



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

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Click here to view this message as a webpage: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/Publications.aspx>

### ~A THOUGHT FROM JOE

Through the years, we have experienced a number of significant efforts to provide pastoral care to pastors and other ministerial leaders. Some have been wonderfully effective and others less so. However, perhaps you've noticed, the American Baptist world is changing. Region staffs are shrinking. Resources have diminished. So, here are two questions: 1. Who better to attend to the pastoral concerns of ministerial leaders than we who are living the lives of ministerial leaders? Is this not the season for us to learn again how to attend to one another as colleagues in ministry? 2. Who is more responsible for the integrity of our vocation that we?

When we are at our best, and sometimes we are, these are two things that happen through local Ministers Councils. Yesterday, I spoke with a friend who described the way that local Ministers Council members stepped up with support and care for a colleague under duress. And it is in our local councils that we attend to the vocational issues that are distinctly ours as ministerial leaders. I pray that God will bless you through the collegial relationships that you nurture.

### ~OUR CHURCH VIDEOS

We are experimenting with using short informal videos to communicate Ministers Council information. While we have much to learn, the potential seems to be significant. Now, Our Church Videos is offering, through the Ministers Council web site opportunities for your ministry to experiment with the use of this significant instrument. Read more at the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Our%20Church%20Videos/OurChurchVideos.aspx>

### ~AIRLINE DEALS FOR BIENNIAL

As you make plans to attend the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena in June, please see the attached bulletin regarding a great airline sale! A quick search found that these fares are available on a number of airlines and is a general fare sale. Travelocity and any of the other sites are offering great deals as well.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Biennial/documents/09BiennialBulletinInsert-LowAirlines.pdf>

### ~NEW EXECUTIVE MINISTER NAMED FOR OREGON

Rev. Steve Bilts has been named Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Oregon, according to Gregg Sneller, chair of the search committee. He begins his new position on March 30. Steve serves on the Ministers Council Executive Committee as Vice President of the Communications Committee. <http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2009/20090303a.htm>

## ~NATIONAL MINISTRIES

National Ministries is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as the Liaison for Burmese Refugees. Please note that the application deadline is April 21, 2009. For more information on this position please contact Laura Miraz at [lmiraz@abc-usa.org](mailto:lmiraz@abc-usa.org).

## ~CASEY WILLIAMS PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

A new book written by National Ministries staffer Casey Williams is now available. It is an ancient/future approach to discipleship. ***Learning the Way: Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities*** is now available through the Alban link: <http://www.alban.org/Bookstore.aspx>.

## ~ MARVIN A. MCMICKLE AND KIRK BYRON JONES RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

***Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens*** and ***Rest in the Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers*** both received national recognition recently, bringing accolades to their American Baptist authors, Marvin A. McMickle and Kirk Byron Jones, respectively.

[http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=12687](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=12687)

[http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=7772](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=7772)

***Profiles in Black*** was named a finalist in Young Adult NonFiction category of the ForeWord 2008 Book of the Year Awards. Marvin McMickle hopes to be among the winners announced at BookExpo America on May 29 in New York City. For a complete list of finalists, visit the ForeWord website <http://www.forewordmagazine.com/botya/>.

***Rest in the Storm*** was recognized by ***Sojourners*** magazine in a list of the "Best Resources for Social Change." Kirk Byron Jones' book joins the impressive company of works by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and Elizabeth O'Connor, among others. To see the list of 40 books and movies, visit the ***Sojourners*** website.

[http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=magazine.article&article\\_mode=edit&issue=soj0903&article=the-best-resources-for-social-change](http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=magazine.article&article_mode=edit&issue=soj0903&article=the-best-resources-for-social-change)

## ~NEW TASKS FOR THE NEW CONGREGATION – *Jeff Woods*

New resource just posted on the Ministers Council website. Jeff Woods writes, "First, I will present information showing how the surrounding landscape has changed for congregations. Next, I will disclose some of the congregational responses to those changes. The major portion of the article will then focus upon a new set of tasks for today's congregations and identify a set of factors that influence the extent to which individual congregations are able to embrace the trends that are taking place. Finally, I will make a few brief comments about the newly implied role for today's congregational leaders and suggest a focus for future research."

