie Tooley, United Church of Moscow ID, 2 PM

8—Ordination Council for Bruce Chittick, SFBC, 9 AM

16—Ordination Service for Woun Kim, JBC, 2:00 PM

24—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM

### JUNE

1—**Take Your Pastor to the ballgame, Seattle Mariners vs. Minnesota Twins, Safeco Field, 7:10 PM**

9—Open House for Shep-

herd's Garden Senior Housing, at GSBC, 11 AM

**12—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM**

28—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM

### JULY

17—Bar-B-Que Fundraiser sponsored by the Black Caucus, Cedar River Park, Tickets at local churches soon.

### AUGUST



10—SBU-Hosted Active Clergy/Spouse Dinner Cruise

16-20 Kaleidoscope NW Training, Rainbow Lodge...

## 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.