

Kindled Calling

*I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God,
which is in you through the laying on of my hands*

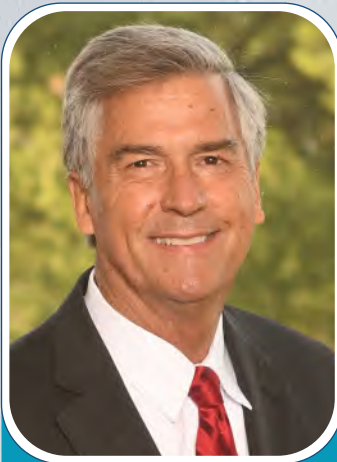
2 Timothy 1: 6

**ABCOFLASH ANNUAL
MINISTRY REPORT**

2024-2025

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Rev. Andy Quient

Dear ABCOFLASH Family,

For the past several years, our annual reports have reflected the same theme we chose for our annual meeting. This year's theme, "Kindled Calling," is no exception. These pages are filled with examples of the call of God constantly being reignited in the life of the region, our ministry partners, and individuals.

For example, examining our financial pages shows continued growth and responsible investment. Thanks to the generosity of past saints and the wise stewardship of our board and staff, we are fully funded administratively. What it means to our donors is that 100% of every dollar contributed to the region goes to our partners, such as missions, our validated ministries, and our "Churches Helping Churches" program, to name just a few.

In addition, we were formally recognized in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 5, 2025, by the American Baptist Historical Society for our assistance with the Japanese American Confinement Sites Project. Likewise, International Ministries often acknowledges our partnership with them both monetarily and in our involvement with individual global servants who find a "home away from home" in our region. Your generous spirit makes this possible. Thank you!

There is plenty of evidence that the Lord is fanning the flames in human hearts as well. For instance, last year, during the annual meeting, Pastor Warren Stewart, our keynote speaker, gave the challenge for our people to be willing to "pass the baton." Pastor John Simons heard the Lord's call very clearly and realized that he was being called away from being the Sr. Pastor of FBC Glendale to a new Kingdom assignment as Vice Provost and Professor of Palm Beach Atlantic University. We pray with "Godfidence" for his continued success.

Similarly, I too, sensed the call of God during that same annual meeting, which is why I announced my pending departure six months ago to be effective in April of 2026. Although I'm of "retirement age," my leaving is not as much of a retirement as it is a calling to other activities. My time with our churches has reinforced my desire to return to the pastoral ministry. While I love getting to know many of our churches and ministries in a general sense, I dearly miss the intimacy that involvement with the local church provides. Additionally, at the urging of Alfreda Hunter of Trinity Baptist, I am eager to write, hopefully leading many to the kindled calling that God has for all.

In closing, I am grateful to our terrific staff, board, my predecessor Dr. Sam Chetti, our ministries, and the woman I soon hope to be spending more time with, Lisa Quient. From the depths of my soul, thank you for this challenging and inspiring 12-year (4 as a Region Resource Minister, 8 as your Executive) chapter in ministry. Our Lord, through you, has kept the fire burning.

In His Service (and Yours),

Andy Q.

Executive Minister

We thank you for your generous support of the United Mission, Regional Support, and the entire American Baptist Mission Support. Below is a comparison of 2024 and 2025 until the end of July.

OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Jan-Jul 2025	Jan-Jul 2024
United Mission	20,223.40	\$34,548.64
America for Christ	5,990.87	6,404.80
World Mission Offering	9,949.88	12,383.00
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering	22,748.19	23,523.08
One Great Hour of Sharing	25,673.00	8,819.00
Region Offering	24,832.67	40,679.25
Institutional Support Program	4,071.64	5,663.31
Specifics	51,630.85	52,800.13
Targeted	115,128.73	129,489.39
Total	280,249.23	\$314,310.60
Portion of Support for ABCOFLASH Ministries	\$42,603.56	\$68,439.87

ABCOFLASH SUPPORT

Your gifts help support:

- Annual Celebrations
- Arizona Association Annual Meeting
- Board of Directors
- Church Legal Assistance
- Church Property Protection
- Conclaves and Consultations
- Financial Commitments to ABCUSA
- Hawaii Association Annual Meeting
- New Church Planting Program
- Pastor and Church Hardship Assistance
- Resource Staff Travel and Other Expenses
- Specific International Ministries Projects
- Training Events
- **Regionally Validated Ministries**
 - Faith in Christ Ministries
Mission to Underserved Community
 - FIBCO Family Services
Ministry to Individuals & Families- Phoenix, AZ
 - Hands for Hope Ministry
Mission to Urban Children & Youth
 - Rainbow Acres
Ministry to adults with developmental disabilities



David Cheng
President

I am grateful to God for our ABCOFLASH staff and Board of Directors, whose ongoing efforts strengthen our region. Their contributions ensure that the many churches and ministries that make up ABCOFLASH can effectively spread the Gospel and serve our communities. Our staff and Board are a microcosm of the diverse ethnicities that comprise the region, so various groups are represented.



From left to right: Miguel Albanez, David Cheng, Andy Quient, Susan Hall, Tom Vaughn, Mary Duong, Wes Harada, Steve Simons, Dave Fields, Charlotte Chang. Missing: Lilian Rivera and Debbie Gentry

This year began on a tragic note as various wildfires hit our communities in the Los Angeles County region. Our Board immediately worked with the staff to establish a Wildfire Relief fund to which our churches and individual members could contribute financially to meet any needs that might arise. Through your loving generosity, the fund accumulated more than enough to provide for expenses to help people affected by the fires. In addition, numerous churches stepped up to directly minister to their communities. Thankfully, none of our churches burned down in the fires, and no lives were lost among our members. ABCOFLASH remains committed to helping those impacted by the wildfires.

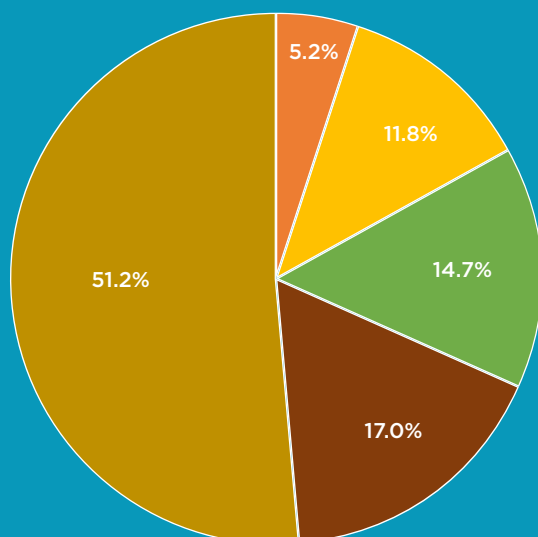
Late last year, as we considered the ABCOFLASH budget for 2025, we realized that our expenses were going to outpace our anticipated income for the year. In response, we formed an Advancement Task Force to look at ways to address this. We realized that we needed to better educate our constituency about the work of ABCOFLASH, specifically, how churches and ministries are benefiting from our work. We also decided to make a more concerted effort to help our pastors learn how to encourage more giving to their own churches. Through various activities, our goal is to create a "win-win" situation where both our churches and ABCOFLASH can strengthen our financial stability and conditions. With God's help, we will labor together to accomplish this despite the challenging economic times that we all face.