To view the entire article, click on the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/JeffWoodsNewTasksNewCongregations09.pdf>

## **~BAY AREA EQUIPPING & RESOURCE CENTER - *Tim Tseng Executive Director***

The *Bay Area Chinese Churches Research Project 2008 Report*, edited by Dr. James Chuck and Tim Tseng is now ready! This is a follow up report to Dr. Chuck's important 1996 study. It contains updated profiles of Chinese congregations in the Bay Area and essays by Dean Adachi, Ken Carlson, Johnson Chiu, Virstan Choy, James Chuck, Russell Jeung, Ricky Manalo, Donald Ng, Victor Quan, Steve Quen, Chloe Sun, Russell Yee, and Tim Tseng.

You can order this and other resources at the ISAAC Cafe - <http://stores.lulu.com/cafeisaac>

For more information check out the website at <http://isaacblog.wordpress.com/2008/12/24/isaac-to-launch-the-equipping-and-resource-center/>

## **~INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST – *Alan Newton***

Are you using video clips in worship, or wanting to use them. Below are some links to internet sites which might be of interest. These are quality sermon video clips which can be purchased in expensively and used to add visuals to a sermon or presentation.

[www.bluefishtv.com](http://www.bluefishtv.com) <<http://www.bluefishtv.com/>>

[www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com) <<http://www.sermonspice.com/>>

## **~Soul Fruit: Bearing Blessings Through Cancer – *by Scott Arnold***

A newly published book will be helpful for people dealing with cancer, or supporting those who are. It is called ***Soul Fruit: Bearing Blessings Through Cancer*** available through Amazon.

Hopefully a few souls will find this inspiring and uplifting. For more information about Scott and the book, click on the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/BookClubPage/BookPageInformation.aspx>

## **~A SHOPPING FAST – *Beth Fogg***

Have you ever participated in a fast? Many Christians today find it helpful to follow the Biblical discipline of periodic prayer and fasting as they seek to know and follow the will of God.

Have you ever chosen to fast from shopping? A growing number of Christians are participating in an attempt to purchase only food, medicine and hygiene items for a specified period of time, such as three or six months.

There are a number of potential benefits to such a discipline. For some, it is a way to simplify their lives and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle. For others, it is a way to get out of debt. Still others are trying to be a better role model to their children. A few are using the money saved in this practice to donate more to Kingdom causes that are important to them.

Whatever their motivations, participants report a growing realization of how few things they actually need to live happy, productive lives.

Look for frequent notes on the "American Baptist Ministers Council" Facebook site.

## **~FEMALE PASTORS SURVEY**

The Reverend Christine Smith, Pastor of the Covenant Baptist Church in Wickliffe, Ohio, and the Reverend Kasey Jones, Pastor of the National Baptist Memorial Church, ABC of Washington DC, have developed and launched a survey for solo female Baptist pastors in ABCUSA. The purpose of the survey is to explore the individual and collective experiences (struggles, victories, insights, stories) of female Baptist pastors. Their hope is to analyze the survey findings and include them in a book designed to challenge Baptist clergy, laity and denominational leaders to increase dialogue and develop strategies to help female clergy to break through the proverbial "glass ceiling." Please visit the Ministers Council website and complete the survey by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Instructions for completing the survey are posted on the site. <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WIM%20Resources/WIMResources.aspx>

## **~REMEMBER US!**

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

**THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org) AND [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://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 [joe.kutter@abc-usa.org](mailto:joe.kutter@abc-usa.org). The more we share with one another what works, the stronger we will all be.

## **~MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Join the Ministers Council through your local constituent council. Contact information is posted on [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org) under the WHO WE ARE link.**