



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

November 2008

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~JOE KUTTER'S REMARKS TO THE GENERAL BOARD

The GBEC generously invited Acting Executive Director, Joe Kutter to report on the work of the Ministers Council to the General Board. After expressing appreciation for the opportunity, he began his remarks as follows.

Why take this job?

This story comes from my own family experience but I believe that represents literally thousands of men and women who engage ministry in our ABC family. At the time, my dad was a pastor, the pastor of a small, small-town, nearly rural church. A leading family in the congregation had a son, about my age, who graduated from high school, went off to join the military and then returned home. One day, with both of his parents in the house, the son went into the bathroom and used a gun to take his own life. My parents immediately went to be with the parents who were both members of the church and friends. As my father sat with the family, prayed and talked together, my mother took a bucket of cleaning materials into the bathroom and cleaned it up. Together they entered into the family's sorrow and extended the ministry of Christ.

I tell that story, not because it is something that was or is unique to the experience of my parents but because it is not. Every day, thousands of women and men in congregations large, medium and small, enter into the sorrow of their people and extend the ministry of Christ. Most do it without notice and many do it without much pay. They just do it because they feel that God has called them into that ministry. Over the years, these men and women have become heroes to me, models of Christ, and the very incarnation of grace. And it is my privilege to serve them at this time in my life.

For the rest of the report link to <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Remarks/RemarkstoGB1108.aspx>

~**MINISTER MAGAZINE**_ TO BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY

Theme: Local leadership and the plan to restructure

This newsletter comes on the heels of The General Board meetings in which the decision was made final to move the plan to restructure the denomination forward to the biennial in Pasadena. In January we will electronically publish the next issue of [Minister Magazine](#) and its focus will be, "Will the proposed new structure have any impact on local ministerial leadership and if so, what will it be?"

~PRE-BIENNIAL PASADENA CA

June 25 and 26, 2009

With Dr. Leonard Sweet

The Ministers Council in partnership with Interim Ministries, Women in Ministry, and the Area Ministers Group will host Dr. Leonard Sweet at two pre-biennial events.

Thursday afternoon, June 25, Dr. Sweet will speak to the topic "What's A Gutenberg Groupie in a Google World Going to Do?" All Members of the Ministers Council, ministers in Interim Ministries, members of the Area Ministers Group, and those participating in the Women in Ministry group are invited to participate. The cost will be \$30.00 per person.

Friday morning, June 26, Dr. Sweet will address all who wish to attend at the Ministers Council meeting. His title is "The Metaphorics of the 21st Century: Seven Metaphors that Can Transform the World." An offering will be received to help offset the costs.

To learn more about Dr. Sweet, go to his home page, www.leonardsweet.com or if you wish to go directly to a biographical sketch, go to www.leonardsweet.com/biocv.asp. He is a leading interpreter of the present age to the church and a teacher of the gospel to the present age.

~THE LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE

Ministers Council Senator, Margaret Marcuson writes frequently about leadership issues. This linked article speaks directly to the issue of leadership in the midst of financial uncertainty. You will find it helpful. JK

<http://www.margaretmarcuson.com/blog/>

~SABBATICAL GRANTS

2009 National Clergy Renewal Program

Lilly Endowment seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Life-giving experiences – strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving the neighbor in a new way, finding joy are common themes of these renewal times.

In the clergy renewal program, the Endowment anticipates awarding as many as 120 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to Christian congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for congregational expenses associated with the renewal program.

The deadline for applying for the 2009 renewal grants is May 14, 2