Most of you know by now that Rev. Andy Quient, our beloved Executive Minister, aims to retire in April 2026 in order to pursue new ministry opportunities to which the Lord is leading him. We thank Rev. Andy for his hard work and sacrificial efforts on behalf of ABCOFLASH, especially following the footsteps of his long-serving predecessor, Dr. Sam Chetti. We are grateful to Andy's wife, Lisa, for her sacrifices in allowing Andy the time and space to pursue his calling. Rev. Andy's decision to step away from the Executive Minister duties has created an opportunity for a new individual of our Lord's choosing to take over the role to lead ABCOFLASH for the next season. Pursuant to our Bylaws, our Board of Directors has formed a search/succession committee to identify the next Executive Minister. In conjunction with our national organization, American Baptist Churches of the USA, the committee will consult with various constituencies to determine what ABCOFLASH needs for its next Executive Minister. The committee will subsequently entertain applications from interested and qualified candidates for consideration. We ask for your support and prayers for the search/succession committee as it carries out its task of selecting the right leader for ABCOFLASH and for the Board as it considers the various issues that face our region.



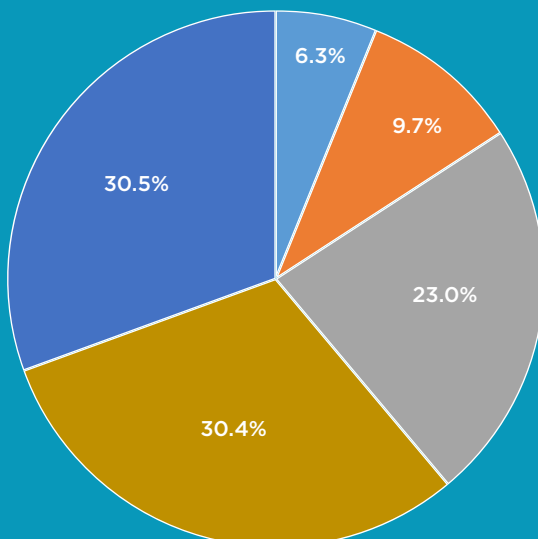
Mr. Wesley Harada
Treasurer

The ABCOFLASH Board includes my esteemed colleagues from churches across our region. All servants of God who do their best to govern effectively and monitor the finances entrusted to our care. Our duty is to review financial reports and ensure we exercise due diligence in our decisions. We were pleased to see that our financials reflect the return of dividends and interest this past year. This past year, we examined properties, receivables and restricted funds. We updated and adjusted our reports as needed. I have served as treasurer and worked closely with our business manager, Charlotte Chang, to present reports to the board for them to review. Thank you for taking a moment to review the graphs and reports. Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns. Thank you for entrusting me and our board with the task of monitoring God's finances.



TOTAL EXPENSES - 2024

\$96,942	5.2%	Depreciation, Interest, Loan Loss
\$220,310	11.8%	Management & General
\$274,160	14.7%	New Church Plant, Grants
\$316,840	17.0%	Ministry & Programs
\$951,931	51.2%	Salary & Benefits
\$1,860,183		



TOTAL REVENUE - 2024

\$202,632	6.3%	Ministry & Program
\$309,774	9.7%	Contribution Income
\$737,081	23.0%	Notes Receivable, Interest Income
\$972,848	30.4%	Dividends, Interest, Rental Income
\$977,094	30.5%	Unrealized Gain Investments
\$3,199,429		

<u>ASSETS</u>	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 984,729	\$ 967,837
Accounts receivable	95,566	78,744
Prepaid and other assets	24,635	18,856
Accrued interest	52,137	54,616
Notes receivable - current portion	579,599	689,026
Total Current Assets	1,736,666	1,809,079
Investments	11,231,276	9,249,469
Notes receivable, net of current portion	15,454,841	15,892,658
Certificate of Deposit	230,384	230,384
Investment in Real Estate	700,000	700,000
Right-of-Use Assets (Leases)	342,350	450,280
Equipment and improvements, at cost, net	11,198	14,519
Total Assets	\$ 29,706,715	\$ 28,346,389

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	18,872	30,073
Accrued expenses	81,634	73,618
Notes Payable, current portion	21,453	11,671
Lease Liability, current portion	109,621	107,930
Total Current Liabilities	231,580	223,292
Notes payable, net of current portion	1,282,823	1,160,412
Lease liability, net of current portion	232,729	342,350
Total Liabilities	1,747,132	1,726,054

Net Assets

Net assets without donor restrictions	26,252,611	25,002,411
Net assets with donor restrictions	1,706,972	1,617,924
Total Net Assets	27,959,583	26,620,335
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 29,706,715	\$ 28,346,389

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Reviewed Report, Dec 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024			2023		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE						
Contribution income	\$ 231,262	\$ 78,512	\$ 309,774	\$ 236,621	\$ 711	\$ 237,332
Investment income						
Notes receivable interest income	735,837	1,244	737,081	734,395	1,210	735,605
Dividend, interest and rental income	904,897	67,951	972,848	439,782	99,786	539,568
Unrealized gain(loss) on investments	977,094	-	977,094	1,307,731	(20,963)	1,286,768
Latino ministry income	128,828	-	128,828	80,007	-	80,007
Youth ministry income	38,194	-	38,194	46,446	-	46,446
Other program, miscellaneous income	35,020	590	35,610	38,531	-	38,531
Net assets released from restrictions						
Specific ministry projects	59,249	(59,249)	-	143,329	(143,329)	-
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 3,110,383	\$ 89,048	\$ 3,199,431	\$ 3,026,842	\$ (62,584)	\$ 2,964,258

OPERATING EXPENSES

Administration - General	208,442	-	208,442	212,048	-	212,048
Salaries and benefits	951,931	-	951,931	919,257	-	919,257
Executive Minister - Administration	11,868	-	11,868	13,718	-	13,718
Latino ministries expenses	183,678	-	183,678	134,793	-	134,793
Youth ministries expenses	47,301	-	47,301	52,667	-	52,667
Other program activities	85,861	-	85,861	98,423	-	98,423
Restricted appropriated expenses	29,900	-	29,900	14,672	-	14,672
Grants and assistance	167,603	-	167,603	73,930	-	73,930
New church planting	76,657	-	76,657	64,247	-	64,247
Depreciation, interest, loan allowance	96,942	-	96,942	79,573	-	79,573
Total Expenses	\$ 1,860,183	-	\$ 1,860,183	\$ 1,663,328	-	\$ 1,663,328

Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,250,200	\$ 89,048	\$ 1,339,248	\$ 1,363,514	\$ (62,584)	\$ 1,300,930
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	25,002,411	1,617,924	26,620,335	23,638,897	1,680,508	25,319,405
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 26,252,611	\$ 1,706,972	\$ 27,959,583	\$ 25,002,411	\$ 1,617,924	\$ 26,620,335

Note: Financial Statement from Independent Accountant's Reviewed Report, Dec 31, 2024 and 2023



Rev. Dr. Shawn Zambrows
Chair

The Ordination Standards Committee of ABCOFLASH has the duty of examining candidates for ordination at the request of their local church. It is the committee's responsibility to determine whether the candidate meets all the requirements for a Standard American Baptist Ordination. Once it is determined that the candidate meets those requirements, the committee will recommend to the candidate's local church to proceed with ordination.

Those who are approved for Standard American Baptist Ordination and are then ordained by their local church will hold the status of an ordained minister in all regions of American Baptist Churches USA.

This past year, the committee examined the following candidates and recommended that their local church proceed with ordination:



◀ **Rev. Jon Rinkus**
First Baptist Church of Pasadena

Rev. Tyler Mathis-Brewington ▶
First Baptist Church of Pasadena

▲ **Rev. Nick Tawa**
Palos Verdes Baptist Church



In addition to our duties with the candidates who come before the committee, this year, the committee has been working to update and streamline the documents used in examining candidates. It is an honor and a privilege to serve God and the American Baptist family in this way. It is a blessing to see how God is raising up ministerial leadership for our churches here in ABCOFLASH and beyond.

