

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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

International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

MOTHER'S DAY TEA, Saturday, MAY 8, 2010

Appreciation to Annette Daniels and the Sisters of Faith for the hard work that went into making our Mother's Day Tea a success this year.

Below, pictures by Frank Picard of some of the "entertainers" of the afternoon:



JUNE 13 POTLUCK and PROGRAM

On June 13, we will have another All-Church Potluck, followed by a program presented by our member Rev. Pat Cosman, ABC chaplain at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance.

Pastor Rhoden has asked Rev. Cosman to focus on the spiritual and emotional aspects of the end of life. Because we have lost some key and loved people in the congregation in the recent months, this issue has been in the forefront. About the program, Rev. Cosman says:

"Life experiences trigger spiritual questions. As we age, we encounter so many losses which hold a challenge to the very things we thought gave meaning to our lives. Facing those challenges can include a need for healing as we seek to be restored or made new to a wholeness that is perhaps more significant than the cure of a physical illness.

"As a church community we offer our presence to one another as we walk in the midst of suffering, seeking new hope and new vision while also accepting our losses. So our journey is personal and also communal. We desire to live life with God, ourselves and others to the fullest. Eventually we hope for a peaceful death. And this journey is a spiritual one, drawing us to a deeper, more surrendered life with God.

"Please join us on June 13th. Come prepared to listen and to share from your heart."

Bring a dish to share, enjoy the fellowship and then, participate in the program to follow and be enriched.

A LEGACY OF LITERACY: *Miriam Noyes, American Baptist missionary in the Congo*

For nearly 200 years International Ministries missionaries have shared the Good News holistically, which includes literacy education. People around the world can only become "people of the Word" if they are able to read the Scriptures for themselves. Since 1995, Miriam Noyes, IM missionary, has been a leader in literacy education in the Congo. Here is part of her story.

My husband, Ed, and I have served as International Ministries missionaries for more than a quarter of a century in the west of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Based at the Lusekele Agricultural Resource Center, Ed focuses on training Congolese technicians and promoting more productive, profitable and sustainable farming techniques, while my work has been in the field of education. In 1995, I was asked by the Baptist women to develop a literacy program since many Congolese women and youth are marginalized or impoverished because they cannot read and write effectively or use French (the official language in educated circles and their window to the rest of the world).

This was a monumental challenge. I spent more than two years finding materials and learning how to teach in four languages: Lingala (spoken in the capital city of Kinshasa and parts of Bandundu province), Kituba (spoken primarily in Bandundu province), Kikongo (the language of Bas-Congo, east of Kinshasa), and French.

Since 1998, I have worked with a core of dedicated Christians who teach classes, write materials and train and supervise other literacy teachers and classes. The result has been that three-quarters of the Baptist churches in Kinshasa now have neighborhood literacy classes. Approximately 5,000 graduates have come from this program with most of today's women's leadership in Kinshasa churches being among the graduates. Benefits abound from this educational ministry that opens the heart and empowers the mind.

Beyond the City

Although the strength of the literacy work has been in Kinshasa, approximately 150 classes are scattered in rural areas. The latest class starts have been with an aboriginal pygmy people, the Twa, located in northern Bandundu Province. The Twa have been abused by neighboring Bantu peoples, that see the Twa as half animal because they come from the forest, and lack "civilization."

Literacy classes will help the Twa adapt wisely to improve their lives and advocate for themselves and their people where needed.

They are eager to learn more about the Good News: how everyone, including the Twa, have been created equal and are treasured by God and how life in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit can transform their lives, empower and lead them on the right paths. As they change, we hope their Bantu neighbors will have their vision transformed and accept the Twa as equal children of God.

Learn more about the Noyes' ministry at: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/Noyes

Ed & Miriam Noyes have worked with the Baptist Convention of Congo since 1984.

