

KAREN CHRISTIAN LEADERS' NEWSLETTER

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Notes from Duane Binkley Every other year, the American Baptist Churches of the USA holds a meeting called the Biennial. The next Biennial will be held in Pasadena, California June 26-28, 2009. Of particular interest is a special meeting for Karen pastors and church leaders that will be held on June 26th. This meeting is the result of a previous meeting of Karen leaders held last October in Dallas, Texas. At that meeting interest was expressed in having a future gathering so that a national network of Karen could be formed among the churches. In preparation for this meeting, a recent telephone conference was held and Rev. Tha Hgay of Phoenix, AZ was selected as chair person, with Rev. Has Moo of St. Paul, Minnesota as Vice Chair. Rev. Saw Ler Htoo of Washington, DC was selected as Secretary and Aye Aye Thaw of Oakland, California was selected as Joint Secretary. It is hoped that many representatives of Karen churches can come. For more information, contact Florence Li of National Ministries (florence.li@abc-usa.org) or Duane Binkley (dmbink@pobox.com). Also at the Biennial meeting, plans are being made for Karen and Chin choirs to sing and maybe have some dancing too.

Here in Akron, Ohio the Karen church had been meeting at the Springfield Baptist Church for the past two years. But to get to the church, two school buses were rented each week which cost \$1200 each month. Starting with the first Sunday in May however, the Karen church started worshiping in a new place. The building used to be a Methodist church but now is used by a non profit organization. This building is being rented for \$800 per month and is within walking distance for many of the Karen. So no more buses are needed. Eventually, it is hoped the Karen church will have their own building.

Support for Duane Binkley by Neil Sowards. International Ministries (IM) has told Duane and other missionaries he must raise support from individuals in order to stay on as a missionary with IM. IM is in a financial crisis and has been forced to lay off a number of persons. They are asking all missionaries to raise their own support. E-mail Neil Sowards for details. There is a match for first time gifts over \$200 if they reach International Ministries by June 30, 2009.

Fort Wayne, Indiana. Two churches, First Baptist and South Wayne Baptist Church merged January 1st, 2009 to become Fort Wayne Baptist Church. The new church will continue to provide a place for the Karen Christian Fellowship to worship and will continue to work with them. Several joint worship services have happened in March and April.

First Karen Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN. I would like to tell you about my job in US. I am a pastor at the First Karen Baptist Church in Saint Paul Minnesota. There are three pastors in this Church. We were recognized by ABC on July 14, 2008 in Marshal Town IOWA. We have our own Church in Saint Paul Minnesota. We dedicated it on July 13, 2008.



Our Church motto is (Psalm 33:12) "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance" Below I have listed our weekly activities at the Church.

Mid-Week Prayer	Wednesday	6:30 - 07:30 AM
Prayer meeting on Saturday		5:00 - 06:00 PM
Choir practice on Saturday		6:00 - 07:00 PM
On Sunday Women's service		9:00 – 10:00 AM
Sunday School		9:00 – 12:00 AM
Praise and worship		10:00 – 10:15AM
Testimonies		10:15 – 10:30AM
Bible study		10:30 – 10:40AM
Noon service		10:40 – 2:00PM
Youth service		12:00 –1:00PM
Home cell (At members houses)		05:00– 6:00PM

Other activities – special day programs

Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Children Day, New Year, Christmas, Bible Day, Poo Tha Pu Day, Judson Day, Palm Sunday, Easter. Sometimes our Church has guests from different places come and preach.

We have had three Baptism and three married. Every week we have new arrivers from the refugee camps and other coming from other states in the USA.



Finally I would like to tell you that I will do my best in this Church. I invite you to come and encourage our Church sometime. Thank you very much.

Sincerely Hsa Moo

Instructional Video or DVD. Persons with a high quality video camera and skill in making Instructional Videos needed to make a short video on the importance of keeping one's house or apartment clean. Contact Neil Sowards at neildianasowards@juno.com for details.