ORDINATION STANDARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Shawn Zambrows, Chair

Rev. Brandon Bouldin

Rev. Seth Clark

Rev. Janna Louie

Rev. Melanie Mar Chow

Rev. Victor Olivas

Rev. Dr. William Thurmond

Rev. Alvin Tunstill



Doug Hubbard
Regional Resource Minister

2025 Biennial Mission Summit

From July 3-6, 2025, American Baptists from across the United States and Puerto Rico gathered in Omaha, Nebraska, for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit. With the theme “Come Seek Living Water,” the event welcomed attendees into four days of worship, learning, fellowship, and Spirit-led renewal. Several from ABCOFLASH made the journey to Omaha for this gathering that called participants to come, seek, and live by the life-giving water of Christ.



The Biennial Worship team included Rev. John Polite from Granada Hills Baptist Church and Alex Martinez from Shine L.A.



The American Baptist Historical Society featured their new exhibit “A Resilient Faith,” which presents the Northern Baptist response to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The exhibit is the culmination of the ABHS Japanese American Confinement Sites project. Over 16,000 pages of records were scanned, including items contributed by congregations in Seattle and Los Angeles. ABCOFLASH contributed to creation of this exhibit and was recognized at the ABHS dinner.

ABCOFLASH Clippers Night

People from several churches enjoyed a night of fellowship and basketball in March in Los Angeles.

Pastor Enrique Santis and his wife Silvia from Ministerios Manantial de Amor



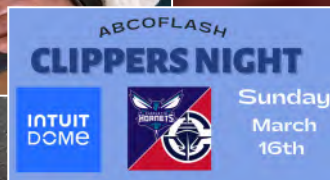
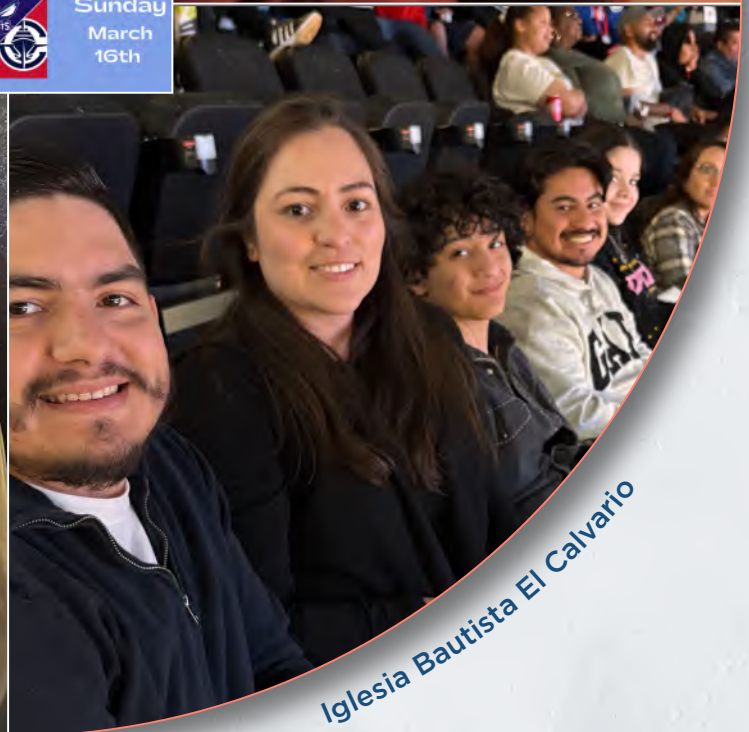
Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles



Pastor Alvin Tunstill and his wife, Sandra, from Trinity Baptist Church, Los Angeles



Iglesia Bautista El Calvario



210 people from several churches came together at Dodger Stadium to connect with one another and cheer on the Dodgers.



Evergreen Baptist Church of L.A., Temple, Shine L.A. and Panorama Baptist Church



Japanese Baptist Church



Jose Menendez and family and Iglesia de Bell



Elbert Irving from Trinity Baptist Church, Los Angeles and Doug Hubbard, ABCOFLASH



Camp Cedar Crest Running Springs, California March 28-30, 2025



Youth and Young Adult Retreat – March 28-30, 2025 - Camp Cedar Crest

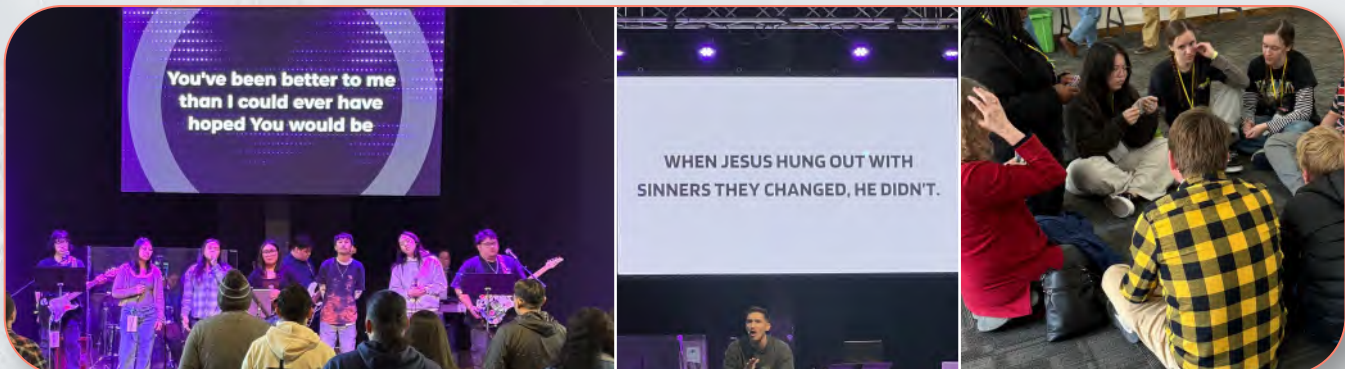
Our annual retreat brought together youth and young adults from our churches for an incredible weekend! The worship team from The Rock in Las Vegas led worship during the sessions. Participants were inspired to make an impact for Christ in their communities from our speaker, Santiago Acosta. Everyone engaged in small group discussions, and took part in various activities that created a lasting impression on everyone who attended.

"This was our church's first YYAR, and it was truly an incredible experience for both our leaders and youth. Through the messages, our youth grew closer to God and encountered him through worship. They were able to meet other young believers and see that they are not alone in this walk. We can't wait for next year!" **Omar Romero – Iglesia de Bell**

"Our group, although small, enjoyed this year's YYAR. Two members of our group are first-timers, and they have been really impacted by the worship and the guest speaker, Pastor Santiago. They went home and shared their wonderful experience from the retreat, and even shared their testimonies on one of our Bible Studies." **R.A. Ramos – Valley Christian Outreach**

"My experience at YYAR opened my eyes to how I could work under God's plan. During this retreat I stepped up and helped be a leader for a church that needed a male leader. God taught me that I love serving, and led me to become more involved." **Isaiah Kho – Temple Baptist Church**

"The youth camp was a great success and truly a blessing. The youth enjoyed every moment as they connected with God and powerfully experienced His presence. They also built new friendships and bonds with other youth, creating a strong sense of community. The worship and messages touched their hearts deeply, giving them exactly what they needed to hear." **Juan Martinez – FBC South Gate**





Third Thursdays bring ABCOFLASH pastors and leaders together to gain insights on ministry challenges, provide resources for ministry, and to connect with one another.



