

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

February 2019 Newsletter

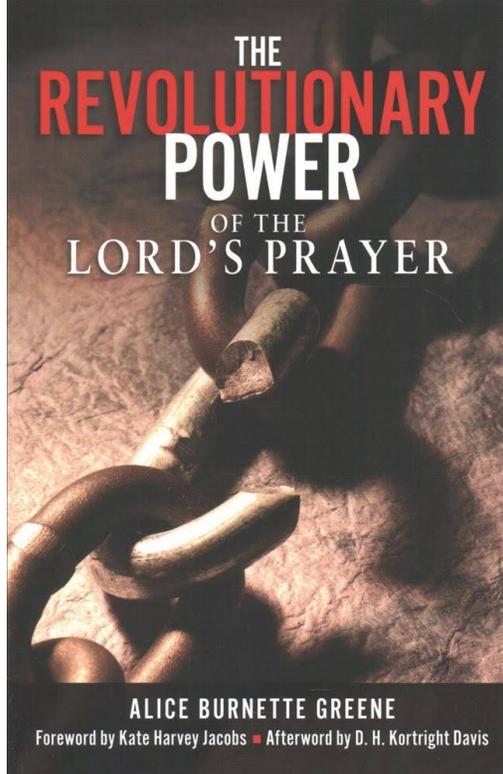


Gearing up for Lent

The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer Selected as the "ABC Reads" Title for 2019-2020

One of the Ministers Council distinguished leaders, Past President Rev. Dr. Alice Burnette Greene, has penned a stirring exploration in *The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer* [Judson Press, 2017]. We rejoice that Judson has chosen it as this year's "ABC Reads"

Read more [here](#), and consider participating



in some of the engagements with the book and its author that we are arranging this year:

Upcoming Events/Webinars

“Together in Ministry!” Clergy Groups - A “MC LIVE” Webinar

Thursday, February 14

11am Central

Dial-in instructions: [Here](#)

Host: Rev. Dan Hopkins, National Coordinator of TIM Groups

Our February MC Live webinar will focus on Together in Ministry (TIM) small groups. Why we have them, who can join, etc. are questions we will try to answer. If you are currently part of a TIM group, I would welcome your input on this call, specifically what you are studying, successes and failures etc. We will also spend some time discussing how to launch a TIM if there's not one in your area.

Please join us for this special webinar February 14th! – Pastor Dan

(Congrats to five groups who have recently received small grants of support from our TIM Capital Campaign Fund proceeds. If you're part of an existing group, please contact Dan to explore how we can support you. Applications are received on a rolling basis and awards made quarterly, for more information download the form at www.ministerscouncil.com or contact Dan at missionsdan@hotmail.com.)

Our monthly “MC Live” Webinar Series continues on the second Thursday of each month at 11am Central, with sessions typically recorded and posted on our website. In March, we'll focus on collaborative learning by highlighting the work of CRDS partner Innovative Models for Community Learning, Inc.

VIRTUAL LENTEN PRAYER GATHERING

We continue our tradition of a virtual Lenten prayer gathering for ministers. One session will

be held weekly on Mondays from 8:30am-9am Central Time.

Dial-in instructions [here](#).

Interested in convening or hosting an evening gathering for an alternative time option? Contact Rev. Jacki Belile at jacki@livingwellministries.net to explore further.



National Update

The national Leadership Team continues to move forward with monthly conference calls, and will meet in person at the Franciscan Spiritual Center near Aston, PA March 4-6.

Committees formed at the November 2018 Annual meeting include:

- Together in Ministry Groups Initiative - Rev. Dan Hopkins convening this team with recommendations given with individuals recommended by Representatives at the 2018 Annual Meeting
- Annual Meeting Committee - Rev. Erica Van Brakle, Rev. Brenda Summerset, Rev. Dr. Randy Harris, Rev. Randolph Miller
- Nominating Committee - Rev. Jerry Bertelson, Rev. Michael Harvey, Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George, Rev. Dr. DeeDee Turlington.
- Code of Ethics Update/Review - Rev. Steve Neal, Rev. Jerry Bertelson and others tba
- Fundraising Committee - Rev. Greg Vigne and others tba

Want to offer feedback or volunteer to serve? Contact Lisa Simpson at info@ministerscouncil.com for contact info for above leaders. (Watch for the complete compilation of 2018 Annual Reports on program, transition planning, finances and membership available next month.)



