



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

Joe Kutter, Executive Director

May 2012

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~PRAYER FOR THE MINISTERS COUNCIL – *Margaret Marcuson, Chair Spiritual & Personal Wholeness Committee*

Please keep the Ministers Council and the Together in Ministry capital campaign in prayer. Here's a suggested prayer, provided Rev. Miriam Mendez, Senator from Oregon and pastor of Esperanza Church in Portland, OR:

Loving and generous God, Giver of all good gifts. We thank you that we are called into the service of Jesus Christ to be the hands and feet of Christ. Thank you, that Christ is able and willing to use us to proclaim the kingdom of His love.

As we begin our work for our Ministers Council (TIM) Capital Campaign, we pray for those who have accepted the task to go out and ask for funding. We dedicate their gifts of speech and conversation. We pray for clarity of the vision, wisdom, guidance and integrity during the conversation.

We dedicate those who will be contributing their time, expertise and finances to this Capital Campaign. We pray for understanding of the vision and the need for this vital ministry. We thank you for their generosity and commitment to the health and wholeness of the American Baptist Ministers Council.

Lord God we are here in response to your calling. May You be glorified through this Capital Campaign. In the strong and tender name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

~TRANSFORMED BY SPIRIT – *Joe Kutter*

We completed the most recent "Transformed by Spirit" meetings just a few hours ago. I seldom wish that people whom I love could have been present in a meeting. But for long-time veterans of American Baptist life, I can honestly say, "I wish that you could have been there."

Why? I know that you are asking. The answer: The room was filled with men and women, denominational leaders, who are fully committed to the Christ's mission through the church who fully focused their energies on the issues facing the church with no other agenda making itself known. It was as healthy a meeting as I have ever attended, outside of our own Senate meetings.

The mood of the room was prayerful, participatory, and serious though frequently interrupted by good natured laughter. The issues facing our part of the church are serious and every effort was made to begin to address the issues with neither fear nor unbridled optimism ruling the room.

I am frequently asked if I think that the “Transformed by The Spirit” initiative will have a positive impact on our denominational family. It already has. Because of the complexity of the issues, I admit to very little optimism. Due to the emerging spirit that is among us, I believe the Holy Spirit, I have much hope.

Say a prayer for us.

~MINISTERS COUNCIL AND ABHMS SPONSOR EVENT

Sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and the Ministers Council, and supported by the Burma Refugees Task Force, the “Together in Ministry [TIM] Retreat for American Baptist Churches USA Pastors Ministering to the Burma Diaspora Community” was held April 23-25 at the National Christian Conference Center.

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

~JUDSON PRESS ADDS NEW TITLES TO SERIES

In 2010, Judson Press launched [Living Church](#), a series of resources designed to address 21st century church needs from a congregational perspective. The newest Living Church title is [Empowering Laity, Engaging Leaders: Tapping the Root for Ministry](#) by ABCUSA leaders Susan E. Gillies and M. Ingrid Dvirnak. It joins [Making Friends, Making Disciples: Growing Your Church through Authentic Relationships](#) by Lee Spitzer and [Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care](#) by Marvin A. McMickle.

This spring has also seen the publication of a new volume in the Star Book collection. [The Star Book for Stewardship](#) by Clifford A. Jones joins Judson Press’s best-seller [The Star Book for Ministers](#) and [The Star Book on Preaching](#). In 2011, Judson Press released [The Star Book for Ministers gift edition](#).

For a look at each of Judson Press’s 2012 spring titles, visit the home page of their website, www.judsonpress.com.

~ABHMS HOSTS LEARNING EVENT FOR PALMER GRANT RECIPIENTS

On May 22 and 23 at the Mission Center in Valley Forge, Pa., American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) hosted representatives of 18 ministries that received American Baptist Foundation-administered grants from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust in 2011. The event allowed grant recipients to share their experiences in implementing grant-related projects and to discuss best practices.

In attendance were the following individuals, representing the following ministries and grant-related projects: Jim Walter, American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky, discipleship DVD; Deborah Van Broekhoven and Jan Ballard, American Baptist Historical Society, Atlanta, Ga., Judson200 website; the Rev. C. Duh Kam, Chin Baptist Mission Church, Silver Spring, Md., documentary film for Burmese congregations; Shiloh Bradshaw, Church in the Acres, Springfield, Mass., Springfield Pulse community art space; the Rev. Linda Hart Green, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ridgewood, N.J., English as a Second Language program; the Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal, Calvary Baptist Church, Norristown, Pa., for First Baptist Church, Ardmore, Pa., Peace Café movement; Dave Richardson, First Baptist Church of Stilwell, Kan., Harvest for the Hungry and Harvest for Haiti garden; John Evans, First Baptist Church, Ypsilanti, Mich., Retool training for church leaders; the Rev. David Nethercott, First United Church of Fulton, N.Y., The Open Doors Neighborhood Center; Chad Hale, Georgia Avenue Community Ministry Inc., Atlanta, food cooperative; Diane Daily, The Hope Center at Pullen, Raleigh, N.C., job-readiness program for the homeless; the Rev. Ileana Vargus-Santiago, Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, Bayamon, Christian Values and Children Wellness Tour; the Rev. Michael Smith, McGee

Avenue Baptist Church, Berkeley, Calif., Fathers Acting in Togetherness and Hope program; the Rev. Stan and Barbara Moody, Meeting House Church, Manchester, Maine, lay prison chaplaincy; the Rev. Paula Bussard, New Hope Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, Sharing Hope Café; the Rev. Dr. Peter Grinion, Parsells Avenue Community Church, Rochester, N.Y., Good Shepherd Ministry after-school program; the Rev. Christine Roush, Rainbow Acres, Camp Verde, Ariz., services for individuals with disabilities; and Dr. Lynn Bergfalk and Paget Rhee, City Gate Ministries, Washington, D.C., Urban Hands mission program.

The event included prayer for all ministries, worship and small-group discussion. Each participant expressed gratitude to ABHMS and the foundation as well as to Virginia and Gordon Palmer for enabling their ministries to move forward via grant funds.

~SEASONS OF THE SONG

The Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Conference for Church Musicians will be held July 14-21 at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin. Workshops are designed to further educate and train those involved in church music leadership and work with nationally and internationally renowned clinicians in both ensemble and workshop settings. For more information please click on the link.

http://www.fabm.com/uploads/Seasons_of_the_Song_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.

~MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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