October 2024 - "Tools for Trauma" - Dr. Anthony Cook led a discussion to help us understand the dynamics of trauma and how we can be more effective in ministering to those who have been through trauma.



November 2024 - "Lessons from 90 Years of Life and 68 Years of Ministry"—Dr. William Thurmond shared insights from his vast experience, inspiring and equipping us for our ministries.



January 2025 - "Implementing AB-506 in Your Church" - Representatives from ChurchWest presented tools to help churches implement this law, which requires anyone serving children and youth to get a LiveScan.



February 2025 - "Strengthening Relationships in Your Ministry and Life" - Rev. Larry Ginn shared insights from his book: *Essential Ingredients for Lasting Relationships through C.P.R. (Covenant Producing Relationships)*



March 2025 - "Faithful Hospitality: A Biblical and Theological Response to Immigration" - Dr. Rodney Ragwan, Global Servant with International Ministries, presented how the church should respond to immigration in a way that reflects God's heart.



May 2025 - "Increasing Giving in Your Church" - Rev. Brandon Bouldin, pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Los Angeles and Brandon Swain from Tithe.ly discussed how churches can help their congregations achieve financial health, which can result in increased giving.



June 2025 - "Juneteenth" - A conversation with Dr. Dwuana Bradley about the legacy and impact of Juneteenth, facilitated by Dr. Tahlil McMicheaux.



August 2025 - A conversation with Andy Quient introducing our 2025 Annual Meeting speaker, Gary Comer.



September 2025 - "Worth Seeing" - Amy Williams challenged us to see at-risk youth, young adults, and people often overlooked through God's eyes as having tremendous value and potential.

Churches are encouraged to support the mission work through American Baptist Global Servants serving with International Ministries. These Global Servants need support through prayer and finances from churches and individuals, and giving to the World Mission Offering and United Mission. Connect with them to learn more about their ministries and how your church can partner with them in their ministries!

Here are the Global Servants connected with ABCOFLASH doing amazing ministry worldwide!



Faye Yarbrough

Faye Yarbrough works as a mentor and tutor at the Teleios Christian School in King Williams Town, South Africa.



Matt and Lori Mann

Matt and Lori Mann serve in Laos, bringing hope and restoration to children and youth who are at risk for the worst forms of abuse and exploitation.



Jae Stockton

Jae Stockton serves families at Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico, and assists the online Master's for Theological Studies in Latino/a Ministries (MTS), which trains church leaders throughout the Americas.



Daniel and Sarah Chetti

Daniel and Sarah Chetti—Dan is developing the "Enduring Love" ministry to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the Middle East. Sarah ministers to foreign migrant women working as maids in Lebanon.



Deliris and Moise Carrion-Joseph

Deliris and Moise Carrión-Joseph have a ministry among migrants who have made their home in Tijuana, Mexico, and they serve families at Deborah's House in Tijuana.



Melanie Baggao

Melanie Baggao serves migrant domestic workers in Lebanon by helping them with necessities and navigating their challenging lives with INSAAF (Integrated Centre for Migrant Domestic Workers).



Pieter and Nora Kalkman

Pieter and Nora Kalkman network with Baptist churches in Europe and facilitate short-term mission teams that meet the needs of the 50-plus Baptist conventions.



Amanda and Jon Good

Amanda and Jon Good serve through ministries of evangelism, discipleship, education, and theological education in partnership with Baptist churches in Italy.



Lauran Bethell

Lauran Bethell travels worldwide to encourage Christians in anti-trafficking endeavors, serving them globally by advising, networking, and creatively conferencing.



Eliberto and Molly Juarez

Eliberto and Molly Juárez serve in El Salvador with IM partner Mision Vida y Paz (MVP), or Mission Life and Peace, an educational program based on biblical values that teaches peace building in public schools.



Mike and Becky Mann

Mike and Becky Mann direct the Integrated Tribal Development Foundation, which brings running water and development to hill tribe villages in northern Thailand.



Katrina and Kyle Williams

Katrina and Kyle Williams serve in Chiang Rai, Thailand, training and supporting Southeast Asian leaders seeking to build bridges across tribal lines in the Mekong region of Thailand.



Phil and Corenne Smith

Phil and Corenne Smith serve in Brazil with Hope Unlimited, a residential, vocational training program that rescues high-risk street children between the ages of 10 and 18.



David and Joyce Reed

David and Joyce Reed serve as Global Coordinators for Spiritual Care, facilitating the care of Global Servants who serve with International Ministries so they can thrive and be effective in ministry.



Rev. Dr. Dennis Casaje
Regional Resource Minister

Many Asian Pastors and leaders, especially first-generation Christians, have come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ through Missionaries who were sent out and ministered in their native land. My family and I were among those thousands reached by the gospel through these faithful and passionate missionaries.

Likewise, it became one great motivating factor in reaching out and sharing the gospel.

These are a couple of the Asian churches' ways of doing their missions and evangelism ministry.



Wilshire Baptist Church

Using Trunk or Treat every year to reach the community.



Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches

The 2nd Annual Retreat of the Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches and Leaders was held in Laguna Hills, CA, from August 25 - 28. It was a very refreshing time indeed, as the program was well balanced between Bible Study and sharing time sessions and yet enough time for much-needed recreation like swimming, games (funny charades where our acting skills were tested!), pool time, and even billiards!!

The last day was a luncheon at the Wintersburg Church in Santa Ana, CA. We are deeply grateful to our ABCOFLASH Region Board and Executive Minister Andy Quient for making this event possible.



On March 6th 2025, Pastor Htwe and his team went in person and distributed rice, oil, noodles, potatoes, onions, and canned fish to 280 households in Maw Sot Mae La refugee camp in Thailand.



My gratitude is to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for allowing me to serve in these prophetic days. Also, I want to thank our Executive Minister, Rev. Andy Quient and our Board of Directors for all the support given to our Latino churches that are now found in five states.

Latino Ministries supports our churches that have been facing many challenges in recent months due to the raids of ICE in our predominantly Latino communities. Many of these churches have experienced loss of attendance of their own members and visitors because they are afraid to be caught by ICE. We have churches where the heads of family have been deported. Children have been suffering. Some families have been sleeping in their cars; some choosing to stay in public shelters.

We are grateful to the ABCOFLASH Board of Directors and all who supported these ministries for our Latino congregations and who enabled us to execute all our plans throughout the year.



Rev. Dr. José Menéndez
Regional Resource Minister



News and events throughout the six associations of Latino Churches

The annual celebration of our Latino churches was held this year at the Iglesia Bautista Camino al Cielo with pastors German and Zandra Galvez. Due to the immigration situation we were facing, we had a lower attendance of approximately 250 people. But the event was well-planned and met with great enthusiasm. Participants were blessed by the four workshops we had—one each for pastors, men, women, and youth. Attendees received some solid teaching from very articulate workshop leaders composed of local pastors. Pastor Josue Borges was the keynote speaker and he motivated the attendees with insights from the Word of God.

We have six associations for our churches covering five states. Every year, we support these churches with resources and plan different programs and organize events for their benefit through their respective associations. Each association is being led by a local pastor. These associations are the following:

1. Association of the North Coast – Rev. Dr. Alejandro Roque, leader.
2. Association of Los Angeles – Pastor Rocael Alejandro, leader.
3. Association of San Fernando Valley – Vacant.
4. Association of Orange County – Pastor Marcos Granados, leader.
5. Association of San Diego – Vacant.
6. Association of Arizona & Nevada – Dr. Miguel Altamirano, leader.

