



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

July 2009

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

~TOGETHER IN THE LORD CONFERENCE

Ministry Renewal Conference
Come to Orlando January 4-7, 2010!

Presented by American Baptist Churches, USA - To be held at the Wyndham Resort and Conference Center

Preachers include:

Miroslov Volf (Yale Divinity School)
Shane Clairbourne (The Simple Way)
Trinette McCray
Marvin McMickle

Workshop Leaders include:

Alan Bearman
Sara Day
Florence Li
Don Ng
Lee Spitzer

Shane Clairbourne
Lisa Harris
Trinette McCray
Carol Schreck
Reid Trulson

Mayra Castañeda
Glynis LaBarre
Marvin McMickle
Peter Schreck
Aidsand Wright Riggins III

For registration and conference schedule visit this link -
<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfo.aspx>

~COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The Ministers Council introduced “Together in Ministry” collegial covenant groups to local councils with funding from the Lilly Endowment. With the grant money coming to an end, the national council looked for ways to continue TIM groups are making.

The insights of “Communities of Practice” (COP) are being introduced as a way to take TIM groups and the constituent Ministers Councils to the next level in learning, support, and accountability. Dr. Kutter is now offering COP workshops and retreats which are designed to strengthen both the ministries of individual participants and our constituent councils. For more information about COP see the Ministers Council website – www.ministerscouncil.org. Contact the Ministers Council office to schedule a workshop or retreat.

~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY TESTIMONY

The TIM funds entrusted to our church restart have been a source of life for our congregation. Opportunities for the youth and pastor to serve in the neighborhood have been as plentiful as the times we are willing to serve. On one trip, we went to Lincoln City First Baptist and cleaned up the church shortly after a new pastor arrived. The ministry is thriving under the leadership of John and Val Kendall. We will return in October, continuing to use the funds entrusted to us through TIM to be the hands and feet of Christ.

At Christmas time, we worked with Project Angel Tree and delivered gifts to children whose parents are incarcerated.



Most recently we traveled to Pasadena on a 2,000 mile road trip. This also was partially funded with TIM monies as a pastor and youth shared life together on the road. It was profound to be able to watch video clips of Nick Vujicic on the way down and see him in person in LA. The youth of Grant Park Church in NE Portland were deeply touched as God worked through that journey together.

Thank God for TIM monies that have allowed for a deeper relationship with pastor and people through these shared experiences.

~AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

The Office of the General Secretary, ABCUSA, announced the release of a new website for the denomination. The site's address will remain the same — <http://www.abc-usa.org/> — but the site has been aesthetically and functionally redesigned to more effectively serve those who use it.

With the launch of the new website, recent press release links are no longer functional. Users seeking recent press releases by clicking on the ABNS announcement emails they received will find those links broken. This is due to our new system of posting press releases, which allows more flexibility and easier syndication feeds (RSS), but required conversion of all existing articles.

All recent releases have been migrated to the new system. To find articles, please visit the new ABNS page, at <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>.

~JUDSON PRESS OFFERS NEW BAPTIST CHURCH RESOURCES

American Baptist churches have been asking for a new baptismal preparation resource, and Judson Press has delivered! Now available: **Baptism Ahead: A Road Map for Young Disciples** by ABC pastor Wallace R. Smith. In *Baptism Ahead*, Smith provides older children (ages 8-12) with an innovative and interactive resource to introduce them to Christian discipleship and membership in the local church.

Hispanic churches will be similarly interested in J. Manny Santiago's bilingual resource, **Being Baptist: Lessons for New Members** ([Para ser bautistas: Lecciones para nuevos miembros](#)). Santiago's book is appropriate for youth and adults.

Learn more about both of these new resources at www.judsonpress.com.

~MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY WITH THE BOARD OF NATIONAL MINISTRIES

Reverend Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director, has announced the opening of the position of **National Coordinator for Intercultural Ministries - Native American Churches Strategist**. For additional details on this ministry opportunity, and for instructions on how to apply, please see <http://www.nationalministries.org/employment.cfm>.

