



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

Joe Kutter, Executive Director

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

~MINISTERS COUNCIL PAST PRESIDENT WINS BOOK AWARD

Angels All Around won a bronze medal award from Reader's Favorite in the category of Christian fiction. The book was written by Ministers Council past president, Rev. Dr. Alice Burnette Greene. Alice has worked as a lawyer and as the pastor of a multicultural church. She holds a law degree from Northwestern University, a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University School of Divinity. She presently lives in Washington DC. For more information on her book, click on the link below.

<http://readersfavorite.com/review/4304>

JOIN YOUR MINISTERS COUNCIL FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES JANUARY IN ORLANDO!

In the spirit of "Strong in the Lord," "Wait on the Lord" and "Together in the Lord"

Go to a New Land: Journeying Toward God
A Ministry Renewal Conference for all ministerial leaders
January 23 – 26, 2012

Insightful teaching led by Alan Roxburgh
Powerful preaching with Dwight Stinnett, Zina Jacque and Doug Avilesbernal
Daily devotional times with Roy Medley and Marvin McMickle
[Stimulating workshops](#) geared to the needs of American Baptist ministers

Presented by American Baptist Churches USA and The Ministers Council

Visit the website: www.a-new-land.com

Register now: [Yes! I'm coming to Orlando](#)

~TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT - *Joe Kutter*

Last week, I joined more than 20 Regional Executives, Roy Medley, members and representatives of the National Executive Council, and our elected denominational officers, in a meeting with consultants Alan Roxburgh and Craig Van Gelder to take the next steps in our denomination's "Transformed by the Spirit" (TbyS) initiative. Here is what you can expect in the coming months.

We began by "Dwelling in the Word", a process that looks a lot like "Lexio Divina" without the Latin. Scripture and prayer are integral to the planning process.

Considerable time was devoted to identifying significant "Ministry Challenges" that we are currently confronting. Each participating group was invited to identify those challenges that are most pressing within its own context.

A few weeks ago, through this newsletter and our Facebook page, you were invited to take a survey, through "Survey Monkey." More than 200 responses were received and from those responses, we identified 5 key challenges which were fully included in the conversation. From that conversation, between 15 and 20 Ministry Challenges were identified as key issues that face us.

The next step will be for each participating region and group, including the Ministers Council, to form "Adaptive Challenge Teams" (ACT) with each team focusing on one of the identified Ministry Challenges. The list will be made available soon. Each ACT will be provided with a coach and will be asked to identify the "Adaptive Challenge," the deep underlying issues and questions that are beneath the identified Ministry Challenge. The assumption is that we need to understand the underlying issues and form the right questions before we begin the journey seeking answers or responses.

The second step will be to form Action-Learning Teams who will attempt to form experimental answers and responses to the identified issues. We anticipate that many, perhaps most of the ACT will continue as Action-Learning Teams but it is not an assumption. Some groups may disband and other new groups may form.

Finally, the conversations and learning of the Action-Learning Teams will become a part of the Biennial conversation in Kansas City at the next Biennial.

The process will be led by a small "Journey Team" consisting of 7 persons. Ministers Council President, Jeff Savage, has agreed to serve on that team.

It seems to me that both the challenge and the opportunity in this process is that it is designed to be a "bottom-up" conversation. From the very beginning, the process will attempt to engage congregations and pastors in the conversations about the issues that are critical to faithful and fruitful ministry. Rather than supplying answers or programs from the top, this process attempts to seek the wisdom and learning of the participating persons and groups and then use that wisdom and learning to inform the entire denominational family. The process will inevitably be complicated and perhaps a little messy. But the opportunity is to be true to our own essential identity which identifies the congregation as the core ministry group within our family. Our way of being in this world will always be complicated and messy. Only tyranny is really simple and neat!

I am grateful that Ministers Council has been invited to be a full partner in this process. It is an indicator that our constituents, the Ministerial Leaders of the ABC, will be as fully involved as we choose to be. As we move forward, I will make every effort to keep you fully informed of the process, and more importantly, of your opportunities to participate.

~GREEN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

The Board of Directors of Green Lake Conference Center (GLCC) selected Ben Mott as their new President and Chief Executive Officer. Tom Jones, chair of the Board, said, "This is an extraordinary time for GLCC, and we anticipate that Ben will lead us in new and innovative ways." Replacing current President/CEO Ken Giacometto who is retiring after 18 years, Mott will begin his duties on January 2, 2012.

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

~JUDSON PRESS

During the 2011 ABCUSA Biennial, Judson Press, publishing ministry of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, announced Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families/Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes as the 2011-2012 ABC Reads selection. This bilingual (Spanish/English) resource by ABCUSA pastor and dean of Esperanza College of Eastern University Elizabeth Conde-Frazier addresses one of the most critical issues of our time.

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

~JUDSON PRESS RELEASES TIMELY NEW PREACHING RESOURCE

"It's the economy, stupid" may have worked for Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, but it's probably not the best approach for preaching a culturally and economically sensitive sermon.

Pastors will discover a better approach in Matthew Tennant's [Preaching in Plenty and in Want](#).

Every day, people face new economic realities that affect their livelihoods, their families, their futures—and their faith. In this practical new resource, former brokerage-firm vice-president-turned-church pastor Matthew Tennant explains both why and how to connect the endless stream of economic information with a biblical message.

See the American Baptist Home Mission Societies [homepage](#) for a videocast about Preaching in Plenty and in Want with Dr. Aisdand Wright-Riggins.

Preaching in Plenty and in Want retails for \$15.99. To order, call 800-458-3766 or save 20% when you order online at www.judsonpress.com.

~ABHMS OFFERS FREE RESOURCES

Do you know that American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) offers free resources to support your ministry? Here are just a few [Workshops for Church Life and Leadership](#) that can be downloaded at no cost from the ABHMS website:

- ["American Baptist Heritage"](#)
- ["Bible Study Methods for Growing Disciples"](#)

- ["Teaching with Respect for Diverse Learning Styles"](#)
- ["Strategies to Move the Small Church Forward"](#) and
- ["Becoming a Disciple-making Community."](#)

Workshops are available in English, French, Spanish and Karen. Hard-copy workshops are available by contacting Joanne Powers at joanne.powers@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3874, x2452.

~2012 Employer Guide Available Online!

MMBB's *2012 Guide for Church-Related Employers* is now available for download in our [Download Documents & Resources section](#).

You can also find much of the helpful information contained in this guide across our website. Here are just a few highlights:

- Review guidelines on building a [pastoral budget](#) and [calling a new pastor](#).
- Find answers to your [enrollment questions](#) or [billing questions](#) within our [section for employers](#).
- Read up on [flexible spending accounts](#) and get answers to your [frequently asked questions](#).

If you requested a printed copy, it should arrive in the next two weeks. To order a printed copy, send the request to email@mmbb.org. Include your full name and mailing address in the email.

<http://mmbb.org/docs/employer-guide-2012.pdf>

~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.

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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.