Each of these associations plans and organizes different workshops and trainings for church pastors and lay leaders in their areas. Training sessions have been conducted in San Diego, Arizona, San Fernando, and Los Angeles. We are very grateful to all association leaders for the hard work and ministry they do for our region. Association leaders and other pastors meet in Los Angeles every two months for planning, prayer, study, and fellowship.

Latina Women's Ministries – Juana Valdez, leader.

Women's Ministry, Los Angeles – Judith Martinez, leader.

Women's Ministry, San Diego – Elsie de León, leader.

Women's Ministry, Arizona & Nevada – Pastor Imelda Altamirano, leader.



Latina Women's Ministries organized two events for all the Latino churches: Retreat for all Latina women at Camp Cedar Crest, Running Springs, CA, on April 2024. Over 250 women representing churches from the six associations attended the retreat.

Latina Women's Ministries breakfast and encouraging message on October, 12, 2024. They had over 284 women in attendance.

Also, the three associations that have an organized women's ministry have been conducting prayer meetings, breakfast meetings, and study for churches in their respective associations throughout the year.



AB Girls.

The AB Girls ministry is a program for girls in grades 3 through 8. It was administered by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies but was transferred to the American Baptist Women's Ministries. Last year, 2024, Wendy Macias started an AB Girls ministry for our Latino churches. They were invited to join our women's retreat and 23 teenagers went last year. This year, 2025, 29 attended the retreat again and were blessed by the workshops, teaching, and fellowship they experienced at the retreat.

Men's Ministries, Los Angeles – Cesar López, leader.

Men's Ministries, San Fernando – Pastor Juan Carlos Aguiluz, leader.

Last November 8-9, 2024, 154 men from our Latino churches attended the Men's Ministries Retreat at Victory Ranch, Moreno Valley, CA. The theme was "The Three Roles of Men." We are looking forward to the next retreat this November 2025. Also, Men's Ministries continues to organize meetings in the different associations to motivate and teach husbands, fathers, and leaders of our churches.



Youth Ministries – Pastor Andres Valderrama, leader.

80 young people attended the retreat organized by the youth leader in 2024. Our Youth Ministries continues to work hard to achieve the goals we have established. This year, a beach outing and a talent night have been planned.

Children's Ministries – Desly Alejandro, leader.

Our Children's Ministries started nine years ago and two events are usually being organized every year. The first one happens in the month of February where a training event is held for Sunday School teachers and parents. The second one is a special gathering of children and parents every September where they explore a specific topic each year. Just like last year, a concert for the kids is being planned as an added feature for the September event.



Ministers Council of six associations. – Rev. Dr. Carlos Arce, leader.

The leadership of the Ministers Council is composed of seven pastors. They organized a retreat and a training event last May 2024. 45 pastors and spouses attended.



Every end of every month we meet for prayer, meditation, reflection on the Word of God, and fellowship. This is usually attended by 18 to 22 pastors and spouses.

Training for Pastors and Lay Leaders

One of our goals in the region is to train and educate new pastors and leaders of the next generation. Many of our pastors are nearing retirement age and there is a need for new leaders and new ministers who could do pastoral ministry, church planting, and discipleship programs.

My report this year covers the months of July, 2024 through July, 2025. In this span, we have participated in the graduation programs and fundraising activities of the American Baptist Theological Center (ABTC), a recognized organization and an accredited theological institution that facilitates educational opportunities for seminarians and other Christian leaders. We have had students who graduated from Pasadena's Fuller Seminary and Philadelphia's Palmer Seminary and other ABTC-related institutions and programs.

We have partnered with ABTC through their six different academies in organizing training and workshop events to provide knowledge, skills, and tools to church members and lay leaders so they could better serve their churches. We also use the pastoral assessment service and other continuing education opportunities provided by ABTC. Many of our lay leaders end up pursuing seminary education at Fuller, Palmer and other seminaries.

All the things mentioned above—organizing trainings, conducting workshops, doing visitations, providing support to churches, attending meetings, pursuing studies—entail hard work, volunteer hours, self-sacrifice, and selfless commitment from our church leaders. We would like to thank each and every one of them for their service and devotion to the work of ministry.

Continuing Education for pastors and spouses

In May 2025, we had our 42nd annual retreat for pastors and spouses and it was attended by 39 people. Different topics on church service and ministry were discussed during the retreat and participants were blessed by the presentations and messages. An immigration lawyer led a session on the current immigration scenario and informed us of our rights and of what to do when facing raids, detention, or deportation.

New pastors

Last July 21, 2024, we had an installation service for Pastor Rolando Santoyo at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bakersfield, CA.

Pastor Eduardo Soto was called as new pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Santa Ana, CA.

New church planting and support

ABCOFLASH is supporting a new church plant by the Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Glendale in Arizona that aims to reach out to the second and third generation.

We continue to support a few other church plants that were started last year.



We also conduct church planting trainings during April and June of every year for the purpose of assisting potential and current church planters including those whose church plants are going through some difficulties.

Family Ministries with our Latino churches

Our region has a vision to strengthen the families in our churches. Families are the pillars of our society. Our slogan is “Strong families build a strong church and a healthy society.” Therefore, we continue to conduct workshops, retreats and special events to help church couples, children, youth, women, and men. We are grateful to all volunteers coming from the six associations for providing leadership and for sharing their gifts and talents in building this ministry in their respective churches. We are also grateful for the yearly financial support given by Rev. Dr. Willie Lucas and the Children’s Baptist Homes to fund these family ministry programs and activities.

Retreats for lay couples, pastors and spouses

Last August 16-18, 2024, over 45 people attended the pastors and spouses retreat. The retreat theme was “Renew the Vision” and was designed to encourage pastoral couples to continue with the call and vision that God has given them as they serve our churches. We heard great life and service testimonies from the retreat participants.

In September, 2024, 280 people attended a retreat for lay couples in Thousand Oaks, CA. There was a good number of newly married couples who had dreams and expectations of starting their own family. The retreat theme was “God restores at all times” and we had powerful speakers who focused on the subjects of biblical marriage and parenting. The retreat was so impactful that it led to the restoration of some couples with their families and some finding forgiveness in their marriages. We have been doing these retreats for our Latino churches for over 28 years now.



Dinner for lay couples in November

Last November 2, 2024, 80 people attended a dinner for lay couples. The attendance was a little low as there was a Covid 19 resurgence and also some couples were struggling with family budget. Every time we have dinners like this we usually invite a pastor or a pastoral couple who would share a message to encourage these lay couples. We were blessed by the testimony and message of pastors Angel and Marisol Campos of Arizona.



Visiting Hispanic and Brazilian Churches

In 2024, I visited churches in Las Vegas and saw how those churches were doing after they reopened, which has been difficult for them. I also visited the Message of Peace Church, a multicultural, multi-ethnic church in South San Francisco that has ministries with Brazilians, Hispanic, and English-speaking congregations. Their Hispanic ministry was started just two years ago.

In January, 2025, In January, 2025, I visited churches in California and Arizona. In February, 2025, I also visited the Ministerios Manantial de Amor, a church in Orlando, Florida, which is connected to our region with Jorge Monteagudo as their pastor. I spent time with the leaders and families in that church and gave a workshop at a couple's dinner event. God has been moving in a marvelous way in this church.

Pastoral care in Latino Churches

I have had the blessing of visiting many of our Latino churches—some needing added resources, some needing support in forming pulpit committees, some in search of a new pastor, some needing conflict resolution. I have also visited many churches who were celebrating different occasions such as church anniversaries and pastor recognitions. I have also visited churches to support pastors with different personal and family needs.

