

Together in Ministry



September 2019 Newsletter



*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. -
Matthew 11:28*

God of justice, we pray for all workers, that they would receive fair compensation and treatment in their labor. For those who seek work, provide jobs. For those who cannot work, provide sustenance. — Adapted from “A Prayer for Labor Day,” Bread for the World

Upcoming Events/Webinars



mclive
webinar series
Together in Ministry



"More Than a Profile: Understanding and Optimizing MinistrELife"

Join us for an equipping conversation with Jill Duroseau, Team Lead for MinistrELife. We'll explore the vision, potential and "how to" of this new networking platform designed to be a "vibrant community for ministerial leaders." It's our sense that this tool created by ABHMS is designed to not only replace the historic "ABPS System," but to do so

with wider networking and inclusion goals. To learn more visit ministrelife.org.

(In addition, see ABHMS announcement below on regular Monday trainings offered beginning September 9th.)

Jill Duroseau biography: [Here](#)

Dial in information: [Here](#)

Chapter TLC - Need Help to Start, Restart, Support?

Sep 30, 2019 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

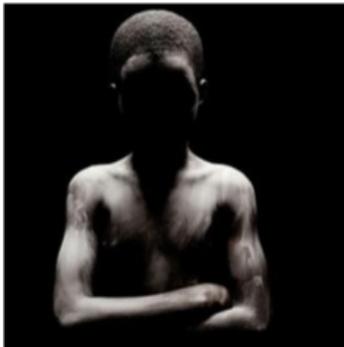
Our national Leadership Team is committed to supporting our chapters at the grassroots level. Under our new bylaws, we designate TWO national volunteer leaders to support existing chapters (Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D.) and those in start/restart/renew position (Rev. Jacki Belile). Join Jacki for this first of monthly opportunities to connect for brainstorming, resource-sharing and prayer on behalf of Chapter TLC. SESSION WILL BE REPEATED IN AN EVENING IN OCTOBER.

Dial in information: [here](#)

National Update

Jubilee Reflections Continue

As we hoped, reflections on Jubilee and ministry proved extremely multi-faceted at our June gathering. Even more exciting, our laborers in the diverse fields of mercy and justice continue to ponder the impact of this engaging topic together. Our Vice-President, RT Miller shares below a reflection which is the first in an ongoing opportunity to hear from one another. Whether you were present or not in June, where does Jesus' Jubilee meet you? Take you? We'd love to hear from you! Send submissions to info@ministerscouncil.com.



“I am the American heartbreak –
The rock on which Freedom
Stumped its toe –
The great mistake
That Jamestown made
Long ago.”

• *American heartbreak by Langston Hughes*

The Angela Project, 2019

In the pre-Mission Summit meeting of the Ministers Council's "Servants of the Jubilee," Dr. McMickle called for reparations to African Americans via their institutions as a form of justice. The following week I was in Jamestown, Virginia where the English/American slave trade began in August of 1619 with the sale of 20 Africans "for victuals." A person with a Christian name, Angela, was among them. Quite literally, four hundred years later, we are still reeling from the legacy of slavery. The Angela Project, 2019 seeks to explore this history and impact of slavery.

In 1619, no laws supported the institution of slavery, though indentured servitude was commonplace and established by English law. Faced with the possibility that these Africans could eventually find freedom, the Virginia General Assembly began enacting laws that would codify a new form of generational slavery that would exist for more than 200 years; a kind of slavery upon which the southern states especially would build their economy. This new form of slavery was defined in three ways: Slaves were 1) property, 2) the bloodline would follow the mother's lineage (a departure from English law), and 3) Africans were deemed inferior human beings.

Four hundred years later, it is difficult to assess the impact and cost of this

pernicious institution, but even today, we as a nation seem to live under its curse. It is woven into the fabric of our lives, though we often overlook its influence and presence. In his article, America's Forbidden Zone, Dr. Kevin Cosby, writes:

The problem with most Americans, however, is not that we are colorblind; it's that we are history-blind. Being history-blind means we also are justice blind. In the words of Gore Vidal, we are living in the United States of Amnesia." Kevin Cosby, "America's Forbidden Zone," Christian Ethics Today, Vol 28, Number 2, (Spring, 2019): 3.

