A Brief History of FKBCA

The First Kachin Baptist Church of America (FKBCA), Omaha, NE, is a 501 (c) (3), a non-profit religious organization, and is an active member of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska (ABC/NE) and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A (ABCUSA).

We are the Kachin Americans, who live in Omaha, Nebraska, and the Kachins are originally from Burma (also known as Myanmar). As one of the ethnicities in Burma, we have so many God’s given beautiful traditions and cultural heritages, such as myths, language, literature, dances, costumes, poems, and traditional music. We want to preserve and promote these invaluable inheritances through the expressions and functions of the church here in America. A majority of the Kachin people are Baptists. Thus, we are very much indebted to the American Baptist missionaries for their endeavors, sacrifices, and missions to sow the seeds of Baptist heritage among the Kachin people. FKBCA, therefore, is a hybrid community of faith that stands on both the rich traditions of Kachin and American cultures.

The beginning of FKBCA can be traced back to 1999s, when some Kachin people came to Omaha, NE, as students, immigrants, political asylums, and refugees. In order to worship God in their own language and have fellowship among the Kachin Christians, the Kachin Christian Fellowship was formed in December 23, 2001. Thereafter, many Kachin people came to Omaha gradually. Then, the First Kachin Baptist Church of America (FKBCA) was founded in June 9, 2002 to respond the needs and immediate calls of the situations of the Kachin believers. FKBCA is the very first Kachin Baptist Church that registered officially in the America continent. Rev. Dr. Hkungam Lahpai served as our senior pastor from 2002 until his retirement in 2020. Rev. Dr. Zau Sam Lahtaw has been served as the senior pastor since 2020. The church has been rapidly growing within 21 years. Now, we have about 200 members, including children. We have one full time pastor, two part-time pastors, six church officers, eight deacons, ten Sunday school teachers. The programs and activities of the church are consecutively directed by the twelve different ministries/departments and committees. We have three worship services, Kachin, Burmese, and English. We regularly worship at the Ola Hanson Memorial Sanctuary of FKBCA, at 9525 Maple St, Omaha, NE 68134.