I am grateful to God for allowing me to do these visitations to support our Latino churches and pastors. I am praying for every pastor, missionary, teacher, evangelist, and lay leader who are serving our churches, for those who contribute their gifts and talents towards growing people and churches, and those who give support and resources to churches in need.

I would like to end my report by sharing the wonderful feelings I had during our December, 2024 Christmas dinner at our regional office. We praised God. We celebrated the unity in the Spirit. There was fraternal love among all of us!





Dr. Tahlil McMichaux
Regional Resource Minister

This year has been a powerful season of discovery, connection, and impact. As the Resource Minister for Black Church Ministries, I have had the privilege of meeting or speaking with nearly every pastor within the scope of my position. Through intentional outreach and authentic engagement, I have worked diligently to establish meaningful alliances by cultivating non-threatening trust-based relationships with pastors, leaders, and church members across our region.

Key Initiatives and Program Development

At the start of 2025, I initiated conversations with Black Church Ministries to secure funding for a Marriage Retreat in 2026—an event envisioned for pastors, associate ministers, and their spouses. If successful, we plan to expand the retreat to include church leadership teams, reinforcing the concept that our first ministry is in the home. I secured Pastor Larry Ginn, a licensed therapist, as the retreat facilitator. The retreat will include two and a half days of workshops, culminating in a recommitment ceremony for couples to renew their vows.

In addition, I submitted a funding proposal to launch a podcast entitled “Reimagining.” This one-hour series will critically explore the current state of the African American church through discussion and interviews, examining the positives and negatives of how culture and tradition have impacted the black church. The podcast will also spotlight community resources and initiatives that transcend cultural divides and provide practical support for churches in our region.

Community Engagement and Relationship Building

Over the past year, I have intentionally invested in visibility and presence by attending church anniversaries, retirement celebrations, installations, and other milestone events. These moments of support helped communicate one vital message: our churches have an advocate and ally within ABCOFLASH.

Workshops and Leadership Development

I have written this year and, in some cases, facilitated trainings and workshops for pastors, deacons, and church leaders, including:

- *Marriage & Communication*
- *Courageous Leadership*
- *Awakening Your Inner Breakthrough*
- *The Progressive Nature of Sin* – a deep-dive into how sin methodically entraps the soul

I was honored to serve as a keynote speaker at the California State Baptist Convention, where I conducted a workshop on church constitution and bylaws. This opportunity enabled me to expand our network and build bridges with churches outside of ABCOFLASH.

I also worked closely with one of our African American churches in a year-long consulting role, assisting their pastoral search committee throughout the discernment and selection process for a new pastor.

Civic and Interfaith Engagement

This year, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass invited me to serve on a citywide Ecumenical Clergy Committee, strengthening partnerships between faith leaders and local government. I also joined the Lakewood Interfaith Council to identify resource channels throughout Los Angeles and explore new ways to connect our churches to these vital supports.

As part of our Juneteenth initiative, I participated in the regional Juneteenth Committee, supporting the event, showcasing some of the books I have written. I hosted a Juneteenth theological discussion with Dr. Bradley, a professor at USC, focusing on the historical and contemporary significance of the holiday.

National and Regional Engagement

I attended the ABCUSA 2025 Biennial Mission Summit in Omaha, Nebraska, and organized a luncheon at the regional office titled “Evolving with the Executive Minister and the Mission of ABCOFLASH,” which convened African American pastors across our region for vision sharing and fellowship.

Additionally, I facilitated food ministry partnerships for several local congregations, helping them establish or enhance their outreach to address food insecurity in their communities.

Pastoral Support and Preaching Ministry

Throughout the year, I have:

- *Preached in multiple churches across the region*
- *Attended and supported regional meetings*
- *Participated in installation, retirement, and anniversary celebrations*
- *Offered pastoral presence and encouragement at countless events*
- *Continued to write and deliver workshops tailored to the needs of our churches*

Conclusion

2025 has been a year of relational depth, strategic engagement, and kingdom-building impact. I am grateful for the opportunities to serve, support, and empower the pastors and congregations of ABCOFLASH. As we move into a new season, I remain committed to building bridges, breaking down barriers, and reimagining what is possible for the Black Church in our time.



Rev. Paul Gibson
Regional Resource Minister

This has been a great year for all of our churches, I will mention a few of the highlights, knowing that I cannot mention everything.

At the top of that list would have to be the retirement celebration of Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., at First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix, AZ. He retired after serving that church for 48 years. Not many pastors have even been in ministry for that long, let alone at one church for that long. Many people showed up to help him celebrate. That included the governor

of Arizona, in person, and the president of Liberia, with a live telephone call. There were many others there, but I would forget someone if I started to list them all. The good news is that Warren will still be in the valley when he is not traveling around the world, being involved in other things.

One of the special services in our area included a joint sunrise service and breakfast with the three churches that meet at Monte Vista. It's always a great gathering with each church contributing to the service and the breakfast.

The picture with Shawn Thompson from our church in Poston also shows the flowers that were given in honor of his mother, who passed away this past year. She was always sitting in the front, supporting her son.

Another great gathering took place early in December as we all joined for our Christmas luncheon. It was wonderful to have both of our pastors from our Native American churches come to join us, as well as our Executive Minister, Andy Quient. Another special guest was Sandy Richmond, who served as the office administrator for our area for many years.

One more special gathering to note was our Karen church in Phoenix celebrating finally owning the property where they have been meeting. They are now in the process of figuring out ways to build and develop the property. The final two pictures are from the gathering.

It was also good to see a number of people from our area at the Biennial for ABCUSA in Omaha. There were around ten of us, including members from each of our Native American churches, and Cindy Darby from Monta Vista.

Please pray for Middle Verde Church, next to Rainbow Acres. They have reestablished communication with us and want to explore ways to be better connected to our region.

Please also pray for two of our churches, the Karen Church and The Rock Church in Las Vegas, as they are both in the process of building and developing their properties.

It is a great honor to serve alongside all of these pastors and churches and experience the unique ministry that each one has. We look forward to once again gathering for our regional meeting. Our area always has a good number of attendees.



Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.



Joint Easter Sunrise Service



Rev. Shawn Thompson



Arizona Karen Baptist Church



Rev. Larry Jackson, Bethany Baptist Church, Clarkdale, AZ



*Dr. Barry Lovett,
Regional Resource Minister*

The Hawaii Association consists of three congregations, First Baptist Church of Honolulu, New Life Baptist Church, and Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, all on the island of O'ahu. Our Association meets annually in February.

2024's keynote speaker was David "Waxer" Tipton. Waxer attended First Baptist during his teen years as his father, Bill Tipton, was the pastor at First Baptist from 1970 - 1981. Bill was instrumental in establishing Trinity

Missionary Baptist Church. Waxer is the pastor of One Love Church in Honolulu. Following the main service was a workshop by Dr. George Rhoades on "Opportunities for the Church to respond to the Pandemic" and a potluck dinner. Before the Annual Meeting, members and friends of our Association were invited to the home of Sharon Dumas, high up in the mountains, for breakfast and a "meet & greet" with our Executive Minister, Andy Quient, and his wife, Lisa. It was a beautiful setting, overlooking the city of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean. Pastors of HAAB and other pastors meet monthly for mutual support, encouragement, and inspiration.



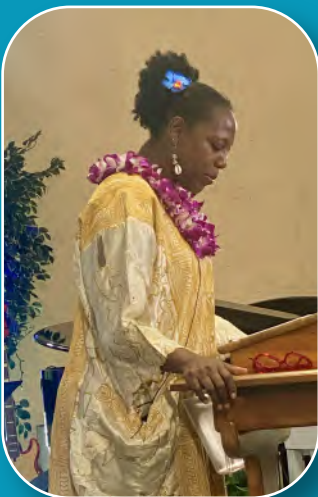
Following are reports from each of our congregations...