Karen Christian Leaders' Manual. A number of persons have been working on a manual for Karen Christian Leaders. It is an attempt to put a lot of useful information in one location. We are offering what has been written to Karen Leaders by e-mail to those who would like to see it. Please understand it is a work in progress. However Karen Leaders will find some of what is finished useful and can suggest to the committee other topics they think might be useful. E-mail neildianasowards@juno.com for an e-mail copy. Sorry no hard copies are available. It is thirty pages long with 80 pages of addendum. Below is a relevant section.

U. Organ Donation.

In America, because of advances made in medicine and surgical procedures, there is a great need for organ donations. It is now possible to transfer organs from one person to another and thereby save the life of the receiving person. So a Christian can choose to give his organs to persons who need them. There are far more people needing organs than there are organs available. Therefore, every day persons die who could have lived if there had been organs available to them.

On most driver's license applications, there is a box you can check if you wish to have your organs donated in the event you are killed in an accident. In Indiana this results in the words, "Donor" and a red heart on the front of Indiana Driver's License. In the event of an accident, this tells the hospital that they can harvest your organs immediately after you die. There is a very limited time that this can be done.

There was a tragic accident in Arizona in which a young Karen boy was killed crossing a street. They were able to keep his body alive even though he was brain dead until the family could decide to allow them to harvest those organs needed by others. In that way their tragedy became life giving to a dozen other persons and their families. In a real sense that boy lives on in the bodies of others. Is this not what Jesus would want?

This donation of organs should be discussed in every Karen community and decisions made ahead of time, first by indicating on driver's licenses; and secondly, by everyone in the family knowing that if a tragedy happens, the victim's organs will be given to those who need them.

Beating Children and Spouses: It is against American law for a husband to beat a spouse or children. A husband or wife who beats or physically abuses his/her mate can be jailed. Usually taking Anger Management Courses is preferable to jailing but if a mate persists in abusing a mate, he or she can be issued a restraining order that prevents him or her from approaching his/her spouse. Violators of that order can be put in jail.

So in America, no married person need to put up with being physically abused.

The physical abuse of children is also illegal. Doctors and teachers are required by law to report to the proper authorities any child they see who appears to have been beaten or abused. The Child Protective Agency then investigates. They may require parents to take Parenting Classes to learn better way to discipline their children. If a parent fails to change and continues to abuse

their children, the agency can take the child or children from the home and put them in protective custody or foster homes. If this is done, it can be difficult for the parents to get their children back.

Karenkonnektion.org website has many resources and news. Check it for information on the Biennial in Pasadena, California June 26-28, resources in Karen, Sunday school lessons, etc.

Resources:

Karen-English Picture Dictionary. Available from Duane Binkley for \$5 plus postage. Contains 1800 words in English and Karen beside pictures.

Citizenship Manual The manual issued by the U. S. government to help persons to become U. S. citizens has now been translated into Karen. A printed version in both English and Karen is available with a DVD for \$20 plus \$5 shipping. The DVD has spoken English and Karen. Contact: TansyJKadoe@cox.net Mailing address: Tansy Kadoe, 18050 N. 89th Lane, Peoria, AZ 85382 This a fund raiser for her youth group. The first six who purchased and used this manual and translation passed their citizenship test!

Arizona Driver's License Manual in English and Karen Useful to others in other states. Contact TansyJKadoe@cox.net for cost and details.

Share! How about sharing with all the Karen leaders what your Karens are doing in your area?

Ruth Peterson has been leading a Bible Study for Karen young people in their 20s, 30s and 40s. She says, *"Our Bible Study currently is dealing with people from the Bible. We look at their stories and think about how God worked in their lives. Then we ask what we can learn from the story of another person who is in so many ways like us. About every three or four weeks I initiate a study with some commentary and questions. People send their replies to everyone and I send my responses to everyone. It is good to hear many voices."* It is done by e-mail. If any Karens would like to join this group, please contact her at: peterson.j.g@comcast.net

Share! How about sharing with all the Karen leaders what your Karens are doing in your area?

Feedback: If this newsletter is interesting and helpful to you, please let us know. Also send us any information to share with other Karen groups. Tell us what you would like to see in the next issues. Give us e-mails of leaders who might like to receive it--our list is very incomplete.

Past Issues of this newsletter are available on karenkonnektion.org