

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**
760 South Westmoreland Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90005 • (213) 384-2151 • fbcla@fbcofla.org



Volume LXXX

No. 5

MARCH 1, 2010

An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874

International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

BUILDING A NEW CHURCH IN SOMOTO, NICARAGUA



SIGN UP FOR eSCRIP AND HELP FBCLA

Join the original and largest electronic fundraising program where participating merchants contribute to First Baptist, Los Angeles each time you make a purchase using your free grocery loyalty or debit/credit cards that are registered with eScrip. There are no receipts to collect, no vouchers or certificates to buy, no hassles for you – and every purchase counts!

Some of the participating merchants include:

Grocery Club Cards: Safeway, Pavilions, Vons.

Debit/Credit Cards: Macy's, MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Discover, Debit Cards

For a complete list of participating merchants, go to www.escrip.com.

Also, visit the [eScrip Online Mall](http://www.escrip.com) and shop with over 700 merchant partners and earn money for your church.

You may register online at www.escrip.com or fill out a form available at the church. When registering, be sure to include the **Group Name:** "First Baptist Church of Los Angeles" and **Group ID #:** 3512256.

Electronic Scrip Incorporated (ESI) is a California-based corporation dedicated to establishing relationships between commerce and community – to provide resources to organizations and projects that support children. ESI introduced the eScrip program in 1999 and has distributed over \$120 million to schools and youth organizations across the country.

For more information, check www.escrip.com or talk with David Ho.

NEWS SUBSCRIPTION TIME IS HERE

It's time to send your subscription to the *NEWS* which is \$10.00 per year. If you have already paid your 2010 subscription, then you may wish to present a year's subscription of the *NEWS* as a gift to a friend or renew the ones already on your gift list. Every paid subscription helps to underwrite the cost to the church. Please mail your subscription to the church at 760 S. Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005 or you may give online at www.FBCofLA.org.

If you are reading the *NEWS* for the first time, and are interested in receiving a hard copy, please let us know and we will be happy to place you on our mailing list.

Or, if you are interested in receiving an electronic version of the *NEWS*, email us at fbcla@fbcofla.org.

Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

(USPS 194-440)

Annual Subscription Rate: \$10.00 per year

Editor: Sandra B. Rogers

Published biweekly by First Baptist Church, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Baptist Church News, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90005.

All copy for the *NEWS* should be typed or written plainly and reach the Church Office no later than 3:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, twelve days prior to publication.

STAFF: Carlton A. Rhoden, *Senior Minister*. Sandra Rogers, *Administrative Assistant and NEWS Editor*. Esther Sanchez, *Receptionist*. René Rowland, *Minister of Music*. Gilberto Saravia, Orlando Serpas, *Custodians*.

Ministry Team Volunteers: John H. Townsend, *Pastor Emeritus*. Ruth S. Morales, Richard S. Rogers, Robert B. Wallace, *Ministers*. David McFadden, *Moderator*.

CHURCH PHONE: (213) 384-2151

FAX: (213) 382-9669

VISTA TOWER: (213) 386-2786

www.FBCofLA.org

e-mail addresses:

General Inquiries: fbcla@FBCofLA.org
Carlton Rhoden: crhoden@FBCofLA.org
Sandra Rogers: srogers@FBCofLA.org
René Rowland: rrowland@FBCofLA.org
Esther Sanchez: esanchez@FBCofLA.org
Gilberto Saravia: gsaravia@FBCofLA.org
Robert Wallace: rwallace@FBCofLA.org

AROUND THE CHURCH

We are all cheering with **Maritza Osorio** who has found a job after a year of unemployment. She says, "I got a job! Praise be our Lord! I thank God, who has been the strength that has helped me throughout this past year, while unemployed. I also want to thank all of you, my friends, that have comforted me and prayed with me and for me during this difficult time. Love, *Maritza.*"



Congratulations to **Patricia Yeomans**, who is to be inducted in the Inaugural Class of the Los Angeles High Schools Sports Hall of Fame, for tennis. To be considered for induction, a candidate must be at least 35 years old and a graduate of an L.A. City school. High school, collegiate and professional achievements were considered by a selection committee comprising L.A. Unified School District administrators and experts in sports history.

Congratulations to **Brenda Tigerino** who celebrated her 15th birthday with a Quinceañera on February 14. After a prayer for Brenda during worship, the entire church was invited to the celebration following in the Robbins Dining Hall.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Please make note of the following important dates:

Wednesday, March 3: "Space for Grace" dinner and program, 6:30 p.m. (Please call the office immediately to make your dinner reservation).

Sunday, March 21: "Sunday of Service"

Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday / All-Church Potluck Luncheon following worship.

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday dinner and worship.

Sunday, April 4: **EASTER Sunday.**

Also, it's good to have Brenda's father, **Ronald Tigerino**, back in town after a stint working in Juneau, Alaska.

Alecia Kintner and her family are staying with parents, John and Carol Townsend, while her husband Mike has knee replacement surgery. Alecia and Mike have twins, a boy Hayden and girl Delaney, who just turned three. Residing in Roatan, Honduras, the Kintners expect to be in town through Mike's therapy period.

