



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

Joe Kutter, Executive Director

November 2010

Click here to view this message as a webpage:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/Publications.aspx>

~PREPARING TO PREACH

Our recent issue of *Minister* magazine focused on the ways we prepare to preach. Since it arrived in your email box during the holiday season, you may have missed it. There are articles that you are likely to read more than once and to keep for future reference. Go to the link listed below to download your copy.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Periodicals/ministerFall2010/2010FallMinister.aspx>

~FORTY DAYS OF COMMUNITY PRAYER

Shall we pray together? In partnership with the General Executive Council (GEC) of the ABCUSA, the Ministers Council is calling our ministerial leaders to a season of shared prayer. Through Advent until Epiphany, a daily prayer is being shared on the Facebook group page of The American Baptist Ministers Council. If you are not a member of the Facebook page and choose to join us in prayer, a weekly packet is available through the Ministers Council website. Click on the link below. Please join us through this holy season in prayer.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/OnLineManual/CommunityPrayer2010.aspx>

~BJC ANNOUNCES 2011 RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Rev. Steven C. Case, FBC Mansfield, Pa.

The sixth annual Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest has been announced by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. The Theme for 2011 is “The right to freely exercise your religion is guaranteed by the First Amendment, but that right is not absolute and it sometimes clashes with the rights of others.” For example, public school students have legal rights that protect their freedom of religion, but a student’s right to free speech or the free exercise of religion can conflict with school policies. **Using a single example or multiple examples, write an essay explaining how religious rights clash with other rights or laws in America and how you would determine an appropriate outcome.**

As one of seven ABC/USA members of the Board I encourage my colleagues to encourage your students to look seriously at the issue of Religious Liberty and consider writing an essay on the current theme.

To my ABC/USA ministerial colleagues if you would have anyone from your churches who would be interested in an Internship Program with the Baptist Joint Committee please let me know. The program is open to undergraduates, graduate students and college graduates. For more information feel free to contact Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee at

http://www.bjconline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3969&Itemid=112

or myself at fbcpastor@epix.net

~2011 GUIDE FOR CHURCH-RELATED EMPLOYERS NOW AVAILABLE

Step-by-Step Advice on Church Budgeting, Pastoral Compensation, and Taxes

MMBB has mailed all member churches the 2011 copy of [The MMBB Guide for Church-Related Employers](#). The Employer Guide can assist churches and related organizations with information on clergy compensation, pastoral budgeting, taxes and benefits. This comprehensive resource covers everything from how to fill out your church's W-2 form to how 403(b) regulations affect your church. Feel free to [read it online](#) or [contact us](#) if you would like a hard copy mailed to your church.

~ABWIM LEADERS ANNOUNCE PLAN TO MOVE FORWARD

At the ABCUSA General Board meeting November 18-21 in King of Prussia, Pa., a new plan for American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) work was announced by ABWIM Steering Committee chair Rev. Mary A. Hulst and ABWIM consultant Rev. Holly Vincent Bean. The plan concludes a year of learning and reassessment by the steering committee, which also includes members Rev. Dr. Alice J. Greene and Rev. Lauren L. Ng.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

~HAVE YOU HEARD?

On November 19, a new plan for ABWIM was unveiled at the General Board meeting. You can find out more by visiting ABWIM web pages at www.abwim.org.

Be sure to see the job posting for the national director position. Please click on the link to view the job description. Do you know someone who might be interested?

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/documents/ABWIMposting1130.pdf>

~AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY – WOMENWORD FALL 2010

To view the latest WomenWord please click on the link below.

http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WIM_Resources/documents/FallEditionVolume3-November2010.pdf

~MINISTERS COUNCIL WEBSITE PROVES TO BE A VALUABLE TOOL

Beth Shelton, a visitor to the Ministers Council website provided feedback she found on our "Links" webpage. Beth is starting a women's ministry at her church, and contacted us to say "your page was just so helpful. I really appreciate that you took the time to put your information online!" She wanted to suggest that we add another resource to our list and asked us to share this information with others. Please click on the link below.

<http://www.datehookup.com/content-womens-ministries-in-todays-world.htm>

~EDUCATIONAL AND INSPIRING: FREE WEBINARS FROM JUDSON PRESS

On Thursday, Dec. 9 at 2:00 p.m., Scott Sabin will present "Lessons from Tending to Eden" based on his Judson Press book [Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God's People](#). As executive director of [Plant With Purpose](#), Scott will reflect on his journeys to various poverty-stricken countries, including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Tanzania, and how these experiences have shaped his passion to

care for the poor and the land that sustains them. He will also share practical ideas for how to involve your congregation in creation care. [Register here](#) for this one hour webinar.

On January 12 at 2:00 p.m., Judson Press will present "Engaging All Ages with Church Programs & Celebrations" with Rachel Gilmore, author of [Church Programs & Celebrations for All Generations](#). If you want to reconnect your congregation to God's story across generations, strengthen biblical knowledge and build up the family of God, join Rachel for concrete ideas for re-energizing your faith and fellowship offerings in 2011 and beyond. [Register here](#).

