



# Ministers Council Newsletter

*Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Executive Director*

*February 2014*



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

*In honor of Black History Month, I am sharing an excerpt from a Sermon that I preached on MLK Weekend entitled "Finishing the Unfinished Business."*

On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson declared a War on Poverty in his State of the Union address. Recognizing that desire for the American Dream, Johnson voiced the hopes that so many of us have. We share the hope for a full-time job with full-time pay. We share the hope for a decent home in a decent community. We share the hope for a good school for our

children with good teachers. We share the hope for security when faced with sickness or unemployment or old age. We share these hopes, but as Johnson said in 1964, "Too many people live on the outskirts of hope." And as a result, Johnson declared that we needed to wage war. But by 1968, the War on Poverty seemed like a failure. And that's what motivated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to pen the Bill of Economic and Social Rights, which was issued in February of 1968. He said that it was a shift from the "era of civil rights to an era of human rights."

The Bill of Economic and Social Rights proclaimed the right of every employable citizen to have a decent job. It demanded the right of every citizen to a minimum income. It demanded the right of a decent house and the free choice of neighborhood. It demanded the right to an adequate education. The Bill of Economic and Social Rights demanded the right to participate in the decision making process, where access to political action and the vote was protected. It demanded the right to the full benefits of modern science in health care...

This was the unfinished business in 1964. This was the unfinished business in 1968 and it remains as our unfinished business in 2014. But it is time for us to finish the unfinished business. And we can feel empowered and emboldened to finish the unfinished business, because like Jesus, we can declare that "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." Jesus told us to make provision and care for the poor. He told us to care for the orphan and the widow. Jesus told us to care for those who are disenfranchised, for those who are marginalized. This is our job. This is our role. And I believe that we can finish the unfinished business because we've been anointed, appointed and gifted with the ability to serve others. God has touched us so that we can make a difference in the name of Jesus. We've been blessed to be a blessing. We've been blessed to change lives. Our anointing means that we can finish the unfinished business by bringing good news to the poor.

And then Jesus commanded us to proclaim release to the captives. There is a spirit of bondage that we have to break down; a spirit to which we must speak liberation. And I'm here to speak liberation and release. You see, just because you are poor doesn't mean that your children have to be poor. And if your grandparents or your parents didn't have an education, that doesn't mean that you shouldn't have an education.

My grandfather only went as far as the 6th grade in school. But my father has two master's degrees and now I have a doctorate. And that's not just my story; it can be yours too by the grace of God. You can excel; you can ascend. No one can hold you back. No one can hold you down. See you have the power to finish the unfinished business. Why, because you are more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ. Why, because you are free through Jesus Christ. Why, because you can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens you.

Jesus commanded that we have to recover the sight of the blind. There are a lot of blind people in our society. These are the people who believe that we are in a post racial society. These are the people who believe that providing government support only leads to a welfare state. However, we were commanded to recover the sight of the blind. In Jesus' name, we need to open the eyes of those who can't see the plight of the "have nots." In Jesus' name, we need to unstop the ears of those who won't hear about the disparities that are suffered by so many. We need to call on the power of the Holy Spirit to break up the fallow, hardened hearts of those who are unmoved and unconcerned about the unemployed, the underemployed, and the impoverished. This is how we finish the unfinished agenda: we recover the sight of the blind.

Jesus commanded that we have to let the oppressed go free. We need to speak life to those who are disenfranchised and demoralized. So many are broken in spirit and broken in heart. But do you know what we need to do? We need to be like that woman at the well because that's our story too. See, I don't know about you, but I met a man who told me all about myself. I met a man who knew all my faults and failures. He knew where I had messed up and knew my mistakes. And yet, he loved me anyway. He called me his anyway. He saved me anyway. He healed me anyway. He made me his servant anyway. And that's the good news that we need to share. It's how we can finish the unfinished business. By sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, we set the oppressed free.

I'm confident that we can do these things and you may be asking, "Why would she think that we can accomplish all these things now?" First, I remember that Jesus told his disciples that we would do even greater things than he. In John 14, Jesus said, "The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things." Why, "because I am on my way to the Father, and I am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing." What's more, he said because he was going to the Father and that he would be interceding on our behalf to the Father, we would be able to do what he did. We would be able to minister as he did. We would be able to heal as he did. In other words, we would be able to finish the unfinished business because Jesus is interceding for our success.