Dr. McMickle's words were challenging and the Angela Project, 2019 is eye-opening. During the Ministers Council Year of Jubilee, 2020, I extend an invitation to all ministerial leaders to review this 400-year history of slavery in the United States and invite the Holy Spirit to guide our attitudes, actions, and practices for the sake of the Reign of God in our midst.

In Christ,
Randolph T. Miller, Luke 4:18-19

Staff Reflection

The Broken Pieces

A Devotional Reflection with Lisa

For me and my family, "going home" means going to Connecticut where our extended family resides. It always brings a feeling of nostalgia when we are afforded the opportunity to pack the kids and dog, load the car and cruise along 95 North for the 4 1/2 hour drive.



On one of our most recent trips I was blessed to hear my husband's aunt who recently received her License to Preach present on the sermon topic "Picking Up the Broken Pieces". It was a profound, heartfelt sermon that was reflective and thought provoking as well as centered on hope. She started the sermon by referencing some "oldie but goodie" Bible stories that we fondly remember from our days in Sunday School. She touched on stories such as, "Joseph", "The Children of Israel", "The Widow's Mite", "Jesus' Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection" highlighting the despair experienced by the "broken" individuals and the ultimate joy that was eventually achieved. She then came full circle and tied in the human condition of our modern-day existence and the anguish being experienced in our daily lives. She reminded us that just like in the days of old, Jesus will not throw away our "Broken Pieces".

Thanks be unto God! God does not throw away our "Broken Pieces". In the Word, we are told God tells us that we can be put back together regardless of the severity of our brokenness, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Irrespective of whether our brokenness is from broken relationships, broken dreams or broken lives we know that, "he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:16). David reminds us in Psalm 30:2, that when we feel broken (in pieces), we should cry out to the Lord for healing and we will be put back together again.

Ministry Moment:

How does it feel to be reminded of a God who restores the broken, who does not throw away "The Broken Pieces"?

Do you feel broken at times? What do you do in these instances and who do you seek?

Are you doing all that you can to seek the broken among you?

Check out the latest newsletter of the ABC Chaplains and Specialized Ministers.
Find newsletter: [Here](#)

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 8/21/19)—To facilitate healing and self-care among pastors dedicated to ministering to others in the aftermath of 2017's Hurricane María, American Baptist Home Mission Societies offered, in partnership with Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico (IBPR), the "Me haces descansar" ("You Make Me Rest") retreat Aug. 8-10 in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. **[\(Click to read more\)](#)**

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 8/8/19)—Welcoming new personnel to Volunteer-Mobilization and Disaster-Response Ministries as well as to Financial Empowerment Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) continues to cultivate leaders, equip disciples and to heal and transform communities across the United States and Puerto Rico in Jesus' name. **[\(Click to read more\)](#)**



Mark your calendar for "ministrElife Mondays" beginning Sept. 9 for live training for all features of the ministrElife platform.

Each training session will happen weekly:

- In the same place: here on [ministrElife](#);
- At the same time: noon to 12:30 p.m. EST, promptly;
- For the same time period: 30 minutes; and
- With follow-up conversation and files at the ministrElife "Meeting of the Minds Community" in the "Engage" section of [ministrElife.org](#).

The weekly training schedule will be posted in the ministrElife Meeting of the Minds Community. Don't worry if you miss a Monday; topics will repeat, based on demand. Spread the word!



American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Connect. Cultivate. Change.

We join those grieving the unexpected passing of the Rev. Dr. Larry Swain. Dr. Swain served as an Area Minister and later Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio until his retirement in December 2015. He returned last year to serve as ABC Ohio's Interim Executive Minister after the death of Dr. Ernest Jones. He was serving as Executive Staff Coach for the Region at the time of his passing. Dr. Swain was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, outstanding leader, and man of God. Our prayers are with wife Linda and all loved ones.

Our nation's trying times, as we face escalations in enmity and violence.

We pray for the safety of **Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson**, President of the Kachin Baptist Convention, and **Pastor Lanjaw Gam Seng**, who returned to Myanmar Tuesday following their recent attendance at the second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, where Gam Seng testified about atrocities faced while in custody. The two leaders, who were a part of a meeting of the American Baptist Churches Burma Refugee Commission on Friday, August 9, return to an environment where their safety is not guaranteed.

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

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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