



MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS YOU CAN USE – PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS

January 2008

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

~Hebrews 13:8, NRSV

NEW COVENANT BAPTIST GATHERING January 30-February 1, 2008, Atlanta

Sign the New Baptist Covenant:

We Baptists of North America covenant together to:

- Create an authentic and prophetic Baptist voice for these complex times,
- Emphasize traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality, and
- Promote peace and justice, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and marginalized, welcome the strangers among us, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.
- I wish to endorse the Unity theme of the New Baptist Covenant Celebration by publicly expressing solidarity with those who will gather at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, January 29 - February 1, 2008.

http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=85%20

ABC Breakfast

Over four hundred American Baptists will attend the free ABC breakfast on February 2, 8 to 10 a.m. Registration is essential:

<https://www.bimwebport.org/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx?DirectLink=ATLBKFT>.

CEU Certificates

Continuing Education certificates (2.0 units for full conference participation) will be distributed at that breakfast. Any person who will not be able to remain for the breakfast may visit the ABCUSA exhibit hall display to request one.

Full gathering information and registration links:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/NewBaptistCovenant108.aspx>

MINISTERS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, JANUARY 29, 2008

The Ministers Council Executive Committee on January 29, 2008, will focus on leadership transition and organizational futuring. You may view the agenda on the website and email any questions and/or concerns you would like the governance body to address (kate.harvey@abc-usa.org).

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/ExecutiveCommittee/MCMeetingInfoPage.aspx>

CONSTITUENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Valley Forge Ministers Council has just completed a faith practice series on testimony, funded by a Valparaiso grant. A brief report is posted on the Practicing Our Faith website. Click on the link and then click on the "What Others Are Doing" link to find under the 2006 grant project reports "Testimony: The Words of God Through the People of God." <http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>

LEONARD SWEET, 2009 PASADENA PRE-BIENNIAL

The Ministers Council will partner with various other American Baptist groups to sponsor a pre-Biennial gathering in Pasadena on Friday, June 26, 2009, from 9 am until noon. Leonard Sweet will speak on reaching persons for Christ in this postmodern culture (or cultures, since one insight of postmodernity is that we are hardly monolithic). For more information on Dr. Sweet: <http://www.leonardsweet.com/biocv.asp>

To listen to Leonard Sweet Napkin Scribbles ("thoughtful sketches of God and life") podcasts: <http://www.fastcastblast.com/podcasts/info/3>

PREACHING RESOURCES

Gardner C. Taylor, "one of the twelve greatest preachers in the English-speaking world," (*Newsweek*) was recently interviewed by the Associated Press. In the article which appeared in dozens of newspapers nationwide, Taylor acknowledges reaching a point in his life where he is slowing down. "You come to a time," the Rev. Taylor said, "when you want to be shedding and unloading." To read "[Dean of Preaching is Winding Down](#)," visit the Judson Press website where you will also find all six volumes of Gardner Taylor's sermons, as well as his audiocassettes and CDs, and *The Words of Gardner Taylor Preaching Library on CD-ROM*.

<http://www.judsonpress.com/search.cfm?searchstr=gardner+taylor>

NEW DAN BUTTRY BOOK

Friends and Colleagues:

Here's the link to ReadTheSpirit where my book *Interfaith Heroes* will be released one chapter a day in January along with a blog for each day to respond to the bio sketch of that interfaith hero and to interact with people around the world.

<http://www.readthespirit.com/>

The book will be available in print form (with a few additional elements and resources) from the websites of Amazon, Borders and Barnes & Noble, but they won't be available there until later in January.

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PREACHING PEACE WEBSITE

PreachingPeace.org is a website dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 2008 is the sixth year in the Preaching Peace venture, serving over 10,000 readers a month. "We believe that it is a time for stock-taking, evaluating and sifting for Christian theology and the church. We also believe that the

good gospel of God in Jesus Christ has been obscured and often times completely covered over, hidden away by the very Church given the task of sharing it. Our writing has been informed by many different writers of many different places and times. All in all, we see certain threads being woven throughout the history of Christian thought and life and those threads when viewed together form a tapestry of thought. It is this tapestry or portrait of Jesus that we wish to share here. This site has been informed by the theory of mimetic scapegoating proposed by Rene Girard and worked out in an inter-disciplinary manner by members and friends of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion. Girard's hypothesis is an anthropological one, so in this sense it is no threat to Christian theology, but it is an anthropological theory that has profound consequences for Christian theology.

<http://www.preachingpeace.org/>

The 2008 schedule of events:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/2008%20Conferences/PreachingPeaceEvents08.aspx>

ALTRUISM RESEARCH

Subscribe to "Works of Love"

In an effort to further enhance the rapidly growing network of researchers focusing on topics such as altruism, altruistic love, kindness, compassion, and "unlimited love, the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love has established "Works of Love", a high-quality electronic newsletter. The newsletter is written by Stephen G. Post, President of the Institute, and sent monthly.

http://jtfadmin.bm23.com/public/?q=message_preview&fn=Key&type=tracking&id=batbycdpcqcmhofolvytvbzmrqkxkbpd&link=aephxlyoulqcwmlcvqchswluuugbdj

NEW GRANDCHILD

Kate Harvey received the news of a twelfth grandchild Aliya Sameera Raofield: Renu, Jason, Rohil and Naveen are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter-sister. Aliya and Renu are both happy and healthy!

Time: 9:34 am, December 21, 2007

Weight: 7lbs 12ozs

Height: 20.25 inches

THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG AND WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM. IF YOUR BROWSER ENCOUNTERS DIFFICULTY IN OPENING ANY OF THE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER, GO DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE AND/OR FEEL FREE TO CALL THE OFFICE FOR SPECIFIC NAVIGATION DIRECTIONS TO LOCATE THAT LANDING PAGE ON THE SITE.

SIGN UP FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM THE MINISTERS COUNCIL

Sign up for future issues of the monthly Ministers Council newsletter by replying to this message from the email address to which you wish issues to be sent. Add the newsletter email address to your address book so that future newsletters will not go into your spam filter.

If you have news, ideas, events or websites from your Ministers Council to share with colleagues, please email to kate.harvey@abc-usa.org. The more we share with one another what works, the stronger we will all be.

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Join the Ministers Council through your local constituent council. Contact information is posted on www.ministerscouncil.org under the WHO WE ARE link.

II Timothy 1:6-7

"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."