Many of you "old-timers" will remember **Tom Gingerich**, who served as our youth intern in the 1960's. Now living in Modesto, Tom, his wife Pat, and grandson Sean, were visiting the Los Angeles area over President's Day weekend and attended worship on February 14. It's always good to catch up with old friends!

SUNDAY OF SERVICE

March 21, L.A. Marathon day, we are partnering with HOPE-NET to feed people in our neighborhood. The day's schedule will be different from our usual Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Robbins Dining Hall

10:00 a.m. Make sandwiches

11:00 a.m. Serve bag lunches and get to know our neighbors

You are invited to **bring lunch meat** for the sandwiches on the Sundays **before March 21**. Drop it off at the Sunday Morning Café in Room 12 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **March 15, 2010** and will cover services and events through March 28, 2010. Material and articles for the March 15th issue should arrive in the church office **no later than March 3.**

CORE MINISTRY COORDINATORS' MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORTS: EVANGELISM and MISSIONS

Evangelism Ministry

As was reported in September 2009, the activities of the ministry of evangelism have faithfully continued throughout December of that year, (Prayer Walks, Coffee on the Plaza, and support for small cell groups—CNC & Ebenezer Class).

The Evangelism Ministry met every Sunday during 2009. The doors opened at 8:00 a.m. to invite people to our church. Thank God, we were able to gradually gain the confidence of many in the neighborhood. Now we can say that we have won new friends.

We have distributed New Testaments in two languages (English and Spanish) for free, advertising the church and activities.

Many people have entrusted us with their names, phone numbers and addresses, with the help of Alfonzo Moran, who has been following the work of evangelism during the week through the CNC. He has also taken the opportunity to meet and share the gospel with new people. An example of this is Moises Gonzales, a young Guatemalan who has just arrived in the country; he was looking for a church and we met through the ministry of coffee and he is now receiving classes of membership and also helps us in ministry.

New partners have come and worked with love and passion for evangelistic work; they would deeply appreciate your cooperation and support. In addition, we have improved our work and we have a more organized plan of action for 2010.

I think that the church recognizes that something is being done towards the great commission, but still not enough people are conscious of the importance of local evangelism; my dream and my goal is that one day we can have Spirit-

filled leaders and that groups representing the majority of our church work together to support the evangelistic work.

As I have said many times, we need the support of the whole church to win this battle. The mission of our church has a feature that makes us different from other churches in this great city; our mission is to reach people from different cultures. That makes the challenge more difficult but also much more interesting and commendable. But we must be aware that we are facing a mission as a church to which we must put all of our energy.

I know that the Baptist churches have done very important missionary work throughout the world, bringing good news and helping in various ways. I pray that each day we send more people committed to those countries that suffer. But I want to make us aware that we should not neglect the "mission" that we have around us. People are suffering, hungry, lacking in work and do not know God right here. Brothers and sisters, I ask, what can we do? It is good that we can assist Haiti in its problem, but should we not also help our neighbors, people who already are here, close to us?

I pray that every leader of First Baptist Church can engage in a real service to preach salvation through Jesus Christ. If we want to continue as an organization, we have to obey God and fulfill the Great Commission. We have a long history, luxury music and a beautiful temple, but if we do not communicate the gospel in the language and the way people can understand and assimilate, we will not achieve the results we want.

God bless you,
— Elizabeth Bonilla, Coordinator

Missions Ministry

This year, our Missions Ministry has been trying to establish a relationship with NightLight, under the guidance of Kim Smoot King.

We are rejoicing over exceeding our goal for the reconstruction of the building of our sister church in Somoto, Nicaragua. Our goal was set at \$10,000; we raised \$11,316.25. We will have a celebration during the worship service on February 14.

We recommend the division of our First Sunday Mission offering as follows:

- 50% for ABC United Mission
- 20% for our Missionary Partners, Chuck and Ramona Shawver
- 15% for the American Baptist Seminary of the West
- 15% for the American Baptist Theological Center

— John & Denie Sturm,
Co-chairs of the Missions Ministry

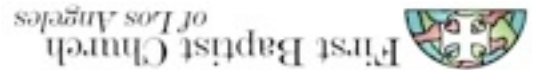
COMMUNITY TRAFFIC MESSAGE



The Los Angeles Police Department – West Traffic Division would like to keep you safe....
Safety Tips for Motorcycle Riders

- Wear a helmet and other protective gear
- Turn on your headlights and ride defensively
- Avoid the center of the lane where debris and oil build up
- Ride at a safe speed and never above your abilities
- Don't ride in a driver's blind spot
- Take a course to learn or reinforce safe riding techniques

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



PERIODICAL

PAGE 4

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

6:30 p.m.

“Space for Grace” Dinner and Program
Rev. Zach Hoover, speaking



COMMUNION SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“THE GREATEST STORY ON EARTH”
(Please read I Corinthians 10:1-13 in preparation)
REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching



SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“TABLOID TIMES”
(Please read Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 in preparation)
REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching

MARCH 1, 2010

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS