



The Chimes

Date: February 26, 2019
Volume 19 Number 5

Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.



More information on the Dalis' Visit to Modesto: Rebecca Dali: My faith in God motivates me every second

During World Humanitarian Day on 21 August, Dr. Rebecca Samuel Dali received the 2017 Humanitarian Award from the Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation at the United Nations office in Geneva in recognition of her courageous efforts in reintegration of women abducted by the Boko Haram into their local communities in the northern Nigeria. In her visit to the Ecumenical Centre, Dali shares the source of her courage and commitment to help the most vulnerable.

Dali was also amongst the first to visit the parents of the 276 Chibok girls after the mass kidnapping by Boko Haram in April 2014. Dali's husband, the Rev. Dr Samuel Dante Dali, at that time was the president of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN, Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria), to which most of the kidnapped Chibok girls belonged. Located in the northern districts of the country,

congregations of the EYN suffered severe attacks by Boko Haram militants, forcing up to 70% of the church members to flee and become internally displaced persons.

"At first I was helping vulnerable children, but when the crisis of violence came to Jos, I started helping widows and orphans", recalls Dali, who founded and runs the Centre for Caring, Empowerment and Peace Initiatives (CCEPI) in northeast Nigeria. "Later, when Boko Haram came, we started working with the whole range of displaced people. We have registered 380,000 households whom we have helped with something", says Dali, who herself was forced to flee with her family when Boko Haram militants took over the town of Michika, Adamawa State in 2014.

As the situation in the northern states of Nigeria only worsened, the CCEPI relief work grew gradually, resulting in helping 1 million individuals since 2008. "In that big, huge congregation, there were widows and orphans again, and I started to focus on the most vulnerable", says Dali. A lot of people coming from Boko Haram insurgencies were neglected, "the government did not care, the community rejected them" - often including even their own families.

"When I started opening my arms to them - they started coming to me: some were sick, some were hungry, most of them had experienced trauma, violence, abuse."

Dali, with her colleagues at CCEPI, started to take a more detailed look in their cases, offering specific help. "Often help used to be just a handout, small and insufficient - but as I looked at the people and their stories more closely, I was able to offer the help they needed." Starting with trauma healing and providing a shelter, continuing with support in pregnancy and giving birth, support with clothing, food and housing, and moving on with training and empowering them, enrolling people into the livelihood centres - the CCEPI was and still is there to help.

"Sometimes when I am really exhausted, the thoughts of stopping this work come to my mind. But then I remember that God did not reject me, and He is not very tired of me - so how can I be tired of people? I believe that God is God of love, and He has said that we should love other people as ourselves. He came to reconcile the world", says Dali, adding that we should act as ones who help others to reconcile too.

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<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/rebecca-dali-my-faith-in-god-motivates-me-every-second>



Sunday, March 3 "Letter Written on the Heart" is our theme for March 3. Please read Psalm 103:1-5 and II Corinthians 3:1-6. From whence is your competence? God has prepared us to be competent as ministers of the new covenant. What is the "new covenant" all about? ~Stephen Reddy

Wednesday, March 6, Ash Wednesday
The Lenten season is soon upon us! Are you ready? Our overall theme is "Our Lenten Sojourn," with a sub-theme: "Connecting to An Unhurried God." The focus is to help us slow down, spend time in prayer, release our slavery to time. Other aspects of worship and activities will be shared later. We'll begin with Ash Wednesday Worship, March 6, 7:00 pm. Invite a friend! Lenten Devotional material will be available on March 3. Are you ready? ~Stephen Reddy

Sunday, March 10: "What Does It Mean to Know God?" Please read Exodus 33:17-20; 34:4-8 and II Peter 1:1-8, 10-11.
~John Katonah





Greeters for March

March 3rd: Terhesa Gamboa & Johnathan Goodrich

March 10th: Al & Elaine Forcier

March 17th: Bill Johnson & Caleb Katen

March 24th: Ed & Ann Marie Washington



Please keep in your prayers the families of those who have recently passed:

Phil Reffle, husband of Maryco Graff, who expresses gratitude for cards and food, and is concerned about her next steps.

Gwen Miller, mother of Sara Miller

Gloria Hiatt (service March 3-1 PM)

Carol Ann, Ginny Hollis' niece

Richard Baker, brother of Rachel Baker (deceased) and cousin of Loren Baker

Justin Johnson, son of Norvel and grandson of Norman.

Continue to keep Michael Fletcher in your prayers, as he is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer

Rejoice that David Messamer had stents placed in his heart, and that no surgery was needed.

