

# Evergreen Notes

## To Love Hased



By Rev. Doug Avilesbernal

**“With what shall I come before the  
Lord...**

**He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?”**

- Micah 6:8

**“...and what does the Lord require of you... to love kindness (*Hased*)”**

You might have noticed that this word has been translated in different ways in English. In this particular translation we have kindness, others say mercy and more. The reason is that the Hebrew word does not exist in English and its meaning is too broad and deep for any particular English word to hold. This is why we see different words in varied translations, every translation is an interpretation by a person and a committee.

### **So what does *Hased* mean?**

The word is full of broad and deep care and love for the other. It includes unconditional love, loyalty, good will for the other and more. Further, the word also includes a tone, inflection to action on behalf of those in need. No word in English can hold what this word holds in Hebrew.

One way we can explore what this word might mean in our lives is to compare it with Justice as we read last month. To begin with we must

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**EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION**  
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—  
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

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### **Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership**

**Filipino-American Chris-  
tian Fellowship,**  
Lynnwood, WA

**Grace Baptist Church,**  
San Jose, CA

**First Baptist Church of  
Denver, Denver, CO**

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church,**  
Seattle, WA

**Shell Ridge Community  
Church,**  
Walnut Creek, CA

# Agents of Change



*By Rev. Sam Kim*

Greetings in Christ,  
As I continue my dissertation, I have been reflecting upon how we can effectively change the local church. Wherever we go,

we can find stories of transformation, but we can also find stories of entrenchment and stagnation. There is no shortage of resources available to congregations today: each tool being offered is often presented as the sure-fire solution to our insurmountable challenges. If it were so simple, the entire Christian church as we know it would not be struggling as it does today. The never-ending search for a vibrant and transformative church continues. In many ways, we are seeking to answer the question: who can bring about the change we seek?

It is not always easy to identify where the real agents of change come from. Often, it is assumed that it is through the wise and resourceful pastor, or the completely committed lay leader, and/or committees. From this perspective, we are tempted to believe that whoever can strategically leverage their influence the most can bring about lasting change to the congregation. We put so much energy into understanding the systems, structures, and bylaws of our churches so we can about the best possible outcome to serve our personal agendas. However well-intentioned this may be, this approach can often lead to fostering a toxic culture of politics

and power-grabbing.

Real change happens not just from a pastor or a committee. Real change happens when a congregation understands every member (lay and clergy) is an equal partner in constructing the mission and future of the church together. It is also important to realize that the change agents of the church are not confined to only the people within the church. Congregations must consider the community they serve as a partner as well. The people they serve are not just objects of service, but voices that should speak into the church and refine its vision and practice. Most important of all, churches must recognize that the Spirit's presence and leadership must center all that we do. The task of uniting a diverse body of individuals in a church requires a mutual agreement of the community to spiritually discern what God is doing in their church's current context.

How can we alleviate the pressure upon the pastor that makes them feel like they must be the main driving force of change? How can congregations learn to trust the people in their community and the people outside of their community to continually shape and evolve their congregation? Most importantly, how can the church come together to hear the common calling from the Spirit to love God and neighbor? There is no single agent of change. In concert and connection, we come together to faithfully transform our world for the sake of Christ. We encourage every church within the Evergreen Association to join us as we strive to do this. Together, we are all agents of change.

Blessings,  
Sam

# Password Managers: Why Keeping Everything in a Notebook Isn't Cutting It Anymore, Part I



*By Rev. Shavon Walker*

Hey folks. For the next few weeks, we're going to talk about password managers, and today we're going to focus on

1Password. Unfortunately, many of these password managers aren't free...but in this case, you get what you pay for, and the price isn't very expensive at all. That said, we'll talk more about that in a bit.

Like other managers, 1Password stores all your passwords in an encrypted "digital vault". Instead of having to remember (or write down) a bunch of different passwords, you only need to remember one (just remember that that password should be fairly advanced; look back at my other articles for ways to create good, memorable passwords!). It can create strong, unique passwords and automatically fills them into sites when you need them. It also works on your computer, phone and tablet simultaneously.

