

# Steeple Stories

SEPTEMBER 2017

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The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood  
Chicago, IL 60640

## The Voice of Justice

This was my second time attending Bautista Por La Paz, which was held in Misión Mazahua, San Felipe del Progreso, México from July 17-22. There were many international entities represented in the conference program, but the three that challenged me the most were the seminaries. The moment that impacted me most was when the Seminario Bautista de México showed a YouTube video of *La Patronas*, a group of Mexican women who make food out of their own resources to help feed those immigrants that ride the cargo train called “The Beast.”

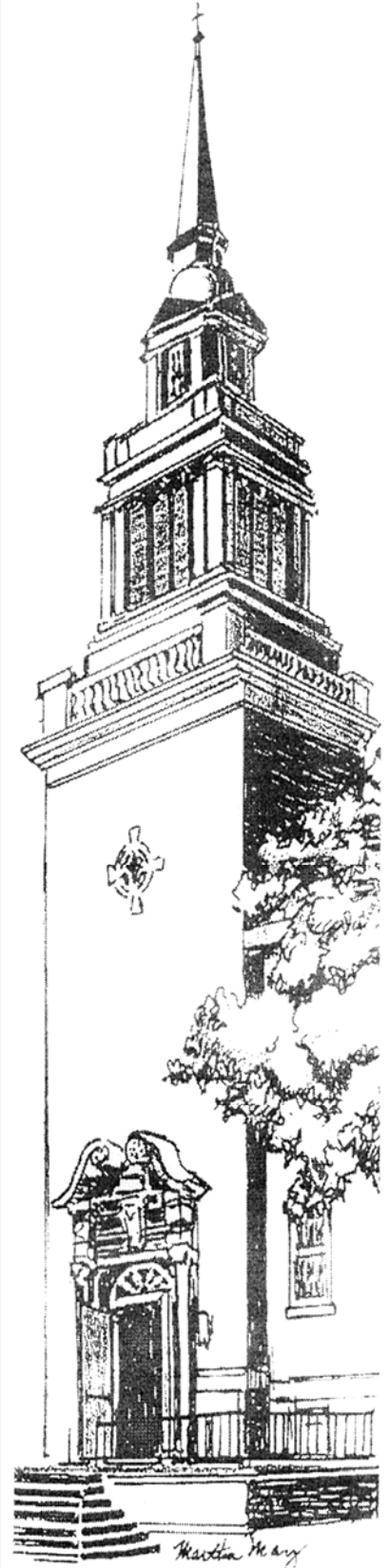
I grew up with my own Patrona. After my father passed away, when I was around 5 years old, my older brothers and my mother emigrated from Guatemala to Chiapas, Mexico. My mother always has been a hardworking woman, and she gained the respect of the wealthy Mexican businesswomen of the town. I recall, as a child, seeing many Central and South Americans immigrants riding the Mexican cargo train. Many of them stay in this small town to make enough money to go to *el Norte* (USA). My mom worked for “*la tortillería*,” the factory that makes tortillas, which was owned by the wealthy women in town. Because she gained their favor, she was the first one to acquire fresh tortillas, which she packed in lunch boxes for these immigrants. At the end of the week, these workers paid my mother for the food. Whenever there was a new, lost immigrant in town, the locals sent him or her right away to my house, because they knew that either my mother was going to feed them or give them a small room, where they could stay temporarily.

These childhood memories were sparked while attending this workshop—in a way, I had forgotten what it was like to be around these people. I went to high school in Ohio and went on to work on my education, and I forgot that there were people still riding The Beast. I felt like I left this life behind. I did not have to worry about it anymore. The sad truth is that immigrants have been and will continue to

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Rev. Rony Reyes (second from top) with our other delegates to the Baptist Peace Fellowship: (l to r), Nicholas Fong, Rev. Kathryn Ray, Viola Mayol and Jim Fong.



ride The Beast across Mexico to the USA. Once again, I am called to pay attention to their needs and concerns, even though this time I feel completely removed from

their context.