First Baptist Church of Honolulu: In February, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Pastor Barry's pastoral ministry. The two-day event included a catered banquet and program highlighting the twenty years with pictures and testimonies from current members and greetings from many former members scattered throughout the United States. Our Children's Day Camp was held in June with the theme "Champ Camp." The focus was training to be champions for Christ based on the life of Gideon. Our proximity to the beach provides the opportunity for many beach baptisms.

New Life Baptist Church: We offer services on Sundays, but once a month, we conduct our service outdoors at Kapiolani Park. We also provide a weekly Bible study. Our work with children is conducted in a meeting on Sundays.

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church: Some of the highlights of our year have been the Faith on Fire Revival held on our lawn last fall. Each evening featured a powerful speaker targeting a specific group - Men's night, Women's night, and Youth night. Vacation Bible School was held in June for all ages. In July, Pastor Cook and several men from Trinity headed to Alaska for a Mission/Fishing trip... fishing for souls and salmon. By all reports, it was an amazing time of fellowship and ministry.





Rev. Nakita McCalister



Our Association meets annually on the last Saturday in February. This year's theme was Celebrating the Ministry of American Baptists Locally, Regionally, Nationally and Around the Globe. Keynote speakers were Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, and Rev. Nakita McCalister, President American Baptist Churches USA. The event was opened with greetings and a report by ABCOFLASH Executive Minister, Andy Quiet.

A workshop was presented by Jill Lowery, International Ministries and Paul Gates, River of Life Honolulu, Hawaii. The four-hour event concluded with a catered meal prepared by First Baptist members and chefs extraordinaire Ron Young and Gary Gascon.

The Friday evening before the Annual Meeting fifty plus members and friends of our Association attended a pool side "Meet & Greet" at the home of First Baptist member Sharon Dumas high up in the mountains, which included dinner and fireworks. It was a beautiful setting, overlooking the city of Honolulu and the Pacific ocean.



Pastors of the HAAB along with Chaplain Lee Axtell meet regularly for mutual support, encouragement and inspiration. Our annual regional Christmas Dinner was held at Macaroni Grill December 7th. All who attended enjoyed the merriment, a great meal, the festive decorations and great fellowship.



Rev. Van Tarpley
Regional Resource Minister

This has been a year in which San Diego-area American Baptist churches have moved in ministry, service, and fellowship. Local church leaders and missionaries gathered in December at Van Tarpley's house for an Advent Celebration, which was a blessing. Local San Diego churches contributed leadership to and participated in region-wide activities of fellowship and discipleship, such as the Youth and Young Adult Retreat and Third Thursday seminars.

San Diego, like most Southern California communities, is grappling with how to provide care and practical support for our homeless neighbors. ABCOFLASH churches were invited to take part in several initiatives to help address homelessness. One example is the WeAllCount Point-in-Time Count, which allows congregations to get to know homeless neighbors in their area and serves as a basis for allocation of federal HUD funds for homelessness-abatement programs. Area churches also participate in broader religious and community partnerships, such as the Homelessness Task Force, to address this crucial issue.

As a border community and a significant locus of refugee resettlement, San Diego-area congregations and pastors have been significantly affected by ongoing changes and uncertainty in immigration, refugee, and asylum policies and enforcement. The region's military-support community has also faced significant headwinds from shifts in contracting and procurement practices. In all of these issues, American Baptist congregations remain an important source of hope, practical support, and prayer for people in San Diego and beyond.



ABCFLASH Padres Night



Back to School Drive
for Homeless Children



Youth and Young Adult Retreat



Regional Advent Celebration



Dr. Enrique Torres
Executive Director

This year has been a truly blessed one, marked by outstanding achievements. I want to present the highlights of the American Baptist Theological Center for the year 2025:

Student Support: Generous scholarships have been provided to national and international students through the Hispanic Baptist Convention, Fuller Theological Seminary, and the KOSA Scholarship program.

Student Services: ABTC continues to offer orientations for new and returning students, and its website (myabtc.org) is regularly updated for students' benefit.

Leadership Academies: Christian Leadership Academies serve multiple locations under the direction of Pastor Elias Gabriel and Pastor Luis Rentería.

Partnerships: Strong relationships are maintained with Fuller Theological Seminary, with Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra providing leadership and support, including hosting the annual meeting.

Administrative Leadership: Pastor Luis Rentería serves as Administrative Assistant and Interim Dean, supporting student enrollment growth.

Student Enrollment: The total number of students for 2024/2025 is 175 (45 at Fuller, 120 at the Academies).

Financial Stability: ABTC successfully met financial obligations in 2024/2025, thanks to support from ABCOFLASH, Rev. Andy Quient, Dr. José Menendez, Mr. Ronald Banes, and many other partners.

Significant Milestone: ABTC's "Academy of Leadership and Theological Studies" has achieved certification from the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH), enabling it to grant bachelor's degree equivalents.

Expanded Opportunities: Certified status allows American Baptist students to apply for additional denominational scholarships.

Organizational Growth: All educational and administrative standards have been enhanced.

Name Change: During this year's Annual Meeting, the ABTC Board of Directors formally approved the transition from the Academy of Leadership and Theological Studies to the University of Theology Los Angeles (UTLA). This new name highlights the institution's expanding influence, both within the United States and globally.

We express our deep gratitude to ABCOFLASH for their generous financial support, which has been instrumental in advancing our mission. With God's guidance, ABTC remains steadfast in its calling to serve Baptist churches throughout Southern California, across the United States, and in Latin America.

To God be the Glory!

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19



Rev. Joe and
Mrs. Gwynn Browne

Weekly Food Program

The number of people coming for supplemental food has nearly doubled for us. Our volunteers have taken time to become familiar with the regular participants. They know which people have children in the home, which people take their recyclables first to be cashed in and then come for their food. They also assemble special bags for people who do not have a place to cook, yet are provided with substantial types of food that can be consumed during the course of the day.

The FICM Worship Team

Lifting our voices in song and using musical instruments enhance our time of worship. There are times when the Spirit of God moves mightily, and a specific song draws us closer to our Lord. Our worship team is comprised of Jennifer Browne and a group of young musicians who travel from the San Fernando Valley to our church each week. Their faithfulness is to be commended.

Hope

I know there is hope, because: Thanks to Rosalie, Pauline, and Frances, our Kids' Club has resumed.

I received a call from one of our former Kid's Club children. She is now an adult with children of her own and has begun tithing to our ministry.

Another youth from our early years is an adult with children who is helping me create the invitations for our Women's Gathering.

A Hispanic mom regularly comes for groceries each week. She finally became comfortable bringing her sons for breakfast each week and has become a regular participant in our women's program. She was very shy in the beginning, but now she is practicing her English. She brings her sons to Kid's Club and is helping a son overcome his shyness by engaging in activities with other children.

Our friends from FBC New Plymouth in Idaho came, conducted VBS for the youth in our community and hosted the 4th of July Celebration for the third year.

Last September, I (Gwynn), needing spiritual renewal for myself, attended such a meeting with the women from The Neighborhood Church in Cypress. From that relationship, we are planning a joint Women's Gathering this fall here at FICM.