Servants of the Jubilee

The Ministers Council of the ABC-USA is hosting a pre - Biennial: Mission Summit event on Thursday, June 20, for ministers and clergy, chaplains and pastors, and church leaders at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Cost for the day's event is \$ 20.00 and includes a buffet luncheon.

Celebrating the theme of Jubilee, morning and afternoon sessions hope to provide a biblical understanding of the Jubilee using writings from the Old and New Covenants. Our aim is to explore the implications and contours for a 21st century American Baptist people.

The day will begin mid-morning @ 10:30 am and conclude at 5:00 pm. We hope you will plan to join us as we discover the meaning of "the Year of the Lord's favor."

Watch for details in the next few months as these plans come together.

Registration for this event can be found on the ABC Mission Summit Website:

<https://www.cvent.com/events/2019-biennial-mission-summit/registration-5607bce4b3af431da07232cc0f15cdf.aspx?fqp=true>

Other important dates of which to make note:

Monday, June 17 at 4:00 pm: The Ministers Council Leadership Team convenes – Virginia Beach

Tuesday, June 18 at 4:00 pm: Ministers Council Representatives convenes – Virginia Beach

Submitted by the Rev. RT Miller, Vice President, National Leadership Team

ABC Announcements

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE



July 1-9, 2019 | Estimated cost: \$1,900 plus airfare

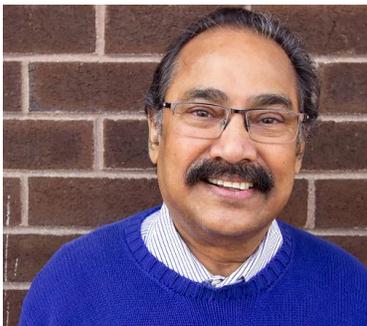
REGISTER BY: MARCH 29, 2019

International Ministries (IM) invites you to join the Rev. Charles Jones, IM area director for Europe, the Middle East and Liberia, on a team traveling to Israel to gain first-hand knowledge of what life is like for Baptist Christians in this conflict-weary land.



Download flier: [Here](#)

Milestones & Prayer Requests



The Rev. Dr. David V. Sagar of Schiller Park, Illinois, has been appointed to serve with International Ministries (IM) as an associate development worker in South India. He will work with the Baptist Convention of Telugu Churches, a partner of IM, in discipleship training and leadership development. Founding Pastor of Antioch Telugu Baptist Church, David has also invested much time in the Ministers Council locally and nationally.

Prayers of thanksgiving for our General Secretary, Dr. Lee Spitzer who returns to work on March 1, 2019. Lord, give him strength to continue leading this denomination into a new time.



New Calls

At the November 3 meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio Board of Region Ministries, the Board voted to call Rev. Mark Click and Rev. Jane Gibbons as Co-Executive Ministers for the region beginning January 1, 2019. Rev. Click will serve as Executive Minister for Administration and Denominational Relations, and Rev. Gibbons will serve as Executive Minister for Program and Ministry Development.

[Read more](#)

We congratulate Rev. David Gregg upon his call to the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago on January 12, 2019. [Read more](#)

Staff Reflection

Be Free **An Encouraging Word from Lisa**

As Christians we are sympathetic to the needs of the least, the lost and the lonely. We are concerned with the burdens of our brothers and sisters. We strive to leave the world a better place than how we found it. We continuously aspire to do good.

Despite our good intentions towards others we sometimes experience a sense of disquiet and discontent within our own lives. In many instances we overlook our successes and focus on the few things that may not have gone our way. In the flesh we see our inadequacies and we sometimes fail to acknowledge God's unmerited favor.

However; I encourage you today to release the self imposed shackles. God sees your work and will reward you for your sincere efforts. Take the time to bask in your accomplishments.



Through the Looking Glass with your Member Services Coordinator

2019 Membership enrollment is well on its way. If you have not joined or renewed your membership for 2019 please consider doing so today by going to the "Membership" tab on our website.

If there are changes to your chapter roster or dues; please notify Ministers Council at info@ministerscouncil.com so that we can update these changes on our website.

Calling all reps. The Ministers Council ABCUSA has nominated Rev. Atula Jamir to the role of **Coordinator of Chapter Representatives**. Rev. Jamir will be hosting a Chapter Representative meeting on Monday, February 4th @ 3 pm Central/4 pm Eastern.

Dial-in instructions: [Here](#)

Stay tuned...

Reminders



How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email:
info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: 221 S. High Street, West Chester, PA 19382
- We can generally be reached in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (emails and voicemails will be responded to during this time)



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