Finally, stay tuned for more information about a series of podcasts and webinars in February to celebrate Black History Month.

For more information about these Judson Press events, contact Kim Shimer, Marketing Director, at kshimer@abhms.org.

~NATIONAL STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR SAVING LIFE OF COWORKER

Two members of the American Baptist Churches USA staff received an award on Thursday, November 4, at the Upper Merion Township Building. Gary LaNette and Johnson Eapen were recognized by the Lafayette Ambulance Company for saving the life of a coworker, Brenda Halliburton, in October 2009.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

~FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICAN BAPTIST MUSICIANS – NOTE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT

I have had the joy and challenge of serving God through the ministry of music for more than thirty years. It was because of a pastor like you that I am a music leader and ordained pastor today. This mentor took the time and interest to tell me about the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians and urged me to attend the Conference for Church Musicians at Green Lake, Wisconsin. He pointed me to a place and a people that trained and taught me how to build a meaningful and effective music ministry and that made all the difference.

Do you want a vital music and worship ministry in your church? There is an organization of church musicians and worship leaders who have a mission to help you and your music and worship leaders. I am writing as a partner in ministry to encourage you to consider the many benefits of membership in The Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians for your church and to ask you to go to our website at www.fabm.com. You'll find information about our Music Lending Library where you can borrow music without cost, the July Conference for all ages, and ways to become a member of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians. Our membership is open to all and made up of singers, instrumentalists, pastors, choir members and directors from every corner of the nation.

Please take just a moment to consider God's gift of music and how it can enrich and enliven the spiritual life of your congregation. If you have any questions or need a word of encouragement yourself, don't hesitate to contact us!

With Christ's Song in My Heart,
Rev. Carol Teare

~SOUL NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Rev. Karen Picker provides the Chaplains/Pastoral Counselors with her "Soul Notes." [Read more >>>](#)

~DISABILITIES RESOURCE

Robert Wendel of WV phoned the Ministers Council office after the article, "Disability Ministry Resource," by Curtis Ramsey Lucas appeared in our October 2010 newsletter. Robert was part of a group that worked on the American Baptist Resolution on Employment of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the General Board in 1983. Click on the link and then scroll to "Employment of Persons with Disabilities" to view the document.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/ABCResources/PolicyStatementsResolutions/tabid/199/Default.aspx#D>

~IN MEMORIUM

Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Norris, former Executive Minister of the Cleveland Baptist Association with American Baptist Churches USA, died on Friday, November 5, 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio. Norris served ABCUSA as a world mission support field officer, prior to becoming executive minister of the Cleveland Baptist Association.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

~YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PREACHING PAVILLION OFFERED BY THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MINISTERS COUNCIL AT THE BIENNIAL SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO JUNE 24-26, 2011

You will have the opportunity to hear six of our excellent American Baptist preachers over a three hour period. (Please check the Biennial program schedule for the time.) Taken together, the six preaching-worship sessions will provide an opportunity to hear the gospel in a way that portrays the rich diversity of our American Baptist family. Six preachers, six cultures, six styles, one gospel and one family - plan to join us in San Juan.

~THE NEW NORMAL * PRE-BIENNIAL* JUNE 23-24* SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Some things in ministry are eternal. They never change. But the context within which we do ministry has changed dramatically and there is no going back. Our current environment is THE NEW NORMAL.

The Ministers Council (Dr. Jeff Savage and Dr. Joe Kutter) with its partners from Regional Ministries (Dr. Jeff Woods), Women in Ministry (Rev. Holly Bean), The Generosity Gang (Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford), and Interim Ministries (Rev. Jamie Munroe) will present a two part pre-Biennial program that focuses on **THE NEW NORMAL**. [Dr. Peggy Kendall](#), author of *Reboot, Refreshing your Faith in a High Tech World*, (Judson Press) and [Dr. Gary Nelson](#), author of *Borderland Churches a Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living* (Chalice Press) will be our lead speakers. Dr. Kendall will speak at the first session on Thursday afternoon, June 23 (2:00 – 5:00 p.m.) and Dr. Nelson will speak at the second session on Friday, June 24 (9:00 a.m. to Noon)

For more information on the Biennial including speakers, schedules, etc. please see www.celebrate2011.com

Online Registration is now open. Click on the link below to begin your registration.

<https://www.bimwebport.org/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx>

Hope to see you in San Juan!

~REMINDER TO SAVE THE DATE, JANUARY 23-26, 2012

"The Ministers Conference for all ministerial leaders and the Orientation to ABC Life will be held at the Doubletree Resort, 10100 International Drive in Orlando, FL, January 23-26, 2012. We look forward to seeing you there."

Please continue to check our website – www.ministerscouncil.org - for updates and further information.

~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

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