Rejoice also that Shelly Bort, who often accompanies the choir, was married this week.

Keep in your prayers Chelsea Feeney and Tammy Firch as they remember grandparents who have passed.

Rejoice that Eddie and Gayle Hernandez had a safe trip to Arizona for the memorial for Eddie's mother, who passed recently.

Norman Johnson is now house-bound with heart disease. Cards are welcome, to 1924 Cota Way, Modesto, 95355

Continue to pray for all those who are grieving, those who are ill, those who are in pain, and all those whose troubles are too deep for words.



COMING SOON

**Faith Bites This Wednesday,
February 27
Is a Potluck!**



Next Sunday!
27th Choral Concert
March 3, 4 PM
Trinity United
Presbyterian Church
1600 Carver Road
Modesto



March 10, 3 PM
 Baby Shower for
 Rachel and Josh's
 baby girl! They are
 registered at
 Target if you



would like to check out some things they
 would like to have ready for their new baby
 girl. Please come join us for food, fun and
 games. See you then.~Fellowship &
 Recreation

Prospectors' Potluck



March 17, St. Patrick's Day, after church
We'll gather at the home of Bill and Margaret
Johnson, 3504 Sagewood Ct. Modesto
522-0746

Bring a dish to share.
Come for some great food and friendly
conversation!



The Witness Commission announces that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken during worship on **March 17**. One Great Hour of Sharing funds given through this special offering empower ministries like the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission and Service, Congregational Life Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Brethren Volunteer Service, workcamps, the Global Food Initiative, and many others. Look for a bulletin insert, and a special offering envelope, also in the bulletin. More information will be given before the offering.

Senior Ministries Tour **Old Sacramento Underground**



On Thursday, March 21st Senior Ministries will meet at the Church at 8AM and leave promptly at 8:15 to tour the Underground City of Old Sacramento. Those who dare to go will learn what happened, why it happened and see what still exists below street level. The tour is ADA approved, but there are some bumpy areas. The tour lasts about an hour. There is considerable walking with several rest stops with seating. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Temperatures underground are about the same as the temperature on the street so dress accordingly.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The tour costs \$15.00. Make checks out to "Modesto Church of the Brethren" and on the memo line write "Senior Ministries."

You need to sign up and pay by Sunday, March 10.

NOTICE: IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP!

There will be a sign-up table in the narthex after church on Sundays March 3 and 10.

It would be best to carpool as much as possible as parking is \$1.50 per half hour per car in the parking garage even for those with a handicap placard. Handicap parking is free on the street, but street parking is limited. Street parking is \$1.75 per half hour. Those riding need to pay their driver \$5.00 for gas and another \$2.00 for parking unless they are parked with a placard on the street.

After the tour we will eat lunch at LUIS JR'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT which is a part of the underground of Old Town. Meals average about \$12.00. Please see the menu on the poster in the Narthex.

After lunch you are on your own to visit Old Town, the California Railroad Museum, enjoy other places in Sacramento or just head home.

If you need a ride it would be helpful if you could find one for yourself. Problems, questions talk to Felton 614-6825.



What's Happening in Children's Church These Days?

Children's church is one of the very few times our children have to learn about the Bible. I felt it was important for them to learn some of the basics. In the past, we have read some of the most well known stories of the Old Testament. Then about 4 weeks ago, we began learning about Jesus's life. We started at the very beginning with his birth, since that was fresh in their minds from Christmas.

Since then, we have talked about Jesus as a 12-year-old in the temple. It was emphasized that when Jesus was a child he was doing exactly what they are doing. He was learning all he could about the beliefs of his people from the teachers at his "church". And sometimes he even frustrated his parents, as kids sometimes do!

Next was the story of Jesus's baptism. They learned that we are baptized to let everyone know that we intend to follow the ways and teachings of Jesus. The children are very curious about baptism. They would love to witness a baptism!

Next, we talked about how Jesus called his helpers, the disciples.

EXTEND A WELCOME TO SOME NEW FOLKS!

Lately, we have had several new families join us. This is the first in what we hope will be a series of articles introducing these new families.

Later, we learned about some of his miracles such as healing the sick, making the blind see, feeding the multitudes of people from a small amount of food, and raising people from the dead. He did this to help people know that he was the true Son of God.

We are just now getting into his life as a teacher. We will try to memorize some important teachings such as "love your neighbor as yourself", "do unto others as you would have them do unto you", "forgive seventy times seven", and more. We eventually want to get through Jesus's main life experiences, death, and resurrection by Easter time.