Eleazar Perez facilitated a workshop for the Seminario Intercultural Máyense in Chiapas, Mexico. When he saw me in the workshop, Eleazar decided that I was going to be his official translator. He said, "I want to flow in my presentation, and you are going to help me with that." I said, "OK, what choice are you giving me?" He smiled at me. He began to passionately give his talk. Eleazar was not afraid to challenge the status quo. He clearly articulated to us that he does many presentations, but he is often frustrated with his audience because they either do not get his message, or do not act on it. He threw his notes to the floor to show us that sometimes he does not want to do it anymore, because he does not see any constructive results. He was saying, "I am giving up." At the same time, he picked up his notes and began to challenge the space we were in. He said, "these haciendas (*The Misión Mazahua was originally built as an hacienda, a Spanish colonial estate*) were used to enslave our indigenous people. Our people came to build these haciendas, and they were never compensated for their hard labor." The haciendas usually had a grocery store. So the little that the indigenous people were paid, they were forced to give back by buying things from the hacienda. Thus, they were either left in more debt or with nothing to take home to their families. As an act of resistance, his people destroyed these haciendas, because it reminded them of the oppression that their ancestors lived.

In Eleazar's interpretation of Peter denying Jesus three times, he was able to identify with Peter's fear. He said that when the seminary approached him to give presentations in different places around the world, he was so excited because he was going to travel. But he did not know all the dangers and challenges that he was going to face. So he identified with Peter, because Peter promised Jesus that he was going to defend him, but fear overtook him. Eleazar said, "but we have to overcome the fear that continuously divided us and fragmented us. The fear creates haciendas around us, and we are divided globally living inside of our own haciendas."

In Jesus' crucifixion, Eleazar saw "the women being in solidarity with the suffering Christ." No one else was around him, but his mother and the women. They were in tuned with his suffering—no one else. Not even Peter. He challenged was that we need to be like these women—they were in solidarity with the suffering Christ, we also need to be in solidarity with those who suffer, who are marginalized and oppressed.

Humans are the residue of the good and evil of creation. It gives me peace of mind now that I accept this duality in all of us. No longer will I be unsettled in not understanding these two parts of people. It is what it is. The first step to restoring the image and likeness of God in humans is accepting that there are children of light and children of darkness. The second step is to follow Eleazar's- and Christ's- call to live in solidarity with those who suffer. "*Una mano extendida*" is the slogan of FIBAC, the third seminary I encountered at Peace Camp. The slogan means "a hand that offers solidarity to live in the conviction that life matters." To live a life that is worthwhile, filled with justice and compassion. To embrace justice and reject ungodliness is to live life with *una mano extendida*.

~ Rev. Rony Reyes

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## Deaths in our Family

We are sad to report the passing of two long time members of North Shore Baptist Church.

**Martha May**, age 93, passed away on July 22 after a brief hospital stay following surgery. Martha will be remembered by many for her feisty spirit and her artistic talents, including annual flower displays in the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas. A memorial service **will be held at NSBC** on Saturday **October 7** at 1:00 pm.



**Judith Linqvist** died on July 30, she was 74 years old. Though unable to attend worship in recent years, Judy stayed connected with North Shore until the end through visits by the pastors and other member friends.



# SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Karen Worship	<b>4</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"><u>Building Closed</u></div>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA 7:00 pm Search Committee	<b>7</b>  4:00 Stewardship Ministry	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>YARD SALE</b>  10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting  4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
<b>10</b> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>12</b>  7pm Church Council	<b>13</b>  6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	<b>14</b>  7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>15</b>  6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group	<b>16</b>  10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting  4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
<b>17</b> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 pm Karen Worship  12:30 pm Karen Anniversary Luncheon	<b>18</b>  6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA 7:00 pm Search Committee	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group	<b>23</b>  10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting  4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
<b>24</b> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship	<b>25</b>  6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>26</b>  7:00 pm Renovation Task Force	<b>27</b>  6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group	<b>30</b>  10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting  4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
<b>October 1</b> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship	<b>2</b>  6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group	<b>7</b>  10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting  4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study



# Sights of Summer 2017

Our church leaders took some time out from their summer fun to attend a leadership retreat here at the church.



These Happy faces show what fun they had at our Summer Mission Explorers programs.



Our annual Church Picnic was block-party style in front of the church on Sunday August 6th.



## Task Force Recruiting

### Teach-In Planning

Last year, NSBC hosted a teach-in on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day that brought in speakers on immigration justice, the history of Japanese internment, and student-empowering pedagogy. We followed this teach-in with two Know Your Rights workshops, one in Spanish and one in Karen, as well as a Bystander Intervention 101. We are now recruiting a task force to plan this year's teach in and follow up programming. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Kathryn.



