



**MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS YOU CAN USE –  
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*February 2008*

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**~MINISTERS COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TRANSITION REPORT**

The Ministers Council Executive Committee received the report of the Personnel Committee on January 29, 2008. A candidate has been selected to begin in September a two to three year service as Acting Executive Director of the Ministers Council. The nominee's name will be submitted to the Executive Committee for affirmation in June and after the vote a press release will be circulated.

**~MINISTERS COUNCIL SENATE 2008**

Senate 2008 will meet August 16-20 at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI. Because registration for the meeting and for lodging is done online through the Ministers Council website it is not necessary to contact Green Lake.

Senators are requested to register immediately in order to guarantee a room at Green Lake: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Registrations/SenateRegistrationForm.aspx>

Senators are responsible for making their own travel reservations through our Travel Agent (Carlson Wagonlit), and will be notified how to book flights in March.

Material for the meeting will be emailed to all Senators about six weeks prior to the meeting. Senators are responsible for printing out those documents and bringing them to the meeting.

**~NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CELEBRATION**

Fifteen thousand participants in the New Baptist Covenant convocation arrived in Atlanta January 30 seeking unity in Christ and departed February 2 hopeful about where their quest will lead.

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

To view the plenary sessions:

[http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=96](http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=96)

THE MINISTERS COUNCIL AND THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SECRETARY HOSTED AN ABCUSA BREAKFAST - Over 450 American Baptists responded to an invitation to a post-gathering breakfast held the morning of February 2. Among the speakers, the new General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, the Rev. Dr. Neville Callum, addressed the assembled body before departures for home. Kate Harvey, Ministers Council Executive Director, welcomed guests:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/2008%20Conferences/ABCBreakfastInfo08.aspx>

## **~LILLY SABBATICAL GRANTS FOR PASTORS**

The Lilly Endowment makes over five million dollars available annually to fund opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from their daily church obligations “to engage in a period of renewal and reflection.”

<http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2008/20080125a.htm>

For sabbatical planning resources:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Sabbaticals/default.aspx>

## **~FORMER MINISTERS COUNCIL SENATOR CALLED TO EXECUTIVE MINISTER POSITION**

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 01/15/08) — At a special meeting of the Board of the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains (ABCRM) Jan. 12, Rev. Dr. Steven Van Ostran was unanimously called to the position of executive minister for the region.

For nearly five years, Van Ostran has been the associate executive minister for ABC of the Central Region where he also served as acting executive minister following the retirement of Dr. Fred Ansell.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2008/20080115a.htm>

## **~MINISTERS COUNCIL MEMBERS WRITE ABCUSA WEB HOMEPAGE MESSAGES FOR LENT AND EASTER**

Messages will grace the homepage of the ABCUSA website from February 11 through Lent. To read your colleagues' writings visit:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/>

## **~NEW JUDSON RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS**

January saw the release of two new Judson Press resources and another is slated to arrive in late February. Reflecting the diversity of Judson's publications, the new books include *Playbook for Christian Manhood: 12 Keys Plays for Black Teen Boys* by ABC pastor James C. Perkins of Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit, and *Christian Educators' Guide to Evaluating and Developing Curriculum* by Nancy Ferguson. The February release is *Morning Meetings with Jesus: 180 Devotions for Teachers* by first-time author Susan O'Carroll Drake. *Morning Meetings* includes a foreword by Tony Campolo.

Read about each of these new titles at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).

## **~INDIA MISSION UPDATE SHARED BY BEN CHAN OF INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/benslchan/sets/72157603748245476>

2,248 Telugu Baptist Churches Seek to Fulfill God's Dream in India (1/08)

<http://www.eacinet.org/2248tbc.php>

16,000 Telugu Baptists Celebrated Unity at Ongole, India (1.08)

<http://www.eacinet.org/16000tbcu.php>

Please pray for churches in Orissa, India that were attacked during Christmas. Please also pray for Cathy Holmes, Debbie Mulneix, Betsy and David Perkins who serve in India.

***THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS [WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG) AND [WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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."*