

## *Branching Out, featuring...*

*– from the Multicultural Committee*

**Ignatius Esele** — I was born in Owerri, Imo state, southeast Nigeria in West Africa. I am the last child in a family of eight children (three males and five females). My family speaks Igbo but our national language is English which is instructed in schools and used for communication with other people from different parts of Nigeria. Strict respect for your “seniors,” in general, and elders in particular is enforced. One can be sanctioned for behaving otherwise. Greeting is an integral part of the culture; you always greet your senior or elder anywhere or at any time.

We have a permanent village that one is expected to return to during the major celebrations such as Easter or Christmas holidays from any part of the country or any part of the world. It feels odd if you aren’t able to be home during those occasions. Individual families celebrate on the particular festive day and meet in the village square to celebrate afterwards.

There is no government provision (housing etc.) for the elderly, so it is the responsibility of children to take care of their parents when they are old. With families with more than one child, children take turns to be with their parents. Parents endeavor to educate their children or help them learn some trade so that they will be able to take care of them when they are old. Elderly people without children are often helped by members of the village.

**Tamera Kaplan** — I was born in Owatonna. My great-grandfather came here from the Kingdom of Bohemia, which later became Czechoslovakia and is currently the Czech Republic. They were farmers. Josef Karel Kaplan’s wife died after having 10 children and so after a trip back to the old country for a new wife, he had 12 more children. They all helped on the farm. One of the delicious foods that we still make today is our traditional Czech pastry, the Kolache and buchta. Kol means “round” or “wheel”. Kolache is a round pastry with fruit in the middle such as poppy seed, peach or plum. Buchata, “cake,” is the same pastry but with corners folded over to make a square. This pastry is a celebration of our heritage at every holiday meal.

In our family, it has always been proper to greet people with a handshake or a hug. We offer a beverage and a seat in order to visit comfortably. It is important in our family to help our siblings and our parents especially in times of need and illness. For generations we have donated much of our time, efforts, and money to the greater good of our communities.

## INTERNATIONAL GREETINGS

*from Pastor Bill*

As you know, since my return from sabbatical we have been using an international greeting on Sunday morning, using the languages spoken by our international members. To help us learn them we are starting to put them up on the screen. Here are the greetings for you to learn at home.

**Korean**, from John and Sue Kim: We most commonly greet each other by saying, “An nyung ha shim nee ka?” It literally means “how are you?” It can also mean hello.

**Nigerian**, from Umo Udo: My language of origin is Ibibio. Good Morning is “Ame-siere” (the “i”s have an “e” sound and the “e”s have an “a” sound).

**Nigerian**, from the Eseles: *First, Good morning is “Ututu oma” in my native language of Igbo. “Udu diri unu” means “Peace be unto you.”*

**Ghana**, from Naana Ofori-Atta and extended family: “Akwaba” means “Welcome” in Twi. The word for “Peace” is “Asomdwee.”

**Cameroon**, from French-speaking sisters Paulette Jacobson and Caroline Delano. Note that the French word for hello is “Bonjour.” In Bassa it is “Me (pronounced “may”) yega.” Alix Montcho from **Togo** is also a French speaker.

**Laos**, from Det and Sida Souvannasane: Good morning is “Sumbayde,” pronounced SOOM bay DEE.

**Kenya**, from Elizabeth Longrie: “Jambo,” pronounced Jahm’ boh.

**Dakota**, suggested for use by Jeff Williamson: “Token yaun” pronounced “Toe’ ken ya oo” (nasalized vowel), literally means, “How are you?”