

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874
International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

TWO YOUTH BAPTIZED ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24



Angie Hernandez,
daughter of Ivette Loaisiga



Willis Dilley,
with his parents, Denise and Norman Dilley

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Recently I walked into our church's nursery and noticed that things did not look very contemporary. (See pictures on Page 2.) A thought came to my mind, "Would I feel totally comfortable leaving my own children here?" Well, that is why I am writing today; one of the things I have learned over the years is that young families look for safe, clean and refreshing places to leave their children while at church. I think it is time we freshen up our "nursery." This is the place that our youngest ones first experience God's love in church.

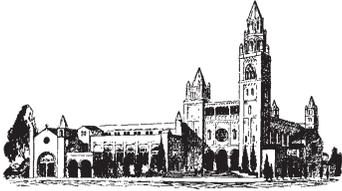
So, what I would like to do is paint the room, purchase some new area rugs, some new crib bedding, and pictures for the walls. We have wonderful people who volunteer in our nursery and we need to make it a pleasant place for them, as well. Now, I understand these are tough economic times for all of us, but I am asking anyone interested in this particular project to make a special contribution – a contribution above and beyond what you regularly give. I don't think it will require a great amount of money; we already have volunteers who have stepped up to do the work and an anonymous donor has committed to give \$250 to "start us off." I am hoping we can raise \$1,200 to do this project. With your sacrifice and help, we can do it.

I know not many of you travel to the 3rd floor, but I really suggest you take the trip. Over the last month, James Johnson has volunteered his time and talents and has been leading the charge to paint the entire 3rd floor and bathrooms. Others have joined him in helping and the area is looking great. I say, "Thank you" to everyone who has taken a moment to contribute.

Lastly, on the Saturday before Easter we had our Servant Evangelism outreach. This was our effort to do simple acts of love with "no strings attached." The day was wonderfully blessed. Fourteen people volunteered and we gave over 200 bottles of water, 30 cups of coffee, and we washed well over 25 cars. Our community was amazed that a church was simply giving without asking for anything in return. People were in disbelief. We had a tremendous impact and those who came saw first hand the riches of God in serving our Lord. Let us thank everyone who served. Please keep an eye and ear out for our next Servant Evangelism outreach coming in July.

God bless! *Pastor Carlton*

AROUND THE CHURCH BUILDING



We are gradually working at “sprucing up” the church building, as time and finances allow. James Johnson has spent many hours, assisted by John Emeya, and Tony and Laura Barajas, and custodian Anthony Stagel, painting the restrooms on the 3rd floor, and the hallways there are now in the works. The 5th and 6th grade classroom in the Underground is also being cleaned up and painted.

In addition, Haydee Gutierrez has purchased new curtains for the windows in the nursery and they have been hung.

Our appreciation to these members for their extra attention to making our church home more inviting and welcoming to everyone.



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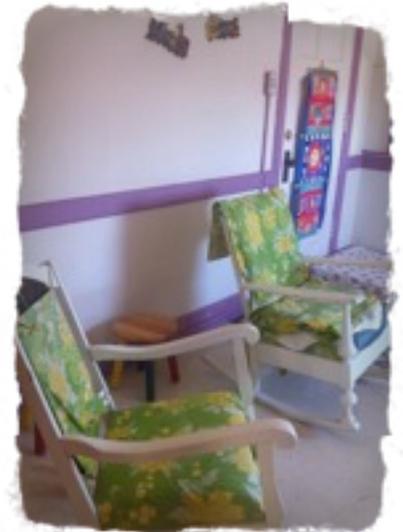
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THE NURSERY NEEDS PAINTING AND UP-DATING



THANK YOU

Thank you, Maxine McFarland, for coordinating our Easter Sunday continental breakfast. Thanks to Denise Dillely for her hard work to make Holy Week services such a blessing. And let us all thank the staff of First Baptist for working so hard behind the scenes.

– Pastor Carlton

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Christian Education Ministry appreciates all donations.

I would like to thank Ronald Tigerino, Etna and Santiago Morales, Samuel and Vu Ahegbebu, as well as Zuleima Argumedo for refreshments donated this year.

We need volunteers to teach Children's Sunday classes. Please get in touch with Ann Brodie or call the Church office at 213-384-2151. Vacation Bible school time is around the corner.

Ann Brodie,
CE Coordinator

NEWS SCHEDULE

The next issue of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **May 23, 2011**. It will cover services and events through Sunday, June 5, 2011. Material and articles for the May 23rd issue should arrive in the church office **no later than May 11**.

MISSION UP-DATE

Chuck and Ruth work with the approximately 75,000 Akha hill tribe people living in Northern Thailand. The Foxes' ministry focuses on evangelism, pastoral care, leadership development and women's ministries. They write:

"Greetings to you in the name of Jesus! This past month has been a time of celebration! We have celebrated graduations from high school with STEP students, the birthday of a special evangelist, the completion of clean water systems and the development of Sunday Schools. In all of these things we see the grace of God.

"Akha students that you have supported over the years have graduated from Sahartsuksa School, one of our Baptist schools with a tradition of 50 years. It is a triumph! Yaju, who is 77, came to Thailand from Burma 49 years ago to spread the Gospel among his own people. Over one thousand people gathered to celebrate Yaju's birthday at the center for the Akha Churches of Thailand. What a special day, with a special meal of rice, pork and chili.

"We completed two clean water systems supported by Central Baptist Church of Illinois. The Akha people are very grateful for clean water in the dry season. Praise the Lord for the water coming to the village from mountain streams.

"Over time, Sukasem village youth have grown in their knowledge of the Lord, through the help of many people to develop a Sunday School in the village. Today, we are trying to reach out to new places with God's Word by using the Akha to reach their own people."

I lift up mine eyes to the hills; from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121)

- Pray for Chuck and Ruth as they minister among the Akha tribal people of Thailand.

- Pray that the Akha people will respond to the Gospel message and become followers of Jesus Christ.

"SHARING THE CARING CHRIST" ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK ON MAY 22



On **Sunday, May 22** we will have another ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK following the Church School Classes, at 12:15 p.m. in the Robbins Dining Hall. Our theme for the day will be "Sharing the Caring Christ." Everyone is invited to stay and bring a dish to share. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex following worship, or you may call the church office at (213) 384-2151 to indicate what food you will bring.



Young Adults who participated in a Palm Sunday drama,
"A Report from the Coronation"

Kenneth Mericer, John Emeya, Virginia Dilley,
Carlton Rhoden and Randy Caton, Jr.

(photo by Gerald Gubatan)

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011

9:30 a.m. Worship

“DEATH VALLEY DRIVE”

(Please read Psalm 23 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching

11:00 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages



SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2011

9:30 a.m. Worship

“WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING YOUR HEART?”

(Please read John 14:1-14 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching

11:00 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

12:15 p.m.

All-Church Potluck