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IN MEMORIAM

The Church Family extends
its deepest Christian Sympathy
to the family of
CHARLENE CONRAD MENDES
Deceased May 14, 2010
Member 1960-2010

COMMUNITY TRAFFIC MESSAGE

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

- **Warning Signs:** Yellow and Orange; usually diamonds, pentagons and round signs
- **Regulatory Signs:** Red, black, and white; usually triangles, octagons and vertical rectangles; display traffic laws
- **Signs that Guide:** Green, blue, and brown; usually horizontal rectangles; provide helpful or interesting information.

THE BIENNIAL 2011: ABCUSA

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO • June 24-26, 2011

CELEBRATE! ¡CELEBRAD!

GOD'S GLORY LA GLORIA DE DIOS

GOD'S POWER EL PODER DE DIOS

GOD'S WAY EL CAMINO DE DIOS

- Reunite and fellowship with family and friends
- Be inspired by preachers, speakers, missionaries
- Witness transforming ministries across ABC and our partners
- Share in the forming of the future of our denomination
- Experience God's movement with our ABC/Puerto Rico family
- Renew yourselves and revive your ministries

CELEBRATE! ¡CELEBRAD!

Check the website periodically for updates: www.abc-usa.org

Visite la Página web para más información: www.abc-usa.org

Puerto Rico in 2011!

More affordable than you think!

KUDOS TO KUDZO!



Congratulations to Kudzo Ahegbebu on his recent honors at the national World Scholar's Cup held at the University of California at Irvine April 10-11. Kudzo and his team from John Marshall High School placed 3rd in the nation, with 27,569.3 points out of a possible 40,000 (only 157 points shy of tying for first place). They all will be traveling to Shanghai, China for the world competition June 18-20.

But wait, it gets better! Kudzo—a sophomore—was the 2nd place individual in the nation! He and his team had to prepare and answer questions, situations and scenarios in a number of disciplines, including psychology, science, economics, art, poetry, music, history and film. Kudzo also received a bronze medal in music.

Hats off to you, Kudzo, for your achievement, and our prayers go with you as you represent the U.S. in China.

From our MISSION PARTNERS, CHUCK & RAMONA SHAWVER, MEXICO

"God does new things with new leaders"

Dear Friends:

The children were singing as I walked into the sanctuary. Moises, the kid who has decided to start a children's ministry in his church, may have been showing off for me but the sound was sweet and the intensity of the singing left no doubt that it was the real deal. So why does an 18-year-old suddenly decide to gather children from his church and teach them the Bible and get them singing and worshipping? We can't explain it. No one asked him to do it, no one pays him to do it. It won't lead to a paid position in his church...there are none.

Ramona and I, along with most missionaries, work in contexts where ministry is in the hands of poor and humble volunteer workers. They don't get paid, they just do the ministry...they just do what Jesus asks them to do. We use phrases

like Leadership Development that make us sound like we have a fine missiology and a sophisticated strategy. The truth is that every day we are on our knees asking God to raise up people like Moises; men and women moved by the Spirit and filled with love for the kingdom. Without them, nothing happens. Our job is to support them: to pray for them, to be an example to them, to train them and to encourage them.

I gave Moises a basketball, some crayons and some clay. I talked to him about how his ministry would be more fun for him and the kids if it included a variety of experiences including art and recreation. He asked me to tell a Bible story. I've been thinking about Gideon lately so I told the story of the young guy who told God he was too poor and too small to help his people. God's reply: "I will be with you..." (Judges

6). The children and Moises listened intently. They especially liked me lying down on the floor to lap up water like a dog. Moises is Gideon. God is with him.

You support us with your prayers and your treasure and we support Moises and Irma and Saul and Pablo and Maria and Juanita and Pedro and Bonifacio. But they are the ones who make it happen...we just get to help a little and we get to watch. Thank you.

Ramona & Chuck, Mexico City

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **June 21, 2010** and will cover services and events through July 4, 2010. Material and articles for the June 21st issue should arrive in the church office **no later than June 9.**

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“FORGIVENESS”

(Please read Luke 7:36-50 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching

12:30 p.m.

All-Church POTLUCK

Program by Rev. Patricia Cosman



FATHER’S DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

Father’s Day Message by

REV. ROBERT WILKINS, Preaching