



August 2019 Newsletter



If only you knew the ways that make for peace - Luke 19:42b

All loving God who knows death, violence and loss so intimately, bless all who weep and mourn in Gilroy, El Paso, Dayton and the countless other places this day. Send your people to heal, encourage and uplift your children. In the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Photo: "Jesus Wept" statue, Kansas City

A Reflection from our President



"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy...."

Well, not really. Simply living does not seem simple these days. We cannot escape the things that prevent us from taking satisfaction in comfortable living:

- the 2020 presidential election dominating political news
- the plight of children separated from their asylum-seeking parents
- record heat waves
- whole countries failing to provide basic necessities for their citizens
- mass shootings in public places (May our hearts are broken again for Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton, and for God, at the cruel violence inflicted this weekend.)
- exposure of sexism, racism, and religious bigotry
- (your heart no doubt adds to this list).

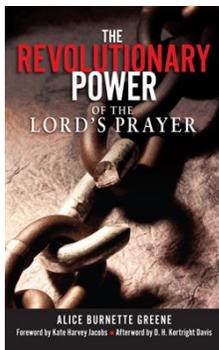
Ministerial leaders look for a summer break, but these things take no breaks. They pursue us into our leisure time, tag along on our vacations, even

challenge us on our spiritual retreats. As they should! For we are leaders in our communities. Our thoughts often find their way into Bible lessons, sermons, and church newsletters. Sometimes those hearing us think they are hearing the word of the Lord. Therefore, our thoughts should be Spirit-led and our words should be Spirit-inspired.

I know those reading this article hold a variety of personal opinions on potential solutions to the things complicating our lives this summer. I remind all of us that the Lord's ways are not our ways. Take your opinions to the Lord in prayer and leave them at the altar – truly sacrificed; truly left there. Stand empty handed and open hearted before Jesus and see what new thing He will reveal to you. We may yet be used by the Lord God to speak prophetic truth and show uncommon grace.

The Lord be with you,
Dee Dee Turlington, President

Upcoming Events/Webinars



The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer

Conversation with Author Dr. Alice Burnette Green

Thursday, August 8

11am Central

Dial In Info [Here](#)

We celebrate our ABC colleague-authors! One is Rev. Dr. Alice Burnette Green, author of *The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer*. This is the "ABC Reads" title for 2019-20 and uniquely designed for group study. Join us for an interview with Green on MC LIVE, and consider using this text in the upcoming program year.

More about the Book: [Here](#)

National Update

Your Leadership Team took a little break in July after Mission Summit, but are reengaging this month as we make plans for Fall work. Watch for updates on grant support for Together in Ministry Groups, Conference Calls in support of Chapters' work and redevelopment, and our Clergy Health Care Support Project. And remember, MC Live happens on the second Thursday of every month, always recorded.

Staff Reflection

**In this Moment
A Reflection from Lisa**

My youngest sister and her husband recently welcomed their second daughter into the world. Even though an infant, it is evident that she has a calm spirit, which is so unlike her older sister. As my sister cares and nurtures her, she is amazed at the difference in each child at this stage. She shared with us recently that she overheard her older daughter telling her younger sister to “open your mouth and talk.”



Now this was quite funny to us; you see my older niece is 2 years and 3 months and is just beginning to speak in simple sentences (for the most part). She is very social and some would say “the life of the party”. In this moment in time, she views her younger sister as boring and “no fun” because she is not capable of doing the things that she can do or things that she would consider “fun”. She goes to her baby sister’s bassinette every now and then to check in on her; however, she eventually moves on to seek fun and excitement elsewhere. I guess that is her way of assessing whether or not her baby sister is ready to do “fun stuff.”

Is it not the same view that “seasoned” Christians have of the “Babes in Christ”? Do they not sometimes perceive them as uninspiring as their “spiritual walk and talk” may not be as developed as that of a mature Christian? Is not his or her testimonies sometimes considered as not being thought provoking enough? Is not their praise and worship sometimes seen as lacking exhilaration? However, in this season of their life, they have come to the Knowledge and Saving Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must remember that their experiences are authentic. Their level of worship is “for real”. Therefore, encourage, uplift and build them up as we can similarly remember what it was like to be “in this moment”. We all were once “Babes in Christ!”

1 Thessalonians 5:11(ESV) “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing”.

Hebrews 10:24(ESV) “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”.

Ministry Moment:

Are you doing all that you can to uplift and strengthen your young brothers and sisters in their “Christian walk”?

Are you encouraging and raising up your colleagues in their good works?

Are you stirring up each other’s gifts?

ABC Announcements

Over 100 New American Baptist Ministers and Seminarians gathered in Virginia Beach at the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit for the Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) program. The New Ministers and Seminarians represented 29 of the 33 American Baptist regions across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is seeking American Baptist pastors to enroll in its 2019-2020 “In Support of Excellence” (ISOE) pastors financial-empowerment cohort to begin meeting in November. The application deadline is Aug. 28, 2019.

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

A number of our colleagues attended ***Peace in Our Land: Toward a World Without Violence***, a global peace conference in Cali, Columbia hosted by Baptist peacemakers in July. Watch for a special edition of our newsletter to uplift their reflections and others' on the nature of our peace witnesses needed in this time. What does the Gospel give? Demand? Are there Jubilee threads of vision, power, and trust that can move us in concerted and unified peace action as American Baptist leaders?

Milestones & Prayer Requests

First Baptist Church, Salina, Kan., received the 2019 George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local or Regional American Baptist History from the **American Baptist Historical Society**. Rev. Dr. Kevin Hazelton, the church's pastor, accepted the award on behalf of the congregation during the Historical Society's breakfast on June 23 part of the American Baptist Churches' Biennial Mission Summit held in Virginia Beach, Va. Mr. Dana R. Younger, one of George and Dodie Younger's sons, made the presentation.

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

Dr. Robert Dennis Cochran, Executive Director/Minister of the **District of Columbia Baptist Convention (DCBC)**, has announced his planned retirement as of March 31, 2020.

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

Former Ministers Council Executive Director **Joe Kutter** who was diagnosed with stage 4 bile duct cancer. He asked we remember him, his wife Peggy and his family in our prayers.

Prayers of thanksgiving for **camping ministries**. For all who serve as counselors, ministers and other workers. Give thanks for the faith, gifts, and leadership skills they bring to their work with children, youth and adults.

For **congregational leaders and volunteers** as they prepare for fall Christian education programs serving all ages; give thanks for their commitment, faith, creativity and service.

Please send announcements and prayer requests for next issue by August 25 to info@ministerscouncil.com

Reminders



How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
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- 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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