1Password has excellent customer service. You don't have to worry about a bot here; real people answer the phone and respond to emails. You can share passwords with other people in your household if you all have 1Password accounts. If you like to travel, this app can hide sensitive data when you cross borders. And most important of all, 1Pass-

word will alert you when your passwords are found in a data breach so you can change them, which is a simple process. Again, you don't have to remember any of these old or new passwords. 1Password does it for you.

And now to the question on everyone's mind. How much does it cost? Like other password managers, 1Password is a subscription based service. You have the option to be billed monthly or annually, and annual billing gives you a \$1/month discount. With that in mind, individuals pay \$2.99/month annually, and families pay \$4.99/month. There's also a 14 day free trial. There are other packages for businesses and Microsoft Teams users, but we won't get into that here.

If you'd like to try 1Password, you can sign up at [1password.com](https://1password.com) using your email. From there, download the app, create a strong password and start moving your passwords into the app. Don't worry too much about hacking; 1Password hasn't had a hacking problem since 2023, and they were able to shut down suspicious activity before any customer or employee data was exposed.

That's it for this week. Next week, we'll talk about Dashlane. If you have any questions or suggestions for articles, you can reach me at [Shavon@ea-abc.org](mailto:Shavon@ea-abc.org). And don't forget to check out our social media on Facebook, Instagram and our website, <https://ea-abc.org>!



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remember the message assumes love for others. Therefore to love *hesed* is to love caring for others in deeper ways than a passing smile or thoughts and prayers. It carries the responsibility to do something about what others have to live through or suffer under.

To love *hesed* means to explore what “the least of these” are living under and then to take the step and ask, what can I do about the structure doing this to them. That question can take us to interesting places. For example, could it possibly be true that all people who are poor have so little because they are lazy? Could it be true that our societal and governmental systems have nothing to do with people going without? How can someone pull themselves up by their bootstraps if our systems actively prevent them from having either? Never mind that the origins of that phrase were to highlight the futility of rich people telling the poor during the guilded age to work themselves out of poverty. As in, “I might as well lift myself out of this with my bootstraps.”

Lastly, to love kindness (*hesed*) is to love the process of seeing who is being oppressed then working to change the very world around us to help them no longer continue to be abused. Not because they are related to us, our friends or our own “kind,” but because God calls us to change the very reality we are living under to minimize the suffering around us.



This October, BJC invites you to join us in Minneapolis and St. Paul for the 2025 Walter B. and Kay W. Shurden Lectures: Criminalizing Mercy: Sanctuary and Government Repression of Migrant Justice.

The Sanctuary Movement is a story of faith communities practicing hospitality, solidarity, and loving our neighbors. From October 21–23, we will explore its history, challenges, and future in the ongoing struggle for migrant justice.

[Register Here](#)

#### Featured Speaker

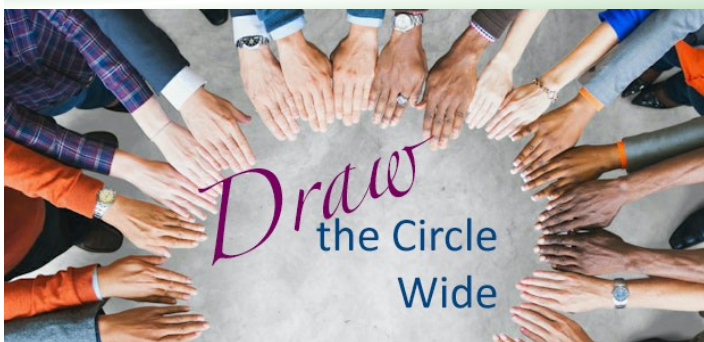
We are honored to welcome [Dr. Sergio González](#), historian, author, and co-creator of the podcast [Sanctuary: On the Border Between Church and State](#). **Dr. González will guide us through the lessons the sanctuary movement offers for people of faith today.**

#### Event Highlights

- Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:00 pm | Community conversation on how faith communities can join sanctuary work, facilitated by Dr. González (location shared with registrants)
- Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7:00 pm | Keynote lecture at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul
- Thursday, Oct. 23, 12:30 pm | Lunch dialogue on the North Star Act at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis

[Register today](#) to join us for one or all of these events.

Learn more about our annual Walter B. and Kay W. Shurden Lectures on Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State by visiting our website at [BJCOnline.org/ShurdenLectures](https://BJCOnline.org/ShurdenLectures).



## Draw the Circle Wide: A Kaleidoscope Gathering

Join us **October 20–24, 2025**, at Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, CT, for a transformative gathering rooted in Holy Currencies, intercultural wisdom, and the Kaleidoscope Way. This is *not* a conference. Rather it's a **living space** where facilitators, faith-rooted leaders, and changemakers **learn with and from one another**.

Over the course of these days, you'll:

- \* Deepen your skills in **Gracious Leadership** and KI methodologies
- \* Discover practical, context-sensitive tools
- \* Experience renewal and joy through **peer storytelling and immersive learning**
- \* Turn imagination into action for building communities of belonging

Everyone is welcome—whether you're new to KI or a seasoned participant. Transportation support is available (shuttle from Hartford Airport).

[Register today](#), and come away energized, equipped, and ready to lead with courage and joy.

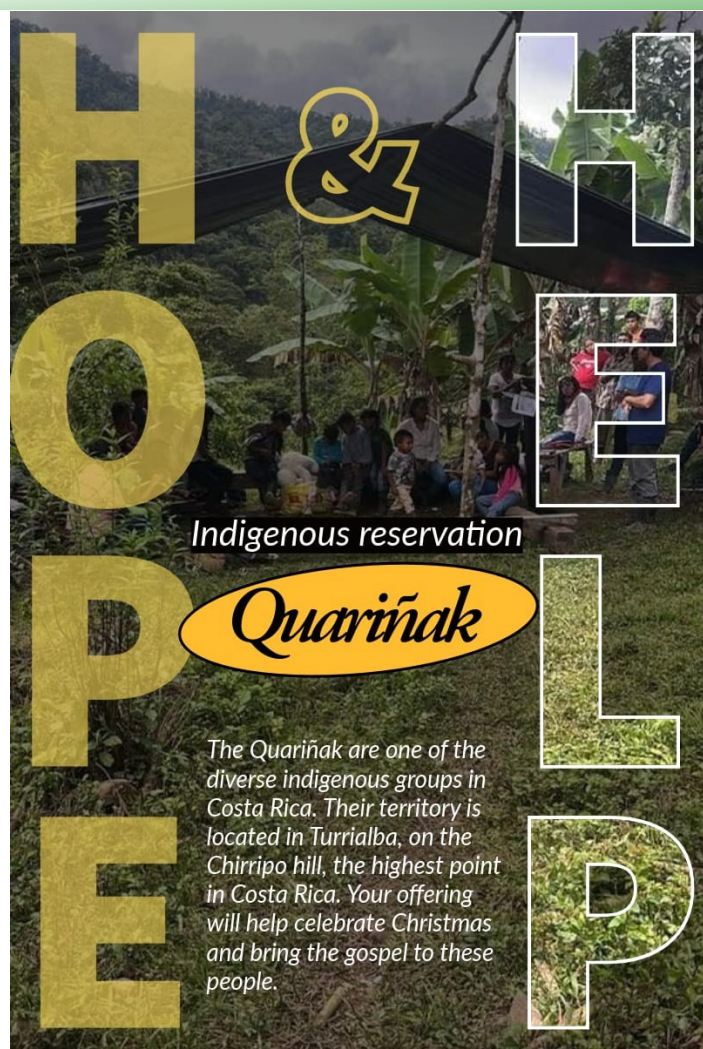
**When:** October 20, 2025 to October 24, 2025

**What's Happening:** Together we will equip participants with deeper proficiency in Gracious Leadership and KI methodologies which seek to cultivate radically welcoming spaces and strengthen partnerships.

You will leave with practical skills, contextualized tools, and renewed imagination for leadership—joyful, energized, and ready to build communities of belonging.

**Where:** Trinity Retreat Center, West Cornwall, CT

**Register:** If cost is prohibitive, do send us an email. We have some funds available for scholarships.



Every year, **Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza** in Bremerton, adopts a church and supports it with an offering. We have supported churches in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. This year, we want to support an indigenous community of the Quariñak tribe. This indigenous community in Costa Rica is located in the Turrialba territory in Chirripó, the highest point in Costa Rica. We would like to contribute a voluntary offering to celebrate Christmas with the children of this tribe. Also, if possible, help build a small church, since they only have a space with a roof and no walls. If you would like to contribute, it will be welcome. This offering is completely voluntary. I promise it will be well spent. Gifts must be received by December 10th so there is time to send it to Costa Rica. May God continue to bless you. —**Pastor Erick Ramón López López, IBNE**

## Ordination Council for Min. Yoke Wong at JBC



Evergreen Fam!

Please join us at **Japanese Baptist Church** on Sunday, October 5th at 2pm Pacific as we gather to be the ordination council for our sister-in-Christ, Min. Yoke Wong.

Both **Japanese Baptist Church** and the **Evergreen Committee on Standards and Ordination** have recommended Min. Yoke Wong to this Ordination Council. The Ordination Council is the final piece of the process, a chance for clergy and laity from other Evergreen Churches to talk with Min. Wong, and weigh in on the ordination recognition. Quorum is representation from all of our caucuses and at least eight (8) Evergreen churches represented.

A light lunch will be served before the event for those coming in person directly from church. Light refreshments will be served after. There is some parking at Japanese Baptist Church and more on the surrounding streets.

To receive a copy of Min. Yoke Wong's ordination paper, or to get information on how to join by Zoom, please contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office (253-859-2226 x1, or by email at [paul@ea-abc.org](mailto:paul@ea-abc.org)).

## Report from the Ordination Council for Min. John Malcomson



On October 1, at 6pm Seattle First Baptist Church called an ordination council for Min. John Malcomson together. We had representatives of all four caucuses and eight Evergreen Churches present, both in person and joining by Zoom. There were well over forty people participating in this Ordination Council.

After a light dinner of salad and pizza, this group got the chance to discuss with Min. Malcomson his ordination paper, his faith journey, and his call to ministry. Min. Malcomson gave thorough and thoughtful answers to the questions asked.

It is our pleasure to report that the ordination council came to consensus that Min. John Malcomson should be ordained to the Christian Ministry of chaplaincy by Seattle First Baptist Church with full recognition of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist churches.

When the details of when that Ordination Service will happen are available we will be sure to share them here in the Evergreen Notes!



# Connecting with our Global Servants!

Evergreen has many churches who support International Missions Global Servants throughout the world. We have featured a few of these wonderful individuals and their work in the Meet our Global Servants series of articles. We'd like to remind you that these Global Servants are eager to connect with your congregations either in person when they are in the United States, or by Zoom and other technologies when they are abroad doing their work. Here's a few of the Global Servants we've featured over the last couple of years and how to contact them:



**Mabudiga and Kihomi Nzunga** are actually here in Washington state through October 20th! They would love to connect with churches by Zoom or in person during their stay. They will be at the Evergreen

Annual Gathering October 9-11 as well. They are doing important work in the Dominican Republic supporting Haitian refugees from the Civil War in that country. To contact them, please email [nzunga-mabudiga@hotmail.com](mailto:nzunga-mabudiga@hotmail.com).

**Sarah and Luis Matos** are in Oaxaca, Mexico. They work with empowering girls and women through the Talita Cumi clubs and working with coffee farmers and bee keepers to strengthen their business practices. To contact them, please email [matos@internationalministries.org](mailto:matos@internationalministries.org).



**Rev. Kyle and Katrina Williams** serve in Thailand, where Katrina works with Chaing Rai International Christian School and Rev. Kyle Williams works with Hope Theological Seminary in Thailand, which is helping

monitor the fitful peace process in Burma, and the Karen Association of Churches in Thailand

providing support to refugees from war-torn Burma. They can be contacted by email at [williams@internationalministries.org](mailto:williams@internationalministries.org).



**Gordon and Lee Ann Hwang** are serving in Rifu, Japan, where they are working with the English Café at Oishan Chapel and Pastor Makito Mitsuda of Rifu Christian Church. Their work is empowering girls and people of

all ages through faith and learning English. They can be reached by email at [hwang@internationalministries.org](mailto:hwang@internationalministries.org).

**Rev. Mylinda Baits** works with IM as a Global Consultant providing support in healing from trauma through the arts. She is doing some work in Cuba as she finishes her PhD thesis on piecing together an aesthetic response to collective loss, as well as helping nurture situations and communities so that young people don't fall through the cracks in ways that make them targets of human trafficking. She can be reached by email at [mylindabaits@gmail.com](mailto:mylindabaits@gmail.com)

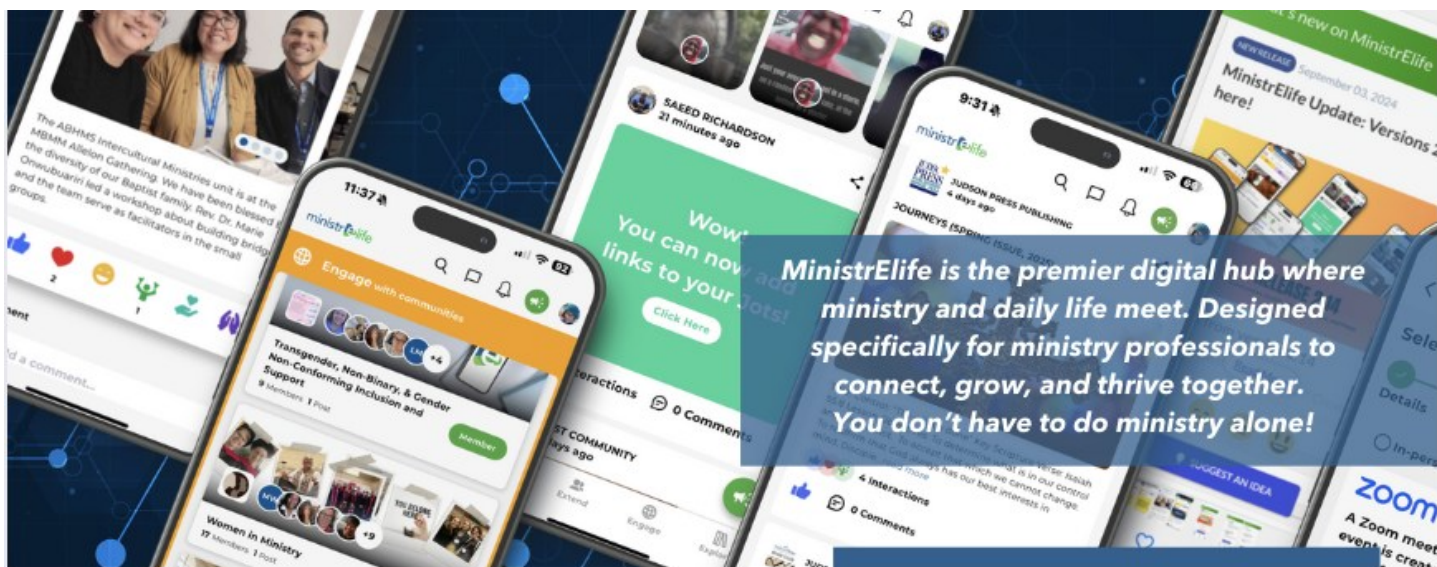


**Rev. Lauran Bethell** was featured in an article just last month, and her work centers around combatting human trafficking, particularly through her work as an IM Global Consultant and with ICAP, the International Christian Alliance

on Prostitution an organization she founded and directs. She is often traveling, having visited 6 continents in 8 months last year. Please reach out to her by email at [lauran@pobox.com](mailto:lauran@pobox.com).