Praise Report

Faith in Christ Ministries was tremendously blessed with a substantial donation that has enabled us to address many much-needed repairs, purchase necessary items for our food program, especially the "day bags" provided to the unhoused population. Because we receive an abundance of clothing, we have been able to share with other ministries and also participate in a fundraiser that will financially compensate us, thereby supplementing the cost of our various programs.

Update on the Brownes

Gwynn had a total right knee replacement in October of last year and is doing fairly well. Not ready to run a marathon, yet! Pastor Joe is keeping us busy enough, even though his legs aren't cooperating, so we thank God for his motorized chair to get him back and forth to the center, church and home. We thank all of you for your faithful prayers and support.





ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

FIBCO FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

AKILAH STEWART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2024-2025

FIBCO Family Services, Inc. has had an incredibly impactful year and continues to strive to meet the needs of the individuals and community we serve. In 2024, we served a total of **24,660** individuals through our food and clothing programs. Through the dedication and support of our volunteers, staff, donors, and Board Members, we continue to support the needs of the underserved community and those facing times of crisis.

OUR MISSION:

To provide people with knowledge, skills, and support to transform and empower their lives.

OUR VISION:

A community where people are embraced and empowered to realize their full potential.

OUR VALUES:

SERVICE: We seek to be a benefit to our stakeholders and the population we serve.

RESPECT: We treat all people with utmost respect.

INTEGRITY: We strive to be without reproach and conduct our business with the greatest sense of responsibility, accountability, and transparency.

EMPOWERMENT: We build the capacity of the people we serve to become self-reliant and to emancipate them from their limitations.

DIVERSITY/INCLUSION: We engage and serve all people in our community irrespective of their backgrounds.

QUALITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FIBCO Family Services, Inc. continues to provide free meals through our LADS program and food boxes on campus to low-to- no income individuals and families. In addition, through our FIBCO Mobile Distribution Program, we continue to visit low income communities to distribute food boxes.

2024

FIBCO Campus Distribution:

465 St. Mary's Emergency Food Boxes Distributed
747 Individuals Served
9,491 Lunches Served

FIBCO Mobile Distribution:

3,953 Food Boxes Distributed
10,507 Individuals Served

2025 (Q1 & Q2)

FIBCO Campus Distribution:

205 St. Mary's Emergency Food Boxes Distributed
441 Individuals Served
5,504 Lunches Served

FIBCO Mobile Distribution:

2,006 Food Boxes Distributed
4,303 Individuals Served



HANDS4HOPE LA CONTINUES TO GROW

Mission:

Hands4Hope LA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located at First Baptist Church in North Hollywood, committed to empowering at-risk youth from low-income, underserved, predominantly single-parent minority households. Founded in 2000 by Lydia Floyd, an ABCOFLASH Board Committee Member, our organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life for youth and their families through a wide range of programs and support services.

We Are Growing:

Recognizing the evolving needs of teens and young adults, we have expanded to a second location in Van Nuys. Hands4Hope LA now serves youth ages 6–24 throughout the San Fernando Valley. At our Van Nuys center, teens and young adults have access to our full range of enrichment classes including guitar, drums, and boxing, as well as college and career readiness programs. Hands4Hope LA continues to be a space where young people feel supported, seen, and empowered by their community.



2025: A Landmark Year

This year marks 25 years of Hands4Hope LA making a difference in the lives of youth and families. On March 23rd, 2025, we hosted a very special 25th Anniversary Gala, celebrating our journey, impact, and the incredible community that has helped make it all possible. It was an unforgettable night of storytelling, gratitude, and vision for the future. We also saw record breaking success with our 2025

Hope Walk, held on May 17th at North Hollywood Park.

Over 300 community members came together for a day of wellness, fun, and connection, music, games, sports activities, local resource booths, and a free healthy lunch for families.

Visit www.hands4hopela.org to become a recurring donor and for updates on all our programs and events.

Together, we are creating a stronger, healthier, more hopeful future for the next generation.

HANDS4HOPE LA

7335 Van Nuys Blvd #204 Van Nuys CA 91405

818.763.4673



Rainbow
Acres

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with deep gratitude for the transformative year that has passed. Your continued prayers, generosity, and friendship empower us to provide an environment where the Ranchers can live with dignity, joy, and purpose.

The past year brought powerful progress and meaningful milestones. We saw the fruits of long-term vision and faithful service unfold in new and exciting ways:

Leadership News: Paul Higgins Named CEO

Family & Friends Weekend 2024 was a memorable celebration of community and progress. During a weekend filled with music, prayer, and celebration—including the ribbon cutting for the Solar Project—Board Chair Karla Dye made a special announcement: Paul Higgins was named the new President & CEO of Rainbow Acres. The announcement was met with enthusiastic support from families, Ranchers, and staff. Paul brings vision, warmth, and experience, and we are excited about the future under his leadership.



The Ranchers: Healthy, Active, and Thriving

Rancher health remained a top priority in 2024, and we're proud to report strong outcomes. From Zumba and strength training to Special Olympics events in bocce, track, basketball, and softball, our Ranchers embraced movement and community. We also expanded programs like music, scrapbooking, and life skills development. Each day, the Ranchers demonstrated the resilience, creativity, and faith that inspire all who meet them.

Enhanced Health & Wellness: Innovation for Safety and Care

We introduced advanced medication scanning technology that has resulted in zero medication errors since its implementation. This has dramatically increased safety and efficiency in our medication distribution system. In addition, with podiatry visits, on-site lab testing, and a primary care provider now available every three weeks, Ranchers receive proactive and comprehensive healthcare. Weekly counseling sessions have also supported their mental and emotional well-being, rounding out a truly holistic approach to care.

The Solar Project: A Brighter Future Begins

After years of preparation, we celebrated a major milestone in our sustainability journey—the partial activation of the Rainbow Acres Solar Project. Thanks to our partnership with Obodo Energy and the support of generous donors, solar panels have been installed on rooftops and parking structures across campus. Once fully activated later this year, this system will generate 95% of our annual energy needs and save us an estimated \$140,000 each year after the 10- year mark. This initiative reflects our commitment to stewardship of creation and redirects resources back to the heart of our mission, the Ranchers.



Come Be a Part of Our Mission

Looking ahead, we joyfully invite mission teams to join us here on the Ranch. Whether you serve for a weekend or a week, your time on the Ranch will be filled with purpose and connection. Projects include maintenance, spiritual activities, and quality time with the Ranchers. With housing on-site and opportunities to explore Arizona's beauty, your team will create lifelong memories while making a lasting impact.

To reserve your mission team's visit or learn more, contact us at info@RainbowAcres.org or (928) 567-5231.

For more information about what is happening at Rainbow Acres, follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **LinkedIn**.



NOTES

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NOTES

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REGIONAL MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Andy Quient, Executive Minister
Rev. Doug Hubbard, Regional Resource Minister, Youth and Global Missions
Rev. Dr. Jose Menendez, Regional Resource Minister, Latino Ministries
Rev. Dr. Dennis Casaje, Regional Resource Minister, Asian Ministries
Rev. Paul Gibson, Regional Resource Minister, Arizona Association
Rev. Dr. Barry Lovett, Regional Resource Minister, Hawaii Association
Rev. Dr. Tahlib McMicheaux, Regional Resource Minister, Black Ministries
Rev. Van Tarpley, Regional Resource Minister, San Diego/Orange County Association
Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister Emeritus

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ms. Charlotte Chang, Regional Business Manager
Ms. Deborah Gentry, Regional Coordinator

REGIONAL SUPPORT TEAM

Mrs. Berta Villacorta, Administrative Coordinator, Latino Ministries
Ms. Tina Tome, Administrative Assistant, Accounting
Mrs. Gloria Bravo, Staff Support



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