



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

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~WOMEN IN MINISTRY ROUNDTABLE

On January 28-29, 2010, the Women in Ministry Roundtable discussion convened in Valley Forge, PA. Participants in the discussion were representative of denominational ministries and agencies that have a role in encouraging, supporting and giving advocacy to professional women in ABC life. This roundtable discussion was part of the charge given to President Mary Hulst, by the General Secretary, to assess needs and make a recommendation concerning a future pattern of staffing for women in ministry. The difficult economy and diminished income from endowment that supports the position, necessitated the defunding of the position of Executive Director of Women in Ministry, a position that was connected to the Office of the General Secretary.

Each roundtable participant was asked to respond to four questions: 1) What is your agency or group currently doing to support, encourage or give advocacy to women in ministry? 2) What do you see as roadblocks to supporting women in ministry at this point in time? 3) What resources do you have to offer that could be a part of a comprehensive strategy for women in ministry? 4) What is your wish list for ABC women in ministry?

Out of this discussion, a way forward recommended to the General Board, and Roy Medley, the General Secretary. The Steering Committee working with Mary is: Holly Bean, Alice Greene, and Lauren Ng.

To facilitate the process of moving forward, Holly Bean has accepted the role of "Consultant". She will work in a part-time capacity (about 2 days a week) and conclude her service by the end of the year. Thanks to Holly for agreeing to help in this way.

~JUDSON PRESS KICKS OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH THREE NEW TITLES

Judson Press has three new resources to offer pastors, church leaders, and lay people:

Reboot: Refreshing Your Faith in a High-Tech World by Peggy Kendall; Foreword by Robert Parham
http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13903&CFID=3071321&CFTOKEN=59597071

Perfect for study groups and an ideal as a sermon topic!

"*Reboot* is anything but another thinly veiled, quasi-negative book about technology salted with biblical proof-texts and preachy admonitions. *Reboot* isn't about disconnecting. It's about staying connected the right way." --Robert Parham, Baptist Center for Ethics

I'm a Piece of Work! Sisters Shaped by God by Cynthia L. Hale
http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13906

Rev. Dr. Hale is the founder and senior pastor the 5,000 member Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, GA. *I'm a Piece of Work!* features poetry, reflections, and Scripture, taking women on a journey

from brokenness to wholeness. It is a book designed to help women affirm themselves and to claim God's best.

Marriage ROCKS for Christian Couples by Dr. Harold L. Arnold Jr., Foreword by Edward P. Wimberly
http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13904

"This resource is a real gem for couples and leaders who care about strengthening and deepening marriage vows. Grounded in biblical truths and psychological sensitivity, this book offers a treasure trove of ways to build on God as the Rock, the faithful One who provides shelter and hope in the storms and serenities of marital life." -- Judith Balwick, EdD, Senior Professor of Marital and Family Therapy, Department of Marriage and Family, Fuller Theological Seminary
Also available: **Marriage ROCKS Leader's Guide**
http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13905

Judson Press resources can be ordered by calling 800-458-3766 or visiting www.judsonpress.com

~JOIN MINISTERS COUNCIL FACEBOOK GROUP

Keep up with what is going on in Ministers Council through our Facebook Group, "American Baptist Ministers Council". Become a part of the group today.

~FORMER MINISTERS COUNCIL SENATOR-AT-LARGE DIES

The Rev. Clydia Nahwooksy, a former member of the Board of National Ministries, the ABCUSA General Board, and Ministers Council Senator-at-Large, died Dec. 31, 2009, in Indianahoma, Oklahoma. She was 76 years old.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/100/Former-National-Ministries-Board-Member-Clydia-Nahwooksy-dies.aspx>

~HAITI RESPONSE EFFORTS

Events have been changing by the hour since the earthquake in Haiti. I am sending you an update in the form of two documents: 1) a brief summary on the locations and actions of our American Baptist missionaries in and near Haiti. 2) a Q&A from ABC World Relief Officer Lisa Rothenberger about One Great Hour of Sharing funds for the Haiti crisis and related relief questions. I hope you find this updated information helpful. We are making this information available through the website as well.
www.internationalministries.org

As news pours in about the magnitude of human suffering following Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti, National Ministries is working with International Ministries, ABCUSA regions, Church World Service and the North American Baptist Fellowship to coordinate disaster response.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/98/National-Ministries-And-ABCUSA-Regions-Plan-Haiti-Disaster-Relief.aspx>

Daily news reports reflect the indescribable results of the 7.0 earthquake that brought destruction on January 12 to Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. Medical professionals are, and will be, urgently needed to respond to the injuries of thousands of victims.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/107/Medical-Volunteers-Needed-In-Haiti-During-February.aspx>

~JOB POSTING AT THE MISSION CENTER

The Office of the General Secretary is in the process of recruiting for a Treasurer/CFO, Associate General Secretary for Finance position. The job posting provides details on the position as well as instructions on how to apply for this position. If you are interested in being a candidate for this position, please follow the instructions in the job posting. If you know anyone who might be qualified and interested in this position, please share this posting with them. To view job posting click on the link below – <http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Y3W30V8AJvU%3d&tabid=114>

~TALENT SEARCH – *Aidsand Wright-Riggins*

It is my pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors of EthicsDaily.com (Center for Baptist Ethics) representing American Baptists. You are aware that Ethics Daily developed the ABC-TV documentary "Different Books Common Word" exploring Muslim and Baptist relationships.

We are currently on a "talent search" for individuals to interview, stories to tell, topics to examine for our second, hour-long documentary that will air in October 2010 on ABC-TV stations. The documentary will be multi-faith, exploring how the Judeo-Christian-Islamic traditions in America think theologically and speak morally about taxation.

Given where our culture is today, we expect that our society will be at an even higher fever pitch about taxes a year from now. Our documentary will bring a calm, civil and deeper moral discussion to the public square. Since taxation is foundational for many social justice efforts and a flash point for the conservative political movement, our documentary will be a timely one. It will not be a partisan piece, however.

We will likely explore topics such as the so-called "sin tax" on alcohol and tobacco, the tax on carbon to combat global warming and the Mennonites' opposition to "war taxes." We will look at the history and purpose of the tax-exemption of religious organizations.

We will ask these kinds of questions: (1) Why is the word "taxes" a dirty word? How did that happen? Why does some much hostility swirl around taxation? (2) What do the Abrahamic-faith traditions say about taxes? (3) What was meant when Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God what is God's?" How do we interpret this text today? Similarly, how do we apply what Apostle Paul told the Christians in Rome—pay taxes? (4) Is taxation a justice issue? How would these faith traditions define just taxes?

Although the documentary will be multi-faith I would like to see a strong American Baptist presence. Do you have some recommendations of American Baptist individuals to interview, stories to tell? We have such a rich racial, cultural and gender diversity. That should be reflected in the documentary as well.

Please check out the Ethics Daily web site <http://www.ethicsdaily.com/>

~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

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