Second I feel emboldened in my belief that we can finish the unfinished business because it's been 50 years since that historic declaration against poverty was made. You see the Bible tells us in Leviticus 25:10 that we should sanctify the 50th year. We need to make holy the 50th year. We need to proclaim freedom in the 50th year – freedom over all the land; freedom over everything that it is in it. It is a jubilee for us. And for me, I see it as special power, a special sanctification, a special anointing that has been extended to us empowering us to finish the unfinished business. We are equipped to complete the unfinished business. We've been prepared in this year of jubilee to finish the unfinished business.

So truly we can say that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us. He has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recover the sight of the blind. He has sent us to let the oppressed go free. He has sent us to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. And since he has so anointed and appointed us, let us go forth; let us go out; let us demand economic and social rights for all. In short let us finish the unfinished business.





## Welcome Joyce Moon to The Ministers Council

We are excited to share that Joyce Moon has joined the staff of the Ministers Council as our part-time Office Administrator, filling the role that was vacated in December due to the retirement of Sue Sechrist.

Joyce comes to us from the American Baptist Foundation, where she also serves part time as a Marketing and Administrative Assistant.

Joyce brings more than 12 years' experience as an Administrative Assistant and we are excited about having her help during this next phase of our evolution as an organization. If you have been a part of non-profit organizations, you know that the trend is to move away from the idea of a full time administrator. The

administrative work, while necessary, is not the important focus. Rather, in keeping with our charters to serve, non-profits are recognizing that it is more important to provide intentional outreach and customer service to its membership. The same is true for the Ministers Council. We want to provide value-added service and support to our members and our constituent councils. We want to ensure that we are keeping the connection, informing you and equipping you for greater effectiveness in ministry. This is a new role and we want to take this time to shape that role. Joyce will help us do just that.

So when you are calling the Ministers Council offices at (800) ABC-3USA, extension 2334, the very pleasant voice you may hear on the other end of the phone is Joyce Moon. Welcome Joyce and give her your support.



## Together in Ministry – Current Status

The last couple of months have been positive for the Together in Ministry Capital Campaign. Our cash gifts and pledges now total \$280,498.05. With the in-kind donations of \$68,280.00, we have a grand total of \$348,778.05. This is great.

Have you noticed that the campaign is starting to pick up momentum? When I came on board as your Executive Director, we recognized that the campaign would take a hit. It was like changing horses in midstream. No one knew me; no one knew what the future of the organization would be. That kind of change brings campaigns such as ours to a grinding halt.

But a new day is dawning. There is renewed interest and excitement in the Ministers Council. We are offering new benefits through partners, we are expanding involvement and bringing more people into the fold, and the message that we need to be “Together in Ministry” is resonating. Our members, our councils, and others who are interested in helping clergy to thrive and flourish are getting on board.

As an example, Cliff Kirk, President of the American Baptist Churches Central Region Ministers Council, excitedly shared that their council voted to tithe 10% of their dues and contribute it to the Capital Campaign. In addition, the Executive Committee unanimously decided that they will make individual donations to the campaign. What wonderful news, right? Hallelujah! My prayer is that others will follow suit.

In fact, it's easier than ever to donate to the Together in Ministry Capital Campaign. Make your tax-deductible donations securely and electronically by going to <http://ministerscouncil.com/together-in-ministry-capital-campaign/> and click on the Donate button. Let's keep the momentum going. Contribute today and help us extend ministerial excellence.



## The Reality of Eternal Life

By Mike Wren

The quest for eternal life is not just limited to Christians. Many people, and religions, have believed in life after death. Although there are some people who do not believe in eternal life, most people on earth at least hope there is an eternal afterlife.

The hope of eternal life has motivated many to do, and believe, what they deem is necessary to acquire it. It is a common notion for Christians to associate eternal life with a place, namely heaven, where we will live forever. The desire to live for all eternity, in the presence of the Lord, should burn within the heart of every Christian. It is common, however, for us to limit our thoughts of eternal life to existence, forever, in heaven with the Lord. However, this notion not only limits the reality of what eternal life is, it also keep us from experiencing the deeper meaning of eternal life.

The Bible itself contains definitions of biblical words. For example, "faith" is defined in Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)...*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* The word "love" ('agape') is defined in Corinthians 13:4-8a (ESV)...*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends..."*

The phrase "eternal life" is also defined in the Scriptures. This definition is found in John 17:3 (ESV)...*"And this is eternal life that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."* It is here, in this passage, that the deeper meaning of the reality of eternal life is revealed. Eternal life is more than a destination. It is more than life everlasting. Eternal life is the result of "knowing" the one, true, God and His Son Jesus Christ. The Greek word for "know", in this passage, is the word, "ginosko". It has to do with knowing, understanding and perceiving. The context of "know", in John 17:3, is that of having a relationship with the Lord.

The best way to get to "know" the Lord is to have a relationship with Him. The best way to have a relationship with the Lord, or anyone else for that matter, is to spend time with Him. We can do this by spending time in His Word; spending time in prayer and through worship. The reality of eternal life is that it goes beyond a destination called "heaven". It has to do with developing, and maintaining, a close personal relationship with the Lord.

The beauty of the reality of eternal life is that it flows from the heart of a loving God. His heart's desire is that every person on earth has an intimate spiritual relationship with Him. This is reflected in II Peter 3:9b (ESV) when it is revealed that God is *"...not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* Repentance leads to salvation. Salvation results in the resurrection from the dead, which results in eternal life with the Lord in glory. However, eternal life goes beyond just being in heaven. It is related to "knowing" the Lord intimately, from the inside out. All of this is initiated by our loving heavenly Father and is manifested through His "only begotten Son", Jesus Christ.

From now on, let us not limit eternal life to a location called "heaven". Instead, let us see the reality of eternal life grown out our understanding that it has to do with a deep and abiding faith. This faith is manifested through a spiritually intimate relationship with the Lord, which comes from truly "knowing" Him and His Son.

Paul does a good job describing the reality of eternal life in Philippians 3:7-11 (NASB)...*"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."*

*Mike Wren serves as a full-time Army chaplain with the Indiana Army National Guard. He is the founder of Reign Check Ministries. He is also the interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Burnettsville, Indiana (ABC/IIN-KY region). He has been an American Baptist since 1991 and has been in full-time vocational ministry since 1985. To learn more about Reign Check Ministries, and to connect with Mike Wren, you can email him at: [revwren@gmail.com](mailto:revwren@gmail.com).)*

## Musings from Emerge

By Debora Jackson



JANUARY 6-9, 2014 | ORLANDO, FLORIDA

I had the privilege of attending my first Ministers Conference / Orientation to ABC Life when I attended Emerge Conference in Orlando, FL. In a word, it was wonderful and the best event, in my humble opinion, for ministers. Don't get me wrong; I had a wonderful time at the Mission Summit and found our sessions engaging and useful. But there is something about pastoral ministry that makes it so necessary for us to come together. I'm sure you can relate to the fact that clergy and those aspiring to be clergy need to be in relationship so that we are strengthened by others who are on the same journey. The Bible says that iron sharpens iron, and that is how I felt about Emerge. I was blessed to be in the presence of my colleagues. Not only was it joyous, it was iron sharpening.

What made Emerge so impactful for me? Thinking about the orientation to ABC Life, I appreciated the fact that seminarians and new ministers had the opportunity to hear about all that our denomination offers. I was speaking to a pastor recently who was ordained in another tradition and is now seeking standing in ABC. She was a bit dubious about attending the conference, not really believing that it would be helpful. But afterwards, she had a significantly different opinion. She never knew that ABC offered so much. You see, the orientation sessions featured presentations from each denominational auxiliary and affiliated ministry organization. There was so much information and attendees felt well equipped as they were able to hear and see the organizations of our denomination in action.

Several seminarians and pastors spoke of the value of the workshops. The workshops were an incredible experience – full of information and targeted for ministerial leaders. Whether you attended sessions on financial planning, conflict resolution, or sustaining yourself in your ministry, everyone came out of the sessions with great praise for what was learned.

