

April 11, 2009

Dear Pastors & Friends:

Greetings! We pray that you had a joyous Easter. On behalf of the Burma Refugees Task Force, we would like to inform you about the upcoming 2009 Biennial of American Baptist Churches (ABC/USA). ABC/USA holds a Biennial Convention once every two years in different cities in the United States. From Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, the 2009 Biennial will be held at —

**Pasadena Convention Center, 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101-2399**

— which is about 30 miles from Los Angeles, California.

This gathering is open to all members and visitors of the American Baptist Churches families and friends. The programs include: workshops, exhibitions, books, worship service, business meetings, Bible studies, fellowship, and many meetings.

This letter (both in English and in Karen) highlights several meetings that may be of interest to you, especially about the Karen pastors and lay leaders gathering on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. As you may recall at the conference for the Baptist Leaders from Burma in Dallas during October, 2008, many Karen pastors expressed their desire to have another gathering in order to build the Karen fellowship network. Rev. Tha Hgay, who is known by many Karen pastors and is currently serving the Karen congregation at Mona Vista Baptist Church in Phoenix, AZ, is willing to convene the meeting to establish a formal network among the pastors and regions.

If you are interested to attend this meeting on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, please fill out the Biennial registration form, meals, and hotel choices, and send the registration and payment to:

**ABCUSA Office of Travel and Conference Planning**

**P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851**

You will also need to buy your own airline ticket to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) or Burbank Airport in California. If you have any questions, you can contact Rev. Saw Ler Htoo (cell phone number: 703-403-4385), or Rev. Tha Hgay (home phone number: 602-254-6749), or Rev. Florence Li (office number 610-768-2468).

We look forward to seeing you in Pasadena!

In Christ,

Rev. Florence Li  
Burma Refugees Task Force

## **Burma/Karen Pastors Gathering Schedule**

### **2009 Biennial at Pasadena, CA**

---

**Thursday, June 25**

**Arrive in Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) or Burbank Airport. Go to hotel via Biennial shuttle bus or get picked up by host family.**

---

**Friday, June 26**

- 9:00-9:30 a.m. Welcome and Morning Devotion with Bible Study**
- 9:30 -10:30 a.m. Karen Baptist Fellowship in America – Rev. Tha Hgay**
- 10:30 -10:45 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 – 12 noon Training Session – Dr. Tim Tseng, Rev. Florence Li,  
International Ministries, Duane Binkley**
- 12 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Open Forum & Dialogue with ABC members about refugee ministries**
- 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. Break**
- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Fellowship with Asian American Baptist Caucus**
- 5:00 – 6:45 p.m. Asian American Baptist Caucus Dinner  
Price: \$35 (speak with Florence about subsidy of \$15)**
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Evening Gathering: Opening/Worship Service**
- 9:15 p.m. Return to hotel or host families**
- 

**Suggested Open Schedule on Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27**

**Saturday, June 26**

**Breakfast at hotel or at host family**

- 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.**      **Global Perspective on Immigrant and Refugee Resettlement**  
**Leaders: Florence Li, Kenneth George, Duane Binkley**
- 10:00 – 12:00 noon**   **Morning Gathering: Worship Service in Convention Center**
- 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**    **Lunch**
- ABC-International Ministries — “A Taste of the World Mission Conference”, Price: \$20**
- or —
- National Ministries — “Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism”**  
**Price: \$30 (speak with Florence or Tha Hgay about subsidy of \$10)**
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**      **Visit Exhibition Halls or meetings**
- 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Dinner, “We are ABC: A Multi-Cultural Family Fest”**  
**Price: \$15**
- 8:15 p.m.**              **Return to hotel or host families**
- 

## **Sunday, June 27**

**Breakfast at hotel or check out from hotel or at host families**

- 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.**      **Bible Studies in Convention Center**
- 10:00 – 12 noon**      **Morning Gathering: Worship Service in Convention Center**
- 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**    **Lunch, International Ministries — “A Taste of the World Mission Conference”**  
**Price: \$20**
- or —
- National Ministries — “Role Models for Walking the Talk in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”**  
**Price: \$30 (speak with Florence or Tha Hgay about subsidy of \$10)**
- 3:00 – 8:30 p.m.**      **Travel to Adoniram Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Dinner meeting**  
**at church (Address: 1272 N. Glendora Ave. Covina, CA 91724**  
**Phone: 626-915-7598)**

## **Registration, Hotels, Meals, Airfare & Scholarship for the 2009 Biennial**

**You must register for the Biennial using the forms provided by the Biennial Office!**

1. **Registration:** Registration fee is \$70 for the first time going to the Biennial. Please speak with Florence Li about limited scholarships.

**Hotels:** There are different hotel choices, some are expensive and some are affordable if four or less people share a room. Some people may find host families to stay with. Please let Rev. Tha Hgay or Rev. Saw Ler Htoo, or Rev. Florence Li know about where you want to stay.

The suggested hotel for the Karen pastors to stay (four people in a room) is —

**Saga Motor Hotel** (\$98 + 15% tax = \$112.70 per night). Three nights (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) will cost \$112.70 x 3 nights = \$338.10

**Each person will cost about \$85 for 3 nights.** \$338.10/4 people = round up to \$85

2. **Meals:** The approximate cost for five meals is \$75 after subsidizing.

Asian Caucus Dinner: \$20, IM luncheon: \$20, NM luncheon: \$20, Multi-cultural Family Fest: \$15)

3. **Transportation:** Shuttle Bus from LAX airport to hotel on Thursday and return to airport on Sunday or Monday: \$40 round-trip.

**Airfare:** If you buy your own airline ticket, the cost might range from \$250-\$350 depending on where you are flying from.

4. **Scholarship Information**

You can apply for the Asian American Baptist Caucus scholarship of \$200 if you pay \$25 membership fee for 2009. You can pay the membership fee at the Asian Caucus meeting on Friday, June 26.

Burma Refugees Task Force also provides limited scholarship. Please speak to Rev. Florence Li, Rev. Saw Ler Htoo or Duane Binkley