

PCBA Notes

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Marie Onwubuariri Now Heads Philippine Book Project

Marie Onwubuariri, Director of Admissions at American Baptist Seminary of the West, has begun as the new coordinator of the Philippine Book Project which was started by PCBA in 2002. Under her direction, a shipment of 27 case of books was sent on November 29.

In beginning her work, Marie said, "It a pleasure to be able to carry on the good work that was begun by Dale Edmondson over a decade ago, and I am thankful that PCBA continues to support it.

Dr. Bernabe Pagara, current Dean of the College of Theology at Central Philippine University (CPU) has also expressed great appreciation for this project and assures that the College will gladly receive all volumes that would enhance their library and benefit their students and also serve as the clearing house for books that would be more useful for churches and pastors of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches."

Anticipating a shipment in September, she has provided guidelines for making book contributions. (See page 3.) Commenting on conversations with colleagues connected to CPU, she says, "I understand that this project is greatly needed and very much appreciated. Please consider offering your best —books that would promote an informed, sound and relevant witness in the Philippine context."

BLT Speakers

("Baptists Lunching Together")

*Wednesday Luncheons at 12:00
Grand Lake Gardens
401 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland*

Jan. 9 - Naw San Dee

*Pastor, SF Kachin Baptist
Encouraging Burmese Refugees*

Feb. 20 - David Robinson

*Exec. Dir., Correctional Institu-
tions Chaplaincy, SC County*

Mar. 20 - J. Alfred Smith, Jr.

*Sr. Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist
"Expanding Ministries"*

Apr. 17 - Kay Kallender

*Senior V-P, Strategic Planning
American Baptist Homes
"Understanding Dementia Care"*

Reservations by Monday:

Joan Thatcher, 510-350-7008

PCBA Welcomes the Changing Scene

Comments by the Editor

We are happy to acknowledge the formation of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast. It is a new Regional structure through which American Baptist congregations in Northern California can relate to the life and mission of their denomination. This new Region also incorporates the ministry of the former American Baptist Churches of Oregon.

PCBA, on the other hand, the Pacific Coast Baptist Association, is not a "Region" but a group of American Baptist Congregations, clergy and laity formed for the purpose of fellowship, mutual support, and cooperative endeavors between churches in the same geographical area—all within the context of historic Baptist principles. Although congregations served by PCBA (either as member churches or as program participants) organizationally belong to several different Regions, the value of coming together for worship, learning, and mission has proven itself over the years since our beginning in 1997.

Our annual gathering held last May at the First Baptist Church of Alameda, the two "overview" series at Allen Temple Baptist Church, the December "Singing the Season" at the Oakland Burmese Baptist Church (in the building of the First Baptist Church of Oakland), the Philippine Book Project which has sent 6,000-7,000 books to the College of Theology at Central Philippine University, and our monthly luncheons where we interact with denominational and other leaders are examples of the contribution PCBA has made to our life together. In addition to these programs, PCBA's ordination process has been of significant benefit to several congregations including our newest member congregation, the San Francisco Kachin Baptist Church.

It is our hope that in the time ahead, new opportunities for working cooperatively with the newly-formed Region will come about. One such opportunity has already happened: PCBA's co-sponsorship of Youth Quake, a youth event held as part of the new Region's meeting here in October.

The new Region has welcomed more than 20 churches in Northern California who wish to be more integrally related to the denomination than they found possible through "Growing Healthy Churches," formerly known as American Baptist Churches of the West. We salute the commitment of these congregations to a more authentic American Baptist identity.

Looking Ahead

Jan. 14-15 - Ministers Council Retreat - "Spiritual Formation for Clergy"

San Damiano Retreat Center / Karen Yee (Karen.tina@usa.net)

June 21-23 - ABC-USA Biennial Gathering - Kansas City

Annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast - Feb. 2

Continuing a popular tradition, the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate will hold its annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 2 at 10:00AM at the Maritime Center at the Port of Oakland, 4001 Seventh Street. The Seafarers Ministry is in its 67th year.