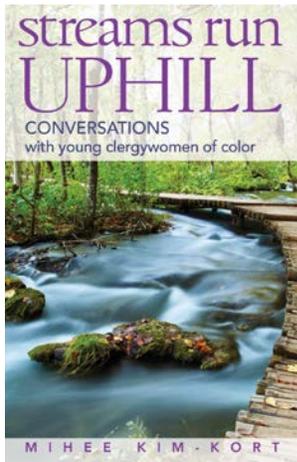
I also enjoyed the worship experiences. Giving a shout out to Rev. John Polite, our worship was current and engaging. I loved the music and enjoyed the involvement of younger leaders doing their thing for the Lord. And our morning sessions were graced by leaders who preached and shared words that had impact and meaning to our ministries and to our lives. And while it's dangerous to name names – because everyone was so dynamic – it was a joy to watch Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones in his preaching. Everything that he did was a study in effective preaching. Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall spoke to our hearts as she offered points on spiritual practices. And I bought the CD from Dr. Adam Bond's session. He gave us a penetrating word on noticing those who are "sitting in the window" and not engaged in the worship.

Of course I cannot end my musings without saying a word about the Ministers Council. I was so excited by the fact that Emerge provided the opportunity to address our constituents: the ministerial leaders of our denomination, and to make the appeal that there is power in our being together. So many of us in ministry feel alone and isolated because of the unique challenges of ministry. But there is no need to be alone. Ministers get ministers. As we shared and talked, you could see a sort of melting away – there was no need for the mask or façade that we will wear for our congregations. There was no need to be "on" as the resident theologian or minister. We could be ourselves, share openly, and enjoy the fellowship. That is what the Ministers Council promotes. When that message was heard and received many responded by joining the Ministers Council. Several colleagues handed me membership applications during the conference. Some even joined online via the website [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com). I cannot tell you my elation over welcoming new members into the fold.

Certainly we do not know the future of these types of conferences, as so many are unable to come because of expense. But I am in favor of having an opportunity for ministers to come together for collegiality, centeredness and competence. Emerge was wonderful because it spoke explicitly to what the Ministers Council promotes and offers to our colleagues. Congratulations to all of our organizers and thank you for a great conference.

## Scholarship Offering Through Christian Community Credit Union

Partnerships have their privileges and the Ministers Council is proud of its partnership with Christian Community Credit Union. You heard it here first: Christian Community Credit Union, through its "Scholarships for Success" Program is offering \$50,000 in scholarships for college. Do you or someone you know need money for college? Now is the time to act. An additional incentive is the fact that clergy, clergy spouses, and the children of clergy receive special consideration in the application process. Go to <https://www.mycccu.com/tmc?allmob=1> to apply or for more information.



## Judson Press Continues its Partnership with The Ministers Council

Great news! Judson Press is continuing its discount program for Ministers Council Members for 2014. As a member of the Ministers Council, you can receive free shipping on Judson Press titles when you spend more than \$15.00. Just contact your Regional or Constituent Council president for the 2014 Judson Press promotional code.

Use your discount to pick up the latest Judson release, *Streams Run Uphill: Conversations with Young Clergywomen of Color*. This book beautifully tells the story of women in pastoral ministry who, despite the disappointing, yet unsurprising obstacles placed before them, find their voices in pursuit of the call that God has placed on their lives. These are stories that are brilliantly shared, showing us the heartbreaking reality that women are still marginalized in pastoral ministry because of gender, age,

race and ethnicity. But by the grace of God and the tenacious unction that drives them forward, these young women of color demonstrate the plan of God's kingdom: that women are also called to rule. And in that, my hope and heart soar.

Bride of Christ Robes has also renewed its partnership with the Ministers Council for 2014.



Members of the Ministers Council receive a 5% discount on clergy robes. Just show your 2014 Membership Card. Have you had to purchase a robe lately? This discount nearly pays for your membership! As a clergy woman, I know first hand of the need to robe. I have had congregants comment about my suit, dress or shoes when I have preached without a robe. Perhaps this does not happen to our brethren, but I have heard many women share that how they are attired can be a distraction for the congregation. Sisters, robe up! Go to [www.BrideofChristRobes.com](http://www.BrideofChristRobes.com) and order your robe today.



On July 19-21, 2014, International Ministries and the Ministers Council will partner to sponsor **Hear The Call** Retreat. Attendees will participate in and register for only ONE of three tracks: Track 1 for those exploring a call to cross-cultural global

mission service; Track 2 for those feeling a call to pastoral ministry in the US & Puerto Rico; and Track 3 for people wanting to be more involved in local mission in their church, community, state or region. Our weekend will also include worship, inspirational messages, Bible Study, workshops and personal reflection time. It will be a powerful discernment experience. Invite those who you know who are sensing God's call on their lives to register now at <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/50426-2014-program-fees>. More information can be found at <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/49675-2014-world-mission-conference>.

## "What Your Church Can Do About Human Trafficking."

[The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North American](#) announces the latest in a series of resources which also includes pieces on gang violence, gun violence, and climate change. "What Your Church Can Do About Human Trafficking" is intended to educate congregations on this very troubling reality and to empower them to take actions toward changing it.

The issue is twelve pages long and includes: history and definitions; statistics; theological reflections; perspectives from Baptist pastors and missionaries throughout the world; specific suggestions for action; an outline for leading a class on the subject in a congregation; and a list of additional resources for those who are or become deeply interested in the issue.

This resource is available as a FREE download on our web site. [http://www.bpfna.org/sm\\_files/human%20trafficking%20monograph\\_Jan31.pdf](http://www.bpfna.org/sm_files/human%20trafficking%20monograph_Jan31.pdf)



### There's Still Room!

This summer's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary World Mission Conference is going to be BIG! ALL the American Baptist missionaries will be there plus 100 international leaders from around the world. It's a once in a lifetime event!

If you've heard that Green Lake is sold out for this summer's World Mission Conference, please help us spread the word that there's still room! We've contracted with area hotels and Ripon College. We're arranging for a conference bus to transport people to the grounds of Green Lake. Read more at: <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/52432>

### To Register:

<http://www.internationalministries.org/read/50426-2014-program-fees>

## ABHMS Announces Date, New Name for Volunteer Effort in New Orleans



American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) announces that “Home Mission: ’Til the Work is Done”—formerly known as “Ecumenical Work Week”—has been slated for Aug. 3-9, 2014.

The renaming of the yearly volunteer effort to rebuild New Orleans’ hurricane-ravaged Lower Ninth Ward is intended to spotlight the need for continued work and ministry in the region

“Almost nine years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, residents continue their efforts to rebuild, but they need our support,” says Victoria Goff, ABHMS national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries. “Members of the faith community were first responders, and we will continue to be there for storm survivors until the work is done.”

Volunteers will paint, lay sheet rock, tend community gardens, cut grass and install insulation, among other tasks, as well as support and encourage those in need. Construction skills are not required; unskilled workers will be supervised and directed on the job. In addition, the week will include worship opportunities with people of faith from across the United States, including one to be led by AB GIRLS.

Individuals and groups are welcome for all or part of the week. While all ages are invited, youth and youth groups are particularly encouraged to participate, as this effort holds special lessons for young people. These weeks of witness will visibly transform lives—those of volunteers as well as those of residents.

Round-trip transportation costs to New Orleans are the responsibility of volunteers. Additional costs include lodging (\$30 per night) and registration (\$25 per person). Scholarships are available.

Launched by the National Council of Churches in 2007, the effort has been coordinated by ABHMS since 2010. More than 570 American Baptists have volunteered since its inception.

Those unable to volunteer can support the effort by:

- making a financial contribution;
- sponsoring a participant;
- helping to spread the word; and
- praying for participants and full restoration of the Gulf Coast.

For more information, visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > Volunteer > “Home Mission: ’Til the Work is Done,” or contact Goff at [vgoff@abhms.org](mailto:vgoff@abhms.org) or 1-800-222-3872, x2449.

## Virtual Mission Encounters Offer Unique Opportunity to Women

Women—both clergy and lay—have opportunities to learn about critical issues with impact upon women and girls by joining a virtual mission encounter in 2014 sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries. Learn more about homelessness and its impact on youth, adults and families, and seniors; or explore issues of aging from the perspective of faith. Two virtual mission encounters are scheduled in 2014:

- "Break Every Yoke: Homelessness," May 5-9. This virtual mission encounter offers the opportunity to explore homelessness from a faith perspective. What are the causal factors? What are the risks? How can we support those who are homeless? How can our congregations or we as individuals, engage in ministries of prevention, support, and advocacy? Each day's focus will be explored as it has impact upon youth, adults and families, and seniors, with suggestions for advocacy around a range of issues throughout the week.

- "A Time of Grace: Aging and Faith," September 29<sup>th</sup> -October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Participants will explore issues of aging from the perspective of faith. Themes and activities will offer the opportunity for those who are of mature age themselves to experience this season of their lives with grace and purpose; those who are experiencing the aging of their loved ones will find encouragement and increased awareness of how to be in relationship as needs change over time. Daily activities will address the spiritual side of aging, physical issues and changing needs, legal concerns, family relationships, and how seniors may engage in needed ministries and how congregations can reach out to seniors in special ways.

This online mission experience allows you to do the activities as you're able to within your regular daily schedule, and attend as many of the evening conference calls as you choose. All you need to participate in a virtual mission encounter is email, access to the Internet, and a telephone or computer headset with microphone (or speakers and external microphone). For more information, visit [www.abwministries.org/vme](http://www.abwministries.org/vme).



Do you have events coming up in your regions? Share the word so that others might know your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Send email announcements to Debora Jackson at [Debora.Jackson@abc-usa.org](mailto:Debora.Jackson@abc-usa.org).



# A TIME TO SERVE: PREPARING TO SERVE

## A cruise for sisters in Christ!

September 19-22, 2014

Royal Caribbean 'Enchantment of the Seas'  
Departing from Port Canaveral, Orlando, Florida

Spend a day experiencing the beauty of **Nassau**, a blend of cultural influences from Haiti, England, West Africa, and many other places. Shop at the Straw Market, or eat fresh seafood in Arawak Cay; get some history by visiting Fort Charlotte or the 18th century Balcony House, or play with dolphins on Blue Lagoon Island.

Take the opportunity to enjoy the sun and surf of **CocoCay**, a private island filled with beaches, shopping, and activities exclusively for passengers of Royal Caribbean. Snorkel in a coral reef, take a nap on a hammock, shop at the straw market, walk the nature trail, or tap into your adventurous side by parasailing or riding on a WaveRunner.

### And be inspired through Scripture, meaningful worship, and spiritual growth!

Exploring more of our two-year focus on "A Time to Serve," during our sessions together on the ship we'll be looking at how we are **prepared to serve**. How do we attend to our spiritual and physical health to help us be effective disciples for Christ? What practices can we adopt to help us continue to grow as women of faith while we are called into an ever-deepening relationship with God? Is "self-care" a bad word? Or is it a necessary part of keeping ourselves ever-ready to serve others?

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson**  
Executive Director  
Minister's Council ABCUSA



**Dr. Lisa Croft**  
Family Practitioner

### FEATURING



**Joyce Sinclair Lake**  
Performing Artist



**You and your friends!**  
Bring your friends!  
Make new ones!



Sponsored by  
American Baptist Women's Ministries  
in partnership with  
American Baptist Women in Ministry

Rates and online registration at  
[www.abwministries.org/cruise](http://www.abwministries.org/cruise)  
(610) 768-2288  
[info@abwministries.org](mailto:info@abwministries.org)

Save your space on the boat by registering today! For more information, go to <http://www.abwministries.org/events/event-details.cfm?id=146>.

## Upcoming Events

- American Baptist Churches of the South 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Session – April 22-25, 2014. Theme: Preparing Church Leaders for God's Changing World. Scripture: James 2:14-24. Rev. Debora Jackson will be the featured speaker for the Evangelism & Mission Luncheon on Friday, April 25. For more information or to register, go to [www.abcots.org](http://www.abcots.org).
- Prairie Pastors Conference (formerly known as the Tri-Region Event). Prodigal Christianity: Beyond Worn Paths. The conference will be held at the New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue, NE – April 28-30, 2014. The conference is sponsored by the following Regions and Ministers Councils: ABC of the Central Region, ABC of the Dakotas, ABC of Nebraska, Mid-American Baptist Churches. .6 CEU will be granted for this event. Register online at [www.prairiepastors.org](http://www.prairiepastors.org)
- The Ministers Council Senate / Annual Meeting – This year's **Ministers Council gathering will be open to all ministerial leaders**. Save the dates: August 11-14, 2014, at Green Lake, WI. Online Registration information will soon be available.

## Join the Ministers Council



Like the new Membership Card? You can have one too if you join the Ministers Council. Joining has never been easier. **Go to <http://ministerscouncil.com/subscriptions/>.** **Scroll through the list to find your council.**

## Ministers Council Contact Information

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We welcome your comments or questions on this newsletter. Send you thoughts to [Debora.Jackson@abc-usa.org](mailto:Debora.Jackson@abc-usa.org).