~HEALTHCARE REFORM

American Baptists have long supported a health care system that is more equitable and just. Click on this Board of National Ministries link for more information.

http://www.nationalministries.org/justice_ministries/ogr/current-issues.cfm

~MINISTERS COUNCIL SENATE WILL MEET AT GREEN LAKE

The Ministers Council Senate, consisting of representatives from each of the constituent councils, at large Senators, and officers, will meet at the Green Lake Conference Center August 15 - 19. The Senate serves as the primary stewards of the national council and its ministries. This year, the primary focus will be on strengthening our constituent councils and we seek your prayers. *Joe Kutter*

~BRANDON BURGLAND MEMORIAL FUND

Two options have been chosen that would mean a great deal to him. The Children's Hospital Sports Program or the Bodbe Boarding School for mentally challenged children, The Republic of Georgia. For more information about the Children's Hospital Sports Program click on the link below. Gifts can be received online by clicking on the second link.

<https://www.thechildrenshospital.org/about/stories/hospital-sports-program.aspx>

http://www.thechildrenshospitalfoundation.org/site/c.jfILKSOBJsG/b.4496985/k.87C5/Memorial_Gifts.htm

To support the Bodbe project in Brandon's name, please make your check out to: "Calvary Baptist Church of Denver" and send it to:

The Brandon Memorial for Bodbe
c/o Bill Loftis
The Calvary Baptist Church of Denver
6500 E. Girard Ave.
Denver, CO 80224

~EVERYDAY HEROES – *John Williams, Executive Minister, Central Region*

We don't have to look very far to find the real heroes around us. They are those men and women who quietly and humbly offer themselves as the hands and feet of Christ and make a difference in every life they touch.

http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Ministry%20Stories/documents/09_MarEditorialHeroes.pdf

~LITURGY FOR CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY, VT/NH SAMPLE DOCUMENT

The American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire have an extensive certified Lay Ministers Program. I found the "commissioning" litany to be particularly well done. Please see this link for a sample copy - <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/PastoralEvents/CertifiedLayMinProVTNH09.aspx>
Joe Kutter

~SUMMER COLLEGIUM – A LILLY ENDOWMENT PROGRAM – *Jared Huguenot*

Summer Collegium, a Lilly endowed program in support of smaller congregations and their clergy, and coordinated by the Virginia Theological Seminary of Alexandria, VA, is offering a final year's event in 2010. For information on how to apply, click on this link: <http://www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=119377>. The program director is Dr. Marilyn Johns (mjohns@vts.edu).

This year's event focused on self-care and wholeness in small church clergy life. A written report was provided to the congregation in the form of a Sunday morning sermon. You can read about the Summer Collegium experience via:

<http://www.fcbennington.org/sermonsjhh/2009/7/13/to-live-for-gods-glory-ephesians-13-14.html>

~IDENTITY SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Preparing pastors, youth pastors, seminarians and missionaries for the complex emotional/relational terrain of ministry. You may visit their website - <http://theidentityschool.com/>

~HELPFUL TIPS – *Alan Newton, Executive Minister, ROC/GEN*

<http://www.churchmarketingsucks.com/> This website is produced by The Center for Church Communication, a non-profit dedicated to help the church matter. This blog is designed to "frustrate, educate and motivate the church to communicate, with uncompromising clarity, the truth of Jesus Christ. You will find the posts to be frank and very relevant. Most of what the church communicates and how the church communicates is superfluous to our mission. If you get past the blog title you will find rich insights for a church which seeks to stay on mission.

~REMEMBER US!

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

~HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

The hard reality about this newsletter is this: Our email mailing list is not as complete as we would wish. But you can help and your help we ask. Please forward this to your constituencies and friends. Most months, there is something helpful and when there is not, the delete button is only about an inch away and there will be little imposition impressed upon your friends. We appreciate your help. *Joe Kutter*

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 joe.kutter@abc-usa.org. The more we share with one another what works, the stronger we will all be.

~MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Web: www.ministerscouncil.org
Mail: The Ministers Council
PO Box 851
Valley Forge PA 19482-0851
Phone: 1-800-222-3872, extension 2333, 2334
FAX: 610/768-2066

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