

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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APRIL 12, 2010

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

International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

SUNDAY OF SERVICE • MARCH 21, 2010

370 lunches given; 400+ sandwiches made; kitchen was a-buzz with workers preparing the lunches and Robbins Dining Hall was busy with greeters and "eaters." Appreciation to all who brought meat and cheese for the sandwiches and to HOPE-NET for purchasing the other food and supplies.



FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS, THE SHAWVERS, IN MEXICO

Good food is Good News! Ramona and I just returned from the state of Chiapas where we facilitated a workshop on family organic vegetable gardens for the women of La Ceyba. They have two goals: improve their diets with more and better fruits and vegetables and learn new and tasty ways to prepare their food, sort of a farmer Jones meets Julie & Julia.

Our workshop leader, Aurelio Lopez, helped us understand the advantage of working with native food and medicinal plants but the women insisted that they wanted more variety. The idea of having a food fair where we could share new ways of preparing familiar foods as well as new ones, generated lots of enthusiasm. We also got our hands dirty, digging and preparing planting beds on the level ground and terraced beds on the hillside. We learned about ways to fertilize, control pests and weeds without using chemical products. Fifteen women signed up to be part of the pilot project. While they start preparing their beds and compost

piles, we will be looking for fencing, basic tools and seeds. As water is in short supply, we will help them find storage containers and sprinkling cans. We will also be looking for the right people to help with the food fair.

As these women work together to plan, plant, and care for their gardens, they will also gain valuable skills in organizing and leadership. Their faith will grow as they see God blessing their efforts and they will be encouraged to face other challenges with the confidence and empowerment that success brings. Women in rural communities are at risk in many ways; poverty if they stay, but dangers of exploitation if they move to cities or other countries in search of work.

We are convinced that the God who promises life in abundance will be with the women of this small Mayan community as they take a step of faith and work to improve their lives.

It becomes increasingly difficult for Ramona and I to find words to express our gratitude for the prayer and generous financial support that so many wonderful people shower upon us. Thank you for keeping us in Mexico. You prayed for the men in San Juan Cote and they are all back to work and also received gifts to help them through the crisis of unemployment. Now we would ask your prayers for Gloria Solis. Gloria has suffered for years from a terrible ulcer on her left foot. She is 35 and the mother of 5 young children. The only suggestion the doctors have is amputation. Follow up therapy and a prosthesis would be impossible. So she suffers through her life in pain and constant difficulty. Believe with us and pray for a miracle for Gloria. Pray also for Mateo. He needs one more surgery on his eye socket and then should be ready for a prosthesis. Know that your sisters and brothers in Mexico pray for you and so do we.

– Ramona and Chuck

EARTH DAY 2010

April 22, 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the modern environmental movement. We will mark that anniversary on Sunday, April 18, when Dr. Wallace preaches on “Preserving Life.”

Here are ten simple things to do to help our earth:

Change a light: replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Drive less: Walk, bike, carpool or take mass transit more often. You’ll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don’t drive!

Recycle more: You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.

Check your tires: Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere!

Use less hot water: It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a low flow showerhead (350 pounds of CO₂ saved per year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).

Avoid products with a lot of packaging: You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.

Adjust your thermostat: Moving your thermostat down just two degrees in winter and up two degrees in summer will save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Plant a tree: A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

Turn off electronic devices: Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you’re not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

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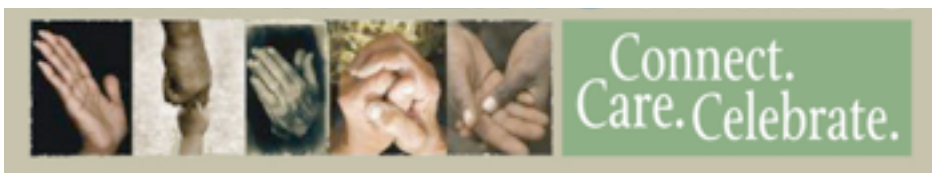
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WITH WILLING HANDS



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON MAY 2, 2010

Refugee Resettlement: Celebrating Creative Connections

Priscilla Aung and her family are Burmese Baptists who resettled in St. Paul, Minn. more than a decade ago. They soon became members of First Baptist Church (FBC) of St. Paul. In 2001, Aung asked the church whether she could invite some of her extended family to St. Paul. She wasn't asking the church to sponsor the families officially; she merely needed affirmation that her loved ones would be welcomed. The group heartily agreed, not realizing that this would be a watershed event in the life of the 150-year-old congregation. Pastor Bill Englund soon had 16 people living in the church basement, and the congregation found themselves in the deep end of the resettlement pool. Now FBC St. Paul is adapting Sunday worship and Christian education to people for whom English is a second or third language, responding to the practical and emotional needs of the new arrivals. In cooperation with a small theater company, American and Karen youth created and produced a play about the camps in Thailand and the journey to the United States. (The church hopes to make a DVD available.) "But most important," says Englund, "we are becoming what God has already made us—brothers and sisters in Christ." Getting involved with

refugee resettlement has forced the members of FBC to step out of their comfort zones—and stay out. "A church that chooses to creatively respond to what God is already doing must be willing to live with a certain degree of ambiguity and chaos," Englund observes. Celebrate this creative connection and caring with your America for Christ offering!

To find out more about refugee resettlement and how your church and region can help, contact Rev. Aundrea Alexander at aundrea.alexander@abc-usa.org or 800-222-3872, ext. 2430.

SOMOTO MISSION TRIP

Those interested in participating in a mission trip to our sister church in Somoto, Nicaragua during the first week of September should let the Missions Ministry know as soon as possible: John and Denie Sturm, Ron Tigerino or Bob Wallace.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all members who donated homemade food and volunteered to make our Fellowship Potluck Luncheon on March 28th a success. Not only was the food delicious, but the fellowship was warm and enjoyable.

We'll be calling on you again when we have our next potluck on June 13th.

—Gerald Gubatan,
Coordinator,
Congregational Care
Core Ministry

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES L.A. ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 30-MAY 1



ANNUAL MEETING April 30 – May 1, 2010 First Baptist Church, Glendale

Friday, April 30 Highlights:

- Women's Day** - Fontella White
- Encounter** with Dr. Gordon MacDonald - for Pastors & Leaders
- Interest Groups:**
 - Dr. LaVerne Tolbert, Teaching Like Jesus Ministries
 - Ray Schooler, Pieter & Nora Kalkman, International Ministries
 - Gordon MacDonald, Who Stole My Church?

Reception with Missionaries

Saturday, May 1 Highlights:

- ABCLA/ABCOSH Business Meeting**
- Worship Celebration** with Gordon MacDonald speaking
- Celebration Luncheon**
- Latino Celebration,**
May 1 – 5 p.m.

Iglesia Bautista Camino al Cielo,
Roberto Miranda Speaking

[Visit ABCLA website for more information!](#)

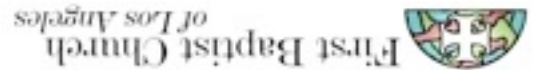
Please Register by April 19th!

Contact the church office if you would like to attend.

NEWS SCHEDULE

The next issue of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **April 26, 2010** and will cover services and events through May 9, 2010.

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



EARTH SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“PRESERVING LIFE”

(Please read Deuteronomy 30:15-20 in preparation)

DR. ROBERT B. WALLACE, Preaching

–Celebrating Earth Day–



SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“THE KEY TO PEACE OF MIND”

(Please read Psalm 23 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching