



Evergreen Notes

Volume 20, Issue 5



American Baptist Churches USA

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

An Online Experience | June 24-26, 2021

Evergreen Association (Region) has 5 delegates.

Each member church has at least two delegates. Please be sure your congregation is represented by at least two delegates (or however many your church has at the Business meeting on June 25th, 2—3 PM.

Plan to experience the vitality of our American Baptist family together with other American Baptists from all corners of the United States and the world through the June 2021 online Biennial Mission Summit event! Join one of the most diverse Baptist denominations as we *imagine* new possibilities and celebrate together the love of Christ and the joy of being a part of American Baptist Churches USA.

The online Biennial Mission Summit will feature scheduled programming on each of the three event days, June 24-26, 2021. Participants will draw from a library of pre-recorded sessions, along with resources and offerings for prayer, worship, live workshops, inspiration, fellowship, and online fun, all while connecting with both regular attendees as well as American Baptists who have not attended an in-person event before!

Delegates will vote in the Business Session on Friday, June 25 at 5:00 PM ET.

Register today for the American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit. Visit www.americanbaptists2021.com to register.

Regular 4/1/2021–6/24/2021 | Delegate: \$125 | Participant/
Household of Two: \$125

Another Registration Option | Watch Party, 6 or fewer persons:
\$399

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Pray for Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership

- ◆ *Fairview Community Church*
- ◆ *Mount Zion Baptist Church, and*
- ◆ *Filipino-American Christian Fellowship (FACF),*

Evergreen's Bay Area Churches Serving the Needs of the People in Their Community

Four of Evergreen's newest churches Starlight Missionary Baptist Church, Golden Light Ministries, Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church and Last Trump of Zion have all stepped up to help meet the needs of their communities in and around the City of Oak-

land, California. They are meeting the needs of the people by delivering boxes of food, hygiene bags (shown above) a listening ear and a message of hope.



Hygiene Bags distributed by Rev. Bardwell's Food Give-Away Ministry, on Thursday and Saturdays

Like the majority of urban cities, Oakland has problems with affordable housing, homelessness, stressed out residents and communities that have been ravaged by the economic downturn as a result of COVID-19. So all praises be to God, our Evergreen churches are not only seeing the needs of the community but they are responding to it.

Starlight Missionary Baptist Church (East Oakland) and

Pastor Tom Bardwell used part of the money to purchase a large freezer to store frozen meats; purchased racks to store boxes of food in the church, and increased the number of hygiene bags given out. They were also blessed with a separate donation of \$6,000 in toys to hand out during Christmas.

Golden Light Ministries (West Oakland) used part of the money to pay people a stipend to setup and breakdown tables and tents so their people could be given boxes of food and other sundry

items. They serve approximately 200 people every week. They also do a Breakfast Program on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Moreover, Pastor Audrey and Golden Light members minister to Tent Cities Homeless Encampment and serve 150 lunches once a month.

Mount Pilgrim Metropolitan Baptist Church (East Oakland) transport food and other items to churches and persons living in West Oakland, Berkeley, Patterson and Tracy in addition to operating their own feeding ministry. Rev. Jenkins is currently using his personal vehicle and is piling up the miles as you can imagine. So he is looking to purchase a separate van in hopes of doubling the number of boxes weekly from 50 to 100 and taking the load off his personal vehicle.

Last Trump of Zion Ministries (Richmond) Rev. Dr. Whitfield delivers the Alameda County Food Boxes on a weekly basis to people who are sick and shut-in. Many of these people are suffering from Alzheimer, Parkinson, Stroke and/or Kidney dis-

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Evergreen's Bay Area Churches Serving

continued

(Continued from page 2)

ease. Furthermore, Last Trump donates clothing and assists in serving people in need at Golden Light and at Mount Pilgrim.

All praises be to God that these churches work in concert to better serve their communities. If you would like to donate to this joint cooperative ministry program please contact Rev. Doug Avilesbernal

(doug@ea-abc.org), Executive Minister of Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.

QUEENS & THINGS & NORTHINGTON TEES

POP-UP MOTHERS DAY SALE

Free Gift Wrapping with Purchase of \$30 or more

**Saturday, May 1
10AM-6PM**

**Rainier Beach
Safeway Parking Lot
3820 Rainier Ave. S. - 98118**

**BLM Caps
Journals
Purses - Socks
Sweatshirts**

**Workout Clothing
T-Shirts
Gift Bags
Earrings
Mothers Day Gift Sets**



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NORTHINGTON TEES
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MMBB CALLS: SPEG Nominations for February 2022 Candidates



Rev. Dr. Perry J. Hopper

“Research shows pastors are twice as likely to experience financial stress as the average American.”

Rev. Dr. Perry J. Hopper, MBA, Associate Executive Director of [MMBB](#), explains, *this is because clergy sustain significant levels of indebtedness with fewer resources to meet their financial obligations.*

Coupled with a theology that sometimes can be interpreted as promoting financial abundance, wealth and even prosperity, these debt levels can be open to theological interpretation and lead to personal guilt and shame.

For pastors who deal with these challenges, the Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program (SPEG) is a god-send..” [excerpt from Church Executive Magazine, by RaeAnn Slaybaugh, 9/17/2020]

The Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program (SPEG) is a three year program designed to strengthen the personal and organizational financial skills of pastors who have been identified as key leaders of healthy congregations.

Program Purpose The program will create a firm foundation of key financial topics for participants, focusing first on personal financial planning topics for the pastor, supporting them in creating a personal financial plan. Additionally, the program will engage pastors and congregations in the dynamics of congregational

stewardship, care for the pastor, and developing healthy patterns of talking about financial issues.

Program Outline The program will last for three years and will include the following key topics:

- ◆ Debt Management
- ◆ Addressing Attitudes, Perspectives and Assumptions about Money
- ◆ Clergy Taxes
- ◆ Compensation Basics
- ◆ Retirement Planning Basics
- ◆ Investment Planning Basics
- ◆ Church Financial Management
- ◆ Estate Planning Basics

Pastors will participate in an annual cohort retreat. Spouses are invited to participate to the best of their ability.

Regular contact with the pastoral cohort will be facilitated electronically by the program director.

A lay leader from each congregation will be included in certain aspects of the program in years two and three.

Program Expectations

- The congregation is expected, as a sign of financial stewardship, to enroll the senior minister in MMBB’s Comprehensive Retirement Plan. For the three year course of this program, MMBB will underwrite 50% of the Plan Premium in year one, 40% in year two and 25% in the final year.

- The pastor and congregation commit to full engagement in the program for the course of three years, including attending annual offsite meetings, and making time in the pastor’s schedule for regular participation in cohort activities. All costs associated with travel for cohort meetings will be paid for by the Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program.

An official body of the congregation will endorse and approve the pastor’s and congregation’s participation in this Program, and a congregational leader will be identified to represent the congregation on Program Activities.

Regions are invited to submit up to 10 names for participation in the program. Potential participants may also self-nominate for inclusion in the program. For each pastoral leader who is confirmed for participation, a lay leader will be identified from the church to be the congregation’s representative in this program. Both the pastoral leader and the lay leader will complete the application together.

Interested? Share your interest with Evergreen Executive Minister, Douglas Avilesbernal, doug@ea-abc.org

Or send self-nominations to Ms. Ania Norori, Program Director at ania.norori@mmbb.org Nominations for the 2022 cohort are due by July 15, 2021.

Questions? Contact Ms. Norori at 917-658-7751

IM: 2021 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT PARTNER



Whether you have already registered for the Biennial Mission Summit and are plan-

ning out your schedule or you have not yet registered and are still wondering what you can experience, please consider these events from American Baptist International Ministries (IM):

Imagine connecting with friends in the virtual attendee hub.

Imagine learning through engaging, interactive workshops.

Imagine exploring a virtual exhibit hall and meeting your missionaries.

Virtual Attendee Hub

New in 2021 is the online hub where you still start your experience at the Biennial Mission Summit. From the hub you will be able to view your schedule, join the sessions that you have chosen, see the list of exhibitors and access their virtual booths, and access another new feature, the **on-demand library**. The library will include a wide assortment of resources for churches as well as personal spiritual development from IM and other ABC partners, in-

cluding videos from global servants who are unable to participate in the summit.

Virtual Exhibit Hall

The virtual exhibit hall will be open daily from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. ET on Monday, June 21, through Saturday, June 26. IM Staff and nearly two dozen global servants are eager to meet you at IM's virtual exhibit booth, through which you will be able to schedule one-on-one appointments convenient to your time zones.

Large Group Gatherings

Also within the virtual exhibit booth, participants can attend **large group meetings** focused on geographic regions around the world to learn about the work of IM's global servants and how IM's international partners are responding to COVID-19, with opportunities to ask questions. More details about those available for appointments, dates and times of the large group meetings, and other virtual exhibit booth offerings will be updated on the IM website **HERE**

Workshop Opportunity



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Please go online to www.ea-abc.org and click on "Give" to donate.

We are grateful for your continued support!

Happenings Around the Region

Pastor Mark Rambo and the Olympia First Baptist Church are recognized by International Ministries (IM) and Executive Director Sharon Koh for Oly's generosity in 2020 which qualifies Oly for inclusion in the Luther Rice Society (LRS). Olympia First is among the top ten percent of congregations, foundations, and organizations giving to IM. Luther Rice is celebrated as a dedicated colleague and humble servant who raised financial support for Ann and Adoniram Judson and other missionaries to serve overseas and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your selfless and sacrificial giving!

*******Grace Baptist Church—Tacoma Gracefully Good Coffee** You are invited to email us to place an order at gracefullygoodcoffee@gmail.com

If there is a bulk order from a congregation or church that will make any shipping or delivery much easier. But people can still order individually as well.

Donation suggestion is \$12 per pound of coffee. We offer whole bean and ground coffee (from coarse to fine grind), in medium and dark roasts.

Info from our website: <http://www.gracebaptisttacoma.org/gracefully-good-coffee.html>

*******Evergreen Resource Ministers** are a support provided by the Evergreen region. Receiving thousands of resource links when one is getting started or one is stuck can be paralyzing. So, Resource Ministers can come alongside the church into discovering their call, who they are and what process, resource, etc. might help them best in their context.

Children Ministries	JC Mitchell, revjcmitchell@gmail.com Patrick Green patrickgre@comcast.net
Youth/Family Ministries	Angeline Lau alau.jbc@gmail.com Anita Peebles anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org
Houselessness	Chris Boyer mcboyer@gsbchurch.com
Worship	Victoria Carr vcarr@thenbcf.org
Media	Mindi Welton-Mitchell media@ea-abc.org

*******From PCBA – Concern Expressed for Burmese Baptist Congregations**

American Baptists in Northern California expressed concern for members of the San Francisco Kachin Baptist Church, meeting at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, and the Oakland Burmese Mission Baptist Church meeting in the First Baptist Church of Oakland, regarding the recent military coup in Myanmar. Pastor Naw San of the Kachin congregation describes it as “turning people’s world up-side down”.

Leadership of the American Baptist Churches USA has issued a call to prayer for the Burmese people and for peaceful ways of resolving conflict. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Interim General Secretary advises he has sent a letter to President Biden asking “support for Burma’s democratic institutions,...urging the military to honor the results of recent elections, adherence to democratic norms, the rule of law and the release of detained elected officials”.

*******American Baptist Women of the Pacific Northwest Conference** Committee has scheduled the date—**October 1-3, 2021**, Howard Johnson Hotel, Yakima. The following elections are official: Regional President—Gail Aita; Literature Chair—Lorna Flannery; Coordinator of AB Girls—Gaythoo Thaw and Coordinator of Young Adult Women—Ehlertha Win. Additionally, the North Puget Sound Area Board and the Far West Area Board determined to merge and become one body with the Region ABW.

A Hard Day at the Eye Clinic

Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings and the peace of our Lord be with each one of you. The week of and following April 12 to 16 have been very hard on the staff of our eye clinic. They are still talking about the case.

Why hard?

Emotionally they had to deal with a déjà vu. And that déjà vu is not all that pleasant. This is the case of a young man, Mr. Elima Osias, 51 years of age, from L'Acul du Nord. Elima came to the eye clinic in 2014 when his eye trouble started. The doctor told him to have a scan of his eye. Elima disappeared only to reappear now with a much deeper issue.

The doctor wanted to do a scan of the eye/ brain. Let me say that the scan of the

entire head. This scan is only done in Port-au-Prince, the capital city, or in the Dominican Republic.

A couple of questions haunt me as you read this journal.

Why Elima has not been able to have the scan the doctor told him in 2014?

-Did he not trust the doctor?

-Did he not have the money?

-Did he not know that the situation was serious enough to pay attention to it?

-And now what?

I am inclined to believe that Elima did not have the money then for the scan and

likely does not have the money now. If the cancer is far gone, the outcome is not promising.



Kihomi & Nzunga

The staff still has the sad memory of little Berlinda Lebrun who came to us with exactly the same condition, and we buried her on April 8, 2020.

Thank you for walking this difficult and sometimes emotionally tiring path with the staff of the eye clinic in Cap-Haitian.

Yours in Haiti,
Nzunga & Kihomi.

Sharing an email request for prayer: "We are preparing a quick voyage to Haiti early May to go negotiate the eye clinic vehicle. The custom duty will be the best opportunity for those custom agents to overcharge us and use money for themselves. I am praying to find some friends who can help us get that vehicle out their hands without too much troubles. We are still waiting to see how much money is coming in for it. If you are able to contribute/help, please do.

Please be praying for Dennis Shewell. He had another bladder operation revealing three spots suspected to be cancer coming back. Pray.

We are fine."

Nzunga & Kihomii



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches
409 Third Avenue S, Suite A
Kent WA 98032-5843

Phone: 253-859-2226

Email: eba@ea-abc.org

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Instagram, and **Twitter** @evergreenabcusa
#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.



Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal
Executive Minister

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Calendar of Upcoming Event

Executive Committee meets monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30 PM via Zoom during the Corona Virus pandemic).

Association Board Meetings, Quarterly:
June 12, 2021;
August 14, 2021; and
October 8-9, 2021 (Annual Meeting)

Annual Meeting—October 8-9, 2021, Olympia First Baptist Church. **Theme:** Rooted & Repurposed; **Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7; **Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Executive Minister Metro New York

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.