

# PCBA Notes

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## **Biennial Mission Summit Announced for June 21-23**

*American Baptists to Gather in Virginia Beach*

"Inspiring speakers and preachers and experienced professionals and leaders" are said to be lined up for the biennial gathering of American Baptists, June 21-23 in Virginia Beach. Plans call for introducing a new "Biennial Academy" in which peers in various areas of life will share and learn about topics impacting their lives and that of their congregations.

The gathering includes a three-day youth conference for middle and high school ages, called "Beach Break," as well as a Vacation Bible School-style program for kindergarten and elementary ages. Daycare for younger children will be available.

Among the impressive group of speakers announced are Howard Stevenson, nationally recognized clinical psychologist and researcher; Elijah Brown, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Jolene Erlacher, founder, trainer, and consultant at Leading Tomorrow; and Ngwedla Paul Msiza, Baptist World Alliance president.

Registration information: [www.americanbaptists2019.com](http://www.americanbaptists2019.com) also through local congregations. Registration before March 15 offers reduced fees. Promotional material for families suggests coupling the biennial with a vacation trip.

### **"JUSTICE JAMS" IN OAKLAND**

*May 15 - Mental Illness*

Justice Jams, introduced by Oakland's Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, aim to create a community "hub"---a place where organizations and individuals addressing issues of justice come together to inform the community about the issues and what is being done to respond to them. Since its inception last year, the Jams have dealt with homelessness, gun violence, and immigration. Representatives of faith communities and social service and governmental organizations have presented updates on their work and set up conversation stations for one-on-one communication with people interested in their work.

Mental Illness, will be the focus of the next Jam, Wednesday, May 15, 6:30-8:30, at the Lakeshore Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue.

## Brief Notes

**Water at Redwood Glen** - Following several anxiety-filled years at Redwood Glen Camp, provision has now been secured for a supply of water adequate to program needs.

**Seafarers Ministry Makes the SF Chronicle** - Columnist, Carl Nolte, of the *San Francisco Chronicle* devoted his column on December 15 to the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate, one of PCBA's supported ministries. The article may be viewed online at <https://tinyurl.com/y73eyzg6>.

**Heartfelt Thanks for Books** - A plaque has been received from the College of Theology of Central Philippine University expressing "greatest appreciation" for the more than 10,000 used volumes PCBA has shipped to the College's library. It was given Dale Edmondson during his December trip to the Philippines (mentioned in editorial).

**Pianist Needed at Grace, San Jose** - Contact Pastor Liliana Da Valle, [email@graceinsanjose.org](mailto:email@graceinsanjose.org) or 408-295-2035.

**Aspire and Achieve** - Lakeshore's Social Justice Committee engages in the "A&A" program at Oakland Technical High School working with "100 Black Men and African American Male Achievement," providing mentoring, tutoring and visits to colleges and cultural events.

**Chico Church Offers Help to Fire Victims** - In part, using funds sent by other congregations, First Baptist Church, Chico has provided space for trauma and grief training for the teachers of Paradise School District, provided two classrooms to the Paradise School District for special need students, and helped aid displaced church families with specific needs.

**"Peace Camp" goes to South America** - The popular camp experience of the North American Baptist Peace Fellowship this summer will be "global" in scope, being held in Cali, Columbia on July 15-20. To register: <https://www.globalbaptistpeace2019.org/>

**Alameda County Homeless** - Responding to the 2017 report of 5,500 people homeless in Alameda County, the Berkeley Food and Housing Project (supported by PCBA) operates a six-person full-time outreach team active in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville visiting homeless encampments, parks, shelters, etc.

**Solar Panels to be Installed** - Responding to the challenge of Global Climate Change, the congregation at Lakeshore Avenue Church has voted to install solar panels on the roof of its sanctuary.

## **Hopevale: 1943-2018**

*Comments by the Editor, Dale Edmondson*

*December 20<sup>th</sup> was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom in the Philippines of eleven representatives of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the young son of two of them. With the advent of the Second World War, many American missionaries were evacuated, but these chose to remain to continue their ministry, taking refuge in an inland jungle area on the Island of Panay. Upon their discovery by the occupying forces, they were brutally killed, all except the child being beheaded, and the child bayoneted. The place of their hiding was named Hopevale.*

*Word of the Hopevale Martyrs had an emboldening effect on the Baptist churches of the Philippines and, among American Baptists (then called "Northern Baptists"), it became an inspiration for strengthening the Denomination's post-war international ministry. Sadly, the story of these people's courageous commitment has been all but forgotten among many in our denominational life. But not so among Filipinos. In that country it continues a vital part of their tradition.*

*Through a series of unanticipated events, the Hopevale story has intersected with my own life in a number of ways, dating back to my early preparation for ministry and the opportunity that Alice and I had in retirement to teach briefly at Central Philippine University. Reflecting on these events, and aware that the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hopevale was coming, I set down some personal reflections. When these were shared with a Philippine acquaintance, when these were shared with a Philippine acquaintance, I was surprised by an invitation to present the remarks as part of the Hopevale Diamond Commemoration.*

*At this four-day event, there was a large representation of Philippine Baptists, representatives of our own denomination, and also some Baptists of Japan, a meaningful presence given the background of the executions. For me, the observance was a memorable experience, linking together the several ways my own life has been touched by this story.*

Copies of Dale's remarks, "Hopevale: A Life Pilgrimage,"  
are available upon request.

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## People

**Mike Burch**, Interim Pastor at Shell Ridge Community Church, and his wife, **Tania**, welcomed a baby daughter, **Vania Juliana Burch Aquino**, on February 8. The congregation had given a baby shower in December in anticipation of her arrival.

**Laura Landgraf** recently suffered a severe eye injury. As of this date, the outcome of her treatment is uncertain. Laura's ministry, which addresses concerns of sexual abuse, is one affirmed by PCBA. In addition to her well-received book, *Fifth Sister*, she had been known for an arresting Ted Talk, which is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AH4DJtHhe8E&feature=youtu.be>

**Gail Hill**, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chico, has been elected to the Board of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. The Fellowship notes that during her ministry in Chico she has created a program with the Interaith Council regarding "Fear of the Other" and also has been involved with immigration concerns on the border with Mexico.

**Nathan Brittsan**, Associate Pastor at Grace Baptist Church, was honored in a service on January 13 as he was leaving the staff on which he had served for five years. He is presently a student at American Baptist Seminary of the West. **Jim Hopkins**, Pastor at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church of Oakland, was preacher for the occasion.

**Allison Tanner**, Minister of Christian Formation at Lakeshore Church, traveled to Bethlehem in the Holy Land shortly before Christmas as part of a delegation meeting with people from the Palestinian Christian community. She said during the meeting the group addressed how "the international Christian community can stand in solidarity and partnership as we work together for God's justice in Palestine, in our own communities and throughout the world." Upon returning she has led sessions on a theological understanding of the Palestinian people and has promoted an investment resistance to industries participating in structural injustices and against Palestinians.

**The Pacific Coast Baptist Association**,  
emphasizing historic Baptist principles,  
is a group of American Baptist congregations,  
clergy, and laity in fellowship since 1997