Our Global Servants are doing phenomenal work to help people in Jesus' name all over the world. Please take the opportunity to support and empower them in that work, as individuals and through your congregations too!





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### **REV. ERICA VAN BRAKLE**

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## **SEE YOU IN OLYMPIA!**

2025 Annual Meeting  
"Strangers No More" (Leviticus 19:34)  
October 9-11, 2025

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# “Strangers No More!”

(Leviticus 19:34)

## 2025 Evergreen Annual Meeting October 9-11, 2025 Olympia First Baptist Church

### Basic Schedule

**Thursday Evening:** Clergy (Ministers' Council) & Laity Gatherings

**Friday:** Welcome Plenary, In Person Workshops, Friday Night Worship

**Saturday:** Business Meeting, Online Workshops, Olympia Experiences, Saturday Night Worship, Event Ends

**Sunday:** Join in worship at a western Washington Evergreen Church

### Featured Preachers



**Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain**, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches-USA



**Rev. Dr. Angela Barker-Jackson**, VP of Institutional Advancement of the Berkeley School of Theology

### Registration Fees

**Online:** \$50

**In Person:** \$100 (+\$10 for Thursday Gatherings) *Limited Scholarships are available*

### Workshops

We're going to have three great workshops which will be offered In Person on Friday afternoon, and Online on Saturday Afternoon.

**The Road from Strangers to Stranger No More!** - Rev. Doug Avilesbernal—Learning how to cross cultural and other divides to help make those unknown to us our friends, allies, and siblings.

**How to Discover Who Our Neighbors Are**—Rev. Sam Kim—Learning how to assess your neighborhood so you can target ministry appropriately.

**Building a Secure Financial Footing for Your Church**—Rev. Ricky Barlow, Robert and Darrell Simmons—Leveraging resources to help the church have the finances needed for sustainable ministry.

### Hotels & More Information

<https://ea-abc.org/annual-meeting-2025>

### Register Now!

<https://forms.office.com/r/HSmyKKYCMM>





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#ebaabc

Return Service Requested

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly. Please submit articles by the 20th of the month prior to expected publication. You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles for your congregation and community.

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

## Mission Statement

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will **Build bridges** between communities; **Provide resources** to equip member churches to share Christ and teach God’s word; and **Translate our unity** to the world.

**See you at the Annual Gathering at Olympia First Baptist Church!**

## Save these Dates!

We’ve got some great events coming up within our region. Please mark your calendars so you can make sure to participate in these fantastic coming events!

### Ordination Council for Min. Yoke Wong

Please see inside for more details and how to participate either in person or online!

### Evergreen Annual Gathering, Oct 9-11 at Olympia FBC!

Our Annual Gathering at Olympia First Baptist Church will be top notch, with great featured preachers, wonderful workshops, excellent Olympia Experiences, and fantastic fellowship and food. See inside for details!

## October Calendar

**September 15—October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month!**

**October 1—Ordination Council for Min. John Malcomson**—6pm at Seattle First, see inside for details

**October 5—Ordination Council for Min. Yoke Wong**—2pm at Japanese Baptist Church, see inside for more details

**October 9—Clergy (Minister’s Council) and Laity Gathering**—Kick off the Annual Gathering at Olympia FBC with these great Gatherings!

**October 10—Evergreen Annual Meeting Day 1**—At Olympia First Baptist—Welcome Plenary, In Person Workshops, and Worship

**October 11—Evergreen Annual Meeting Day 2**—At Olympia First Baptist—Business Meeting, Olympia Experiences, Online Workshops and Worship

**October 31—Halloween!**