



**MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS YOU CAN USE –
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November 2007

**NEW BAPTIST COVENANT CELEBRATION
JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 2, 2008
ATLANTA**

~ABCUSA participants will receive 2.0 Continuing Education Units.

~Commentary by Joe Kutter in the October 2007 issue of the Baptist Studies Bulletin focuses on the early 2008 Baptist gathering in Atlanta. Joe is Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, and Immediate Past President of the Ministers Council.

<http://www.centerforbaptiststudies.org/bulletin/2007/october.htm#Soapbox>

~New conference information is posted:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/NewBaptistCovenant108.aspx>

~Room blocks for the New Baptist Covenant Celebration continue to fill. Special rates have been negotiated for attendees and must be booked through the Housing Bureau, not direct with the hotels. The majority of New Baptist Covenant Celebration housing is set up for arrivals on Wednesday, January 30, with departures on Saturday, February 2. Reservations can be made at http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=42 or by calling the Housing Bureau at 866-557-0961.

~'Nazareth Manifesto' DVD Explores Jesus' Message in Luke 4

The Baptist Center for Ethics has released a 13-minute DVD, "The Nazareth Manifesto," exploring Luke 4:18-19, the Bible passage that sets the theme for the New Baptist Covenant celebration scheduled Jan. 30-Feb 1 in Atlanta.

http://www.ethicsdaily.com/article_detail.cfm?AID=9622

LEONARD SWEET, 2009 PASADENA PRE-BIENNIAL

The Ministers Council will partner with various other American Baptist groups to sponsor a Pre-Biennial gathering in Pasadena on Friday, June 26, 2009, from 9 am until noon. Leonard Sweet will speak on reaching persons for Christ in this postmodern culture (or cultures, since one insight of postmodernity is that we are hardly monolithic). For more information on Dr. Sweet:

<http://www.leonardsweet.com/biocv.asp>

TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Recent site visits with Together in Ministry collegial covenant groups have emphasized the invaluable impacts of group participation on pastoral leaders, as well as the vital role played by both group organizers and group facilitators.

At those site visit meetings TIM participants requested that evaluation forms be upgraded to a newer PDF format that allows data entry via keyboard rather than requiring form printing for manual input. Good news! TIM evaluation forms for both facilitators

(<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/FacilitatorSurvey1007revtest.pdf>)

and participants

(<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/Membergroupsurvey07.pdf>)

have been converted and may now be completed online, then printed and submitted with the entire group's evaluation forms through the group's contact person to the Ministers Council office.

The due date for 2008 applications has passed, applications are being reviewed, and contact persons will be notified of the status of their applications later this month. When notification letters are received TIM group it is imperative that contact persons follow directions in a precise and timely manner in order to access 2008 funding.

RESPITE SITES LIST

Numerous respite sites for pastoral leaders at minimal or even no cost are listed on the Ministers Council website. The most recent addition is a get-away cabin north of Jamestown, Tennessee, available without cost to Christian ministers for rest, relaxation and reflection. Located four miles from Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and seven miles from Pickett State Rustic Park, one can enjoy as much privacy as desired. The entire list is at:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/MinistersCouncilRespiteSites.pdf>

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CHURCH YOUTH WORKERS

Did you know that even now many congregations fail to do background checks for persons who work with children and youth? In a recent Barna survey one-quarter of pastors indicated that their congregations do not practice this vital strategy

(<http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdateNarrow&BarnaUpdateID=283>).

A comprehensive model for a youth worker policy is available on the Ministers Council website for your congregation to adapt:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Clergy%20Congregation%20Resources/ChildYouthPolicies.aspx>

MODELS FROM CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

~Ministers Council, Philadelphia Baptist Association: "Next week, we will be doing something new by adding a special evening session aimed particularly at Bivocational Ministers and ministers who can't make morning Ministers Council sessions. **This Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m., and Wednesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m.,** we will have Rev. David Wood speaking on the topic, "The Imperative of Clergy Friendships." Rev. Wood is writing a book on the subject, and he has presented his research at various National Ministers Council events. I've heard him twice on this subject, covering things like why clergy do not seek out friends, what happens to us when we don't have clergy friends, the benefits of clergy friendships, etc... I highly recommend that you make plans to be with us for one or both sessions if your schedule permits. And bring a colleague with you." (President Ernie Flores)

~Ministers Council, Connecticut: "We held a fellowship event in September, a boat ride on the Connecticut River. We are planning a retreat at camp Wightman at the end of January with David Bartlett as our presenter. We are planning to piggyback off of the ABCCONN annual meeting in April. We are co-sponsoring a seminar with the commission on the ministry in November on Protecting the Sacred, and we are trying to get a clergy cluster group started in the Hartford area." (President Ken Smith)

NEW BOOKS FROM JUDSON PRESS

~Ernie Flores, Philadelphia Association Ministers Council President and former Senator, has written a book published by Judson Press. In *Tempted to Leave the Cross: Renewing the Call to Discipleship*. This book by the Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Germantown, Pennsylvania, considers the cross of Jesus and what it represents in the Christian church today.

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=12402

~Have you ever considered the raceway a source of inspiration? In his new Judson Press book, *Before the Thunder Rolls: Devotions for NASCAR Fans*, former Motor Racing Outreach chaplain Dale Beaver offers insights and anecdotes from his years with the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series. In stories of popular drivers and their crew members, Beaver finds profound and often witty connections between the behind-the-scenes details of stock-car racing and the Christian life. A great source of sermon illustrations and a must-read for every race fan!

<http://www.judsonpress.com/search.cfm?searchstr=dale+beaver>

BURMESE REFUGEES, MORE OF THE STORY

~A USA Today article from October 16 mentions the Rev. William Englund, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in St. Paul.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-16-burma-refugee_N.htm?csp=34&loc=interstitialskip

~For more information on Burmese immigrants in ABC churches check here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Ministry%20Stories/MarkTabernacleBC.aspx>

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MINISTERS COUNCIL**

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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.

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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."