



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

April 2008

Click here to view this message as a webpage:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/Publications.aspx>

~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY NEWS

The Ministers Council Together in Ministry Steering Committee met March 24-26, 2008, at the Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo, FL. Committee members reviewed the collegial covenant group project made possible by a Lilly Endowment Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grant from 2002-2007, and planned for the next phase made possible by an additional grant for 2008-2012. For more information about the project and on future group formation and funding:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/08TIMPressRelease.aspx>

~MORE TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

The Lilly Endowment, which has richly blessed us with funds for collegial covenant groups, has now funded research on the peer groups convened by Sustaining Pastoral Excellence projects, including Together in Ministry. Questionnaires were sent from the researching organization to **ALL 2007 TIM participants** and are due by April 6. Some surveys did not reach intended responders. Please contact Deborah Bruce at Deborah.Bruce@pcusa.org if you do not have your survey instrument. She will give directions to the online survey and provide an access code.

~YET MORE TIM: MINI-GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence at Samford University in Birmingham, AL, would like to provide support for existing SPE peer learning groups by offering a limited number of mini-grants to fund group study leaves, retreats, or other plans. More information about this grant opportunity:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/08NewMiniGrants.aspx>

~SENATE 2008 TRAVEL (AUGUST 16-20)

Ministers Council Senators are reminded to book travel to Green Lake immediately through Carlsen Travel (1-800-798-4081 or 610-296-9844). Executive Committee members will arrive in time for a meeting the evening of Friday, August 15. Carlsen is prepared to plan with you and has names of Senators as well as the meeting schedule. You may review the expense policy if you have questions about alternative means of travel:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Registrations/ExpenseGuidelinesRevised2006.aspx>

Lodging reservations are made online rather than through Green Lake:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Registrations/SenateRegistrationForm.aspx>

~WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE, APRIL 16-19, 2008

The "Daughters of the Flame" conference will be held in St. Louis. Please pray for a glorious coming together of American Baptist women in ministry as they gather to praise God and strengthen their relationships to serve effectively in the name of Jesus Christ.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/2008%20Conferences/WIM08Conference.aspx>

~WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE, BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

May 16 – 28, 2008
Montgomery Community Church
Cincinnati, OH

Registration Info <http://2008wmcoho.theregistrationsystem.com/>
Conference schedule <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/4970>
Missionaries & Speakers <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/4963>
Hotels & Meals <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/4963>
Conference Video <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/World%20Mission%20Conferences>
Child care info <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/4963>
Kids & Youth Programs <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/4963>

~GLOBAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Dear Friends,

We are very excited about the upcoming Global Baptist Peace Conference to be held in Rome, Italy this coming February 9-14, 2009. We hope that you will seriously consider joining us for this event. If you are interested in coming, please e-mail me. I'll send the forms to you as soon as they are available.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/2008%20Conferences/DanButtry09Conference.aspx>

Peace,
Daniel Buttry
dbuttry@comcast.net

~Movie Generates Renewed Interest in *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss*

With the release of the hit children's movie *Horton Hears a Who!* Judson Press has seen renewed interest in its 2004 best seller *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss*. With millions of children nationwide experiencing this Seuss story on the big screen, what better time to introduce them to the Christian themes and life lessons that can also be found in these entertaining tales? The Judson Press book has two chapters specifically on the *Horton Hears a Who!* story, and a corresponding *Leader's Guide* is available which includes lessons designed for younger children, older children, youth, and adults. Perfect for Sunday school classes, midweek programs, and children's sermons!

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=7822

~NEW BAPTIST COVENANT FOLLOW-UP

Since the celebration that convened over 15,000 participants in Atlanta, organizers have convened to plan for the future and have compiled a list of follow-up suggestions.

http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=1&Itemid=53

~PREACHING PEACE CONFERENCES

1. On Being a Peace Church in a Constantinian World

August 12-14, 2008

Messiah College in Grantham, PA

Keynote speakers: Brian McLaren, Craig Carter and Sharon Baker

2. Conference on Compassionate Eschatology

September 26-27 2008

San Francisco Bay Area

Keynote speakers: Rene Girard, Ted Grimsrud, Jurgen Moltmann and Barbara Rossing

3. Regional conferences on the Nonviolent Atonement:

April 1 Rochester, NY

April 11 Boston, MA

May 3 Columbus, OH

May 16 Philadelphia, PA (Perkasie)

October Winnipeg, CA

<http://www.preachingpeace.org/makingpeace.htm>

~CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S GATHERING

An ecumenical women's gathering sponsored by Church Women United is scheduled for June 19-22, 2008, in the Kansas City area, specifically in Independence, Missouri. The theme is Claim a New Vision Together.

<http://www.gathering08.org/>

~PEW FORUM ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE, U.S. RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE SURVEY 2008

"For those who read beyond the headlines and initial paragraphs of these news stories there was important information. Based on a sample of more than 30,000 adults and done with a methodological rigor that will make this survey a benchmark for future attempts to map the religious life of Americans, the Landscape Survey offered much to ponder" (James P. Wind, The Alban Institute).

<http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=5818>

<http://religions.pewforum.org/>

~HOUSEHOLD DEBT RESOURCES

The Church of England has compiled resources to assist congregations in dealing with members' household debt. According to Dr John Preston, the Church of England's Resources and Stewardship

Officer, and co-author of the Matter of Life and Debt resources: "The [national] Budget affects how much we earn, how much tax we pay, and how much we have left to spend, so it is an ideal time to work out a household budget. It is right for the Church of England to speak out on the issue of consumer debt, as money, wealth and possessions are mentioned in the Bible more than 2,400 times."

So that householders can work out their own household budget, the Matter of Life and Debt website pages at www.cofe.anglican.org/debt now feature an easy-to-use, interactive, downloadable Excel spreadsheet - which totals up income and spending, and allows householders to make adjustments until they are balancing their budget.

The resource - which can be used in church services or as part of a talk on money and making ends meet - also displays simple-to-follow money-saving tips when users fill in boxes. There are links to specially written prayers for guidance for those working out a household budget, at www.cofe.anglican.org/prayers.

<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/6879>

~GEORGE LANGHORNE RETIREMENT

National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA has announced the retirement of the Rev. Dr. George A. Langhorne, endorsing agent for chaplains and pastoral counselors, effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Langhorne, a former pastor and Navy chaplain, leaves National Ministries after nearly 10 years of service. In his most recent post, Dr. Langhorne was the liaison for 800-plus chaplains and pastoral counselors who also serve as American Baptist home missionaries.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2008/20080327a.htm>

~PUERTO RICO ABC NEWS

The Rev. Irma Gomez , former Vice President of the Ministers Council, was elected President of Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico.

The ABC Biennial is scheduled for Puerto Rico in June of 2011.

<http://www.ibpr.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=2>

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 kate.harvey@abc-usa.org. The more we share with one another what works, the stronger we will all be.

MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Web: www.ministerscouncil.org
Mail: The Ministers Council
PO Box 851
Valley Forge PA 19482-0851
Phone: 1-800-222-3872, extension 2333, 2334
FAX: 610/768-2066

Join the Ministers Council through your local constituent council. Contact information is posted on www.ministerscouncil.org under the WHO WE ARE link.

II Timothy 1:6-7

"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."