



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

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### ~SEEING THE OBVIOUS!

Within the ABC family, one reality seems to dominate all others at this time. We have less money than we once had and that is forcing us to reduce our national and regional staffs. Staff reductions mean that ministries based in both our national program boards and our regional offices have been and will be reduced. Both churches and Ministerial Leaders will receive less from the denomination than before and expectations grounded in those earlier more financially flush times will be frustrated.

The only workable response is that churches and Ministerial Leaders will learn again to care for one another through networks of relationships. And, it seems to me, that nurturing those relationships are a primary opportunity before us.

Steve Bills recently honored me with an invitation to preach the sermon in his installation service as Executive Minister of the ABCO. I offer this sermon as a personal reflection grounded in the observation that we need to learn again to look after one another.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/JoesWriting/documents/SteveBillsABCORInstallation1009.pdf>

Second observation: the world has changed and is changing and will continue to change. At a recent meeting of the Professional Ministries Team, Steve Ott of the Ministry Development Center in Boston and Ross Peterson of the Midwest Ministry Development Center raved about the following book. ***The Great Emergence; How Christianity is Changing and Why*** by Phyllis Tickle. I'm about a third of the way through and it is worth the time. I've invited a review of the book for our next newsletter.

The context for ministry has changed and therefore ministry itself is changing. The single best way to navigate those changes is within a network of collegial relationships which brings us back to our primary opportunity. JK

### ~REGISTER NOW FOR TOGETHER IN THE LORD

Have you registered for the Together in the Lord Conference January 4-7, 2009? Click on the link and register TODAY! You won't want to miss it!

<https://www.bimwebport.org/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx?DirectLink=2010TITLP>

Scholarship money will be available. For more information click on the link and follow instructions listed below - <http://www.nationalministries.org/>

On left side bar point to Education - Click on Scholarship and Grants - Scroll down to bottom of page and click on "Tell me more about aid for Ministerial Leaders" and click on "Cultivating New Life Grant Application" then follow instructions given there.

## **~MINISTERS COUNCIL WEBSITE USAGE**

From the period of January 1, 2009 to October 8, 2009, the Ministers Council homepage had 25,090 hits. This is your Ministers Council dues at work to provide you with many resources available only through our website. If you haven't visited us before, take a minute and see what is available. Go to [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org)!

## **~JUDSON PRESS TITLES WIN NATIONAL BEST BOOKS 2009 AWARDS**

Three Judson Press books were recognized with National Best Books 2009 Awards <http://www.usabooknews.com/bestbooks2009release.html>. The winners are:

***Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens*** by Marvin McMickle - Winner - African American Studies [http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=12687](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=12687)

***Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down*** by Kirk Byron Jones - Winner - Audio Book: Christian Inspiration [http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=13721](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13721)

***Crazy Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives*** by Susan K. Williams Smith - Finalist: Christian Inspiration [http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=12683](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=12683)

These titles can be ordered at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or by calling 800-458-3766.

## **~FAITHFUL REFORM IN HEALTH CARE**

Over 45, 000 people die each year because they lack the insurance they need for adequate health care. This is a moral issue that we, as people of faith must respond to. National Ministries (The American Baptist Home Mission Society) has signed on to Faithful Reform In Health Care in order to help facilitate American Baptist action on behalf of the 40 million people in this country who lack health care insurance.

Please visit the web site at <http://www.faithfulreform.org>

## **~MMBB MARKS MILESTONE**

The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) marked a milestone in September as it paid out its two billionth dollar in retirement benefits since 1921. As of the end of September, MMBB has paid out \$2,009,377,240. For more information contact Harold Leibovitz, Communications Director at [harold.leibovitz@mmbb.org](mailto:harold.leibovitz@mmbb.org).

## **~IN THEIR WORDS**

In Their Words--MMBB Benefits and Church Life, a new feature on the MMBB Web site, presents videos on topics you will find of interest. Click link below to read more.

[http://www.mmbb.org/in\\_their\\_words.cfm](http://www.mmbb.org/in_their_words.cfm)

## **~TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES: CREATING COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING AND RENEWAL** - *Janet Maykus*

Some of you may not be familiar with the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education in Ministry (SACEM). It seems to be a well kept secret. Due to the slump in the economy, admission rates will remain the same, but you need to sign up soon so that there will be room for you.

This will be a particularly interesting conference. Findings from the national SPE study that has revealed a tremendous amount regarding clergy peer groups, who goes, what is necessary for a successful group, what ministers are doing and learning, etc. will be presented. Ministers Council Together in Ministry Groups were a part of this study.

Please join us -

SACEM 2010 Annual Conference  
January 21-24, 2010  
Scarritt-Bennett Conference Center  
Nashville, Tennessee

For more information and registration details, click on this link <http://www.sacem.com/>

## **~LEADERS PRACTICING AN EASIER, MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO LEAD**

Every month, hundreds of leaders get a free shot in the arm through The Leadership Adventure, a short and insightful essay on leadership by Margaret Marcuson that reflects on how leaders can deal with specific challenges that face them. To read more click on the link below.

<http://www.margaretmarcuson.com/Free-Articles.php>

## **~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](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.**