### Social Media Task Force

As fall starts, it's time to again start thinking creatively about how we can reach out to our neighbors through the Internet. We will build off of last year's work to create a new website and expand our Facebook presence, and we're always looking for new ideas! If you are interested in joining the Social Media Task Force, please contact Pastor Kathryn.



# Mission Trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota

At the beginning of July, 12 people from NSBC went on a mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Our ages ranged from 71 to 11, and the group included members of the Hispanic, English, and Karen congregations.

We were assigned to work on a plot of land that had been donated by a local resident who wanted to build a community park. We spent the week building a fire pit (which took three tries!), digging holes for benches, building and painting playhouses, and staining picnic tables.

Each evening, we gathered for worship with groups from about five other churches

from around the country. We also visited the Wounded Knee massacre site, received a tour of the Red Cloud Indian School from alumni who are now in college around the country, and heard from local residents about both the struggles they faced and the places where they found hope.



## Summer Mission Explorers

Instead of doing a one-week Vacation Bible School program this year, we held children's programs on Sundays for four weeks during August. Each week, we learned about a different mission trip that NSBC has gone on this past year:

- **Rev. David Gregg** talked about why mission is important for Baptists, and told the story of Adoniram Judson, one of the first missionaries to Burma.
- **Viola Mayol** shared photos of the mission trip to Salamanca, and told us how they met new friends preparing food together.
- **Yanira Silva, Pastor Kathryn,** and others who went on the trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota shared about the park they built on the reservation.
- **Pastor Kathryn, Viola Mayol,** and **Nick Fong** shared a song from the Baptist Peace Fellowship conference in San Felipe del Progreso, Mexico, and talked about how singing one another's songs is a way we can build peace.



**Dawn Noldan** led the children in craft activities each week, and also provided a delicious lunch for all participants at the end of the program. Thanks also go to **Nelly Camacho**, who led meal preparation on the last day of the Summer Mission Explorers.





5244 N. Lakewood  
Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: 773-728-4200  
Fax: 773-728-1582

e-mail: [office@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:office@northshorebaptist.org)

North Shore Baptist Church

"Serving All God's People  
From This Corner"

We're on the Web:  
[www.northshorebaptist.org](http://www.northshorebaptist.org)



*"Don't worry about failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try." - Jack Canfield*

## Sunday Learning and Sharing

We invite all generations to deepen your connection with God and your neighbors through these spiritual enrichment opportunities beginning Sunday **September 10th at 11:30 am**:

### Children & Youth

**Beginners Class:** Children ages 4 through first grade, Room 202. Teachers: Ceci Linares and Chris Abiera

**Primary Class:** Children in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Room 311. Teachers: Eggee Linares and Tony Ray

**Older Elementary Class:** Children in 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Room 317. Teacher: Yanira Silva

**Youth Class:** Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Room 307. Teachers: Madison McClendon and Pastor Kathryn

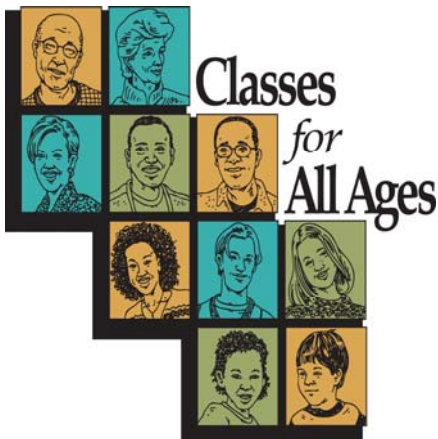
### Adult Options

**Filipino Fellowship:** Rev. Rudy Mayol leads weekly devotionals using the Journeys curriculum.

**Next Week's Sermon:** Pastor David will lead a sermon talk-back and Bible study on the text for the following week's sermon. Meets in the library at the bottom of the stairs.

**Escuela Dominical:** Pastor Rony will lead a class in Spanish on understanding Revelation as an example of the apocalyptic genre of literature. Meets in Howel Hall.

**Estudio Bíblico:** Hermana Olga Diaz leads a Bible study Saturday nights at 6:00 pm. Meets in Room 301.



If you would like to receive *Steeple Stories* by e-mail (in color!), contact us at [office@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:office@northshorebaptist.org)