Each week we review, again and again, the past significant events starting with his birth, and including a little about each event, up to the current lesson for the week. Many of the children have been impressive, from the 5-year-olds on up to the 11-year-olds, on how much they retain.

Of course, we must always have time for play! They love to run and play outside but, since it has been raining so much, we have had to play indoor games such as bingo and spoons and maybe we'll try Uno. Some like to color together too. Our children have precious little time together to get to know each other. Having time to socialize helps the group bond and builds community.

Children's church is an important time as well as FUN!!!! I invite anyone who would like to experience these lovely people to just tell me when you would like to visit. You are more than welcome to join us. ~Karleen Daniels

Meet the Duenas family! There is Mom, Rachel, dad, Felix, 8 yr. old Dominic, 6 yr. old Laroli, and 5 yr. old Maddox

This family started attending our church last June for Peace Week and have been regular attenders ever since. Both Rachel and Felix come from very large families. Rachel was raised in the Mormon Church and Felix in the Catholic Church. They have lived in the Modesto area for approximately 20 yrs. Felix works for Winco and is sort of a "jack of all trades" there, but his official title is order selector. Rachel works as a personal trainer in her home gym with about 10 clients, and also works part time in the Costco bakery.

Both Rachel and Felix have a great interest and love for working out and fitness. They both occasionally enter body building contests, in which Felix took 1st place recently. Congratulations, Felix! Their children are very interested in fitness as well, and little Maddox can already do one handed push-ups.

In spite of their great focus on fitness, they love to eat and love all kinds of food. (Fit right in with the Brethren there!) While the family appreciates our church and all it has to offer, their time is very limited. When it comes to taking advantage of most of our church activities, they are not able to participate, due to work.



However, Rachel and the children are able to attend each Sunday morning. The children enjoy coming to children's church and our monthly FUN events. Even though Felix is working at the time of our worship services, both he and Rachel say they appreciate the friendly, nonjudgmental inclusiveness of our church and the fact that their children beg to come to church. They have been away from attending an organized church for some time and were feeling a need for more spirituality in their lives. They received an invitation at the perfect time and the rest is history!

Say hello the next time you see them and share a little about yourselves. They are a lovely family. ~Submitted by Karleen Daniels



Be looking for the Shower Shuttle Sock donation boxes in the Narthex on March 6!

Sock it to those boxes! The more socks we get, the better for the folks who use the Shower Shuttle and receive a new pair of socks every time. Clean, new socks are vital for homeless folks, to keep their feet healthy. Many are on their feet most of the time, and worn or no socks can cause many foot ailments. So....

Give
SOCKS

Do you have an announcement you would like the congregation to see on the big screen, before Sunday worship begins? Please send any announcements to the church office at office@modcob.org by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!

Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Saturday, March 9. Email to: chimes@modcob.org The Editor thanks you.

The Condensed Calendar



MARCH

Monday, February 25

5 PM Ladies' Night Out/La Parrilla
McHenry Village

Tuesday, February 26

Wednesday, February 27

Faith Bites **POTLUCK!**

NO CHOIR

Thursday, February 28

Friday, March 1

Saturday, March 2

Next Sunday, March 3

9:30 AM Sunday Morning Study

11 AM Worship

12:15 PM Fellowship & Rec meeting

1 PM Gloria Hiatt Memorial/Lakewood

4 PM Habitat Concert/Trinity United'
Presbyterian Church



Time to

Spring Ahead

March 10, 2019

March 6 Ash Wednesday/Beginning of Lent

7 PM Ash Wednesday Service

March 8 International Women's Day

March 8 6 PM Young Adult Gathering/
Divine Swine

March 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 10 12:15 PM Witness Meeting

March 10 3 PM Baby Shower for
Josh and Rachel

March 15 6 PM FUN Night

March 17 One Great Hour of Sharing

March 17 12:30 PM Prospectors' Potluck
Johnsons' home

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 20 First Day of Spring

March 21 Sr. Ministries Trip/Sacramento
Underground Tour

APRIL

April 13 All Church Workday

April 14 Palm Sunday

April 18 Maundy Thursday/Love Feast

April 19 FUN Night

April 21 Easter

April 22 Earth Day

April 28 2 PM Sr. Ministries "Tuesdays
With Morrie"/Gallo Center

April 28-May 4 Family Promise Hosting

MAY

May 11 2 PM Mothers' and Friends' Tea

May 17 6 PM FUN Night