



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

March 2010

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

~JOE KUTTER'S WORKSHOP OBSERVATIONS

We have now led 6 workshops, involving 10 regional groups, using “Community of Practice” insights for the purpose of enhancing ministry and strengthening constituent councils. In the process, we have engaged nearly 100 persons including pastors, persons in specialized ministries and Executive and Regional Ministers. In the process, the leader cannot help but learn. I’ve shared a few of my observations in my recent report to the Senate. Here are two paragraphs from that report.

In each workshop, as time allows, we focus on nourishing our spiritual core. The Ministers Council mission statement says that we “covenant together to deepen our spiritual journeys” and to increase our effectiveness as leaders. It’s been a gratifying learning experience to be with colleagues as we intentionally gave serious time to prayer and engaging the scriptures both in solitude and together. I’ve come to the conclusion that it is important to talk less and to do more to engage spiritual practice as a community of Ministerial Leaders. Feedback consistently suggests that engaging our spiritual centers is an important part of the workshop/retreat experience.

I am also beginning to believe strongly that our successful engagement of the issues of ministry that confront us in 2010 is fully dependent upon our capacity for spiritual nurture. Here is my current hypothesis: When we as individuals neglect the habits of spiritual practice in the engagement of ministerial leadership, we are likely to self-destruct. When we as a community of ministerial leaders fail to nurture our spiritual core together, we will likely do harm both to ourselves and to one another.

To read the complete report, click on the link below:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Senate2010/documents/Feb2010REPORTTOTHESENATE.pdf>

~MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTINUES ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The Women in Ministry Task Forces (OGS and Ministers Council) continue to work to affirm the calls to ministry that God extends to both women and men. The following articles indicate the creative work being done in support of our female colleagues. *JK*

~PLAN FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY SUNDAY – 2010!

American Baptists have designated March 21 as Women in Ministry Sunday this year. We in the American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) office would like to support you as you plan ahead. Because of the transition ABWIM is undergoing, we regret that we do not have new resources for 2010.

However, we would like to encourage you to resource each other. After all, you are the experts! Please feel free to send me Biblical passages, music, readings, litanies or prayers that you have found to be powerful in the celebration of Women in Ministry. The Ministers Council has generously agreed to post the ideas on the Women in Ministry Resource Section of their website www.ministerscouncil.org. The 2009 Women in Ministry Sunday resources have already been posted there. Please feel free to send your suggestions to me at hollybean1@comcast.net and I will send them on for posting. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Holly Bean
Consultant for ABWIM

~WOMEN IN MINISTRY ROUNDTABLE ALLOWS FOR PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

A roundtable discussion was held at the American Baptist Mission Center on January 28-29, 2010, to discuss the future of the Women in Ministry program, overseen by the Office of the General Secretary. The roundtable included 25 denominational leaders from denominational agencies, caucuses, seminaries and other recognized interest groups in American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). Specifically, the group considered how to best encourage, support and advocate for women who are in ministry positions within ABCUSA. To read more click on the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WIM%20Resources/WIMResources.aspx>

~PLEASE VISIT THE NEW ABWIM WEB PAGE AND VOTE!

Thanks to the gifts of Lauren Ng and her family as well as those of Bridget Holmstrom of the Office of Communications, ABWIM now has a page on www.abc-usa.org. Not only that, we have three designs for a new logo for ABWIM; visitors to the page can vote on the one they like the best. I hope this makes you curious. If so, please take a look; here's the link:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/WhoWeAre/MinistryMission/ABCOrganizations/WomenInMinistry.aspx>

Please pass this along to any and all who might be interested.

~REAL WOMEN, REAL LEADERS

I wanted to let you know about one wonderful outcome of the Women in Ministry Roundtable. I just had the joy of posting an episode to AB Women's Ministries *Real Women, Real Leaders* podcast series which is an interview with Rev. Christine Smith about issues facing women in ministry. I hope you will both be able to give it a listen, as well as help spread the word.

The episode may be accessed through iTunes (search for "Real Women, Real Leaders") or at <http://www.abwm.libsyn.com/>. It was a great interview, and I'm pleased that I have several more interviews lined up with other folks that came out of the roundtable!

Sandra L. DeMott Hasenauer
Associate Executive Director
American Baptist Women's Ministries

~JUDSON PRESS

The Mom's Choice Awards® has named "Raising Boys to Be Like Jesus" and "Mothering Heights: A Novel Approach for Christian Mothers" among the best in family-friendly media, products and services.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/115/Moms-Choice-Awards-Recognizes-Two-Judson-Press-Titles.aspx>

~POPULAR JUDSON PRESS AUTHOR WEBINARS CONTINUE

March 19 -- "[Raising & Mentoring Black Teen Boys, Part 2](#)" with Dr. James C. Perkins

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=12405

March 24 -- "[5 Steps to Claiming the Marriage You Deserve](#)" with Dr. Harold Arnold Jr.

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13904

April 8 -- "[A Place Called Acceptance](#)" (autism & disability ministry) with Kathleen Deyer Bolduc, Rev. Bill Gaventa, and Ginny Thornburgh

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13888

Get times and register, where you'll also find a list of all previous webinars with links to their free and downloadable recordings.

http://www.judsonpress.com/free_download_webinars.cfm

~2011 BIENNIAL INFORMATION

For information about the Biennial in 2011 click on the link below:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/www.abc-usa.org/EventRegistration/Biennial2011/tabid/465/Default.aspx>

~HOW DO CHURCH LEADERS GET CLEAR ABOUT STEWARDSHIP?

What do you think about financial stewardship? While there are a host of resources for churches on developing their giving, it's important to clarify your own thinking. The clearer you are yourself, the easier it will be for you to offer others a challenge to give. To read more click on the link below.

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/blog/?p=335>

To subscribe to the newsletter go to Marcuson Leadership Circle - leaders practicing an easier, more effective way to lead – and sign up.

Company Website: <http://www.margaretmarcuson.com/>

~FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION NOTICE

Celeste McCray of the Federal Communications Commission contacted the Ministers Council office with information regarding 700 mgh wireless microphones. She wanted to get the information out to our ABC churches regarding the ban of their use after June 12, 2010. Leo Thorne of Mission Resource Development has been in contact with her.

~VISITING THE MISSION CENTER?

Hotel information for Valley Forge/King of Prussia and directions to the Mission Center have been added to the ABCUSA website. The link to this is:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/EventRegistration/TravelInformation.aspx>

~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.

~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.