Shell Ridge Supporting Habitat for Humanity's "Faith Build"

Shell Ridge Community Church has joined with others in helping to fund an "All Faiths House," one of ten homes being developed by Habitat for Humanity near the Walnut Creek BART station. The development is to be called "Pleasant Creek."

The All Faiths House will bring faith communities of different kinds together to focus on funding and building a home in partnership with a low-income family. Donations are being matched by an anonymous donor up to \$50,000.

PCBA Spring Conference

Sat., May 11

"The Promises and Perils
of Leadership"

Guest Leader - Debora Jackson
*Executive Director, American
Baptist Ministers Council*

Hosted by Lakeshore Ave. Baptist Church

Book Contribution Guidelines *Philippine Book Project*

Selecting Books - The following categories are used by the Library of the College of Theology, and book donations should be made with these in mind: Religion, Natural Theology, Bible, Christian Theology, Christian Moral and Devotional Theology, Christian Orders and Local Church, Christian Social Theology, Christian Church History, Christian Denominations and Sects, Other and Comparative Religions. Books for pastors, and congregations, books on Pastoral Ministry and Christian Education. Within these categories, the best books are those that are still in very good, like new, or new condition and are not limited to a particular local context.

Preparing Books -

Gather your donations in new or like new book boxes adequate for overseas shipping (approx. measurements: 12"x12"x18" or 1.5 cubic feet). Please be sure to reinforce well with packing tape. Bring them to Marie Anwubuariri's home in San Pablo or arrange a vehicle-to-vehicle exchange (for example at ABSW or at a PCBA gathering) during July or August 2013. Smaller donations (less than one box), can be brought in bags or small boxes to ABSW.

Marie may be contacted by email at mariecpo@gmail.com or phone at (510) 435-2377.

People and Churches

by Joan Thatcher

In November, the ABC nominating Committee proposed **Donald Ng**, pastor since 1998 at First Chinese Baptist in San Francisco, to be the next President of ABC-USA. He is now the national Vice-President. . . . In January **H. James Hopkins** of Lakeshore Church became Chair of the ABSW Board of Trustees. He has also been made a member of the Board of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. . . . Shell Ridge Church recognized **Carol Eklund's** retirement as choir director after two decades. In 2013, she will become Moderator of the church.

Rick Mixon preached at Seattle FBC on Oct. 14, recognizing the 40th anniversary of his seminary internship there. The Palo Alto church has granted him a three-January sabbatical at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo to pursue a certificate in spiritual direction. . . . **Arlo Reichter**, who, as Executive Minister of the Wisconsin Region, worked with the FBC of Berkeley, will begin a three month sabbatical early in 2013. He will research early ABC mission work in Burma, visit nine Chin congregations in the United States, and travel to Burma with a delegation from Central Seminary. . . . A change of leadership has been announced by Growing Healthy Churches with the retirement of Executive Minister Paul Borden. He will be succeeded by **Timothy Brown**, pastor of FBC, Clovis, who will assume GHC leadership in addition to his pastoral duties. . . . Progress is proceeding well at **Beth Eden Baptist Church** in Oakland on their new Christian Education building. They hope to host the PCBA Spring Conference there in May, 2014. . . . Congratulations to **LeAnn Snow Flesher**, Academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament at ABSW, on the recent release of *Daughter Zion: Her Portrait, Her Response*, which she co-edited. The book showcases recent exploration of the portrait of Daughter Zion as "she" appears in biblical Hebrew poetry.

In Memoriam

R. Thomas Coleman, Pastor of Berkeley's Church by the Side of the Road since 2004, died on October 14 after a long illness. His memorial service was held at Allen Temple. . . . **Howard Moody**, nationally recognized progressive religious leader who is remembered within PCBA for his support and encouragement of our congregations while under attack, died on September 12 at age 91. He was a social activist ahead of his time and spent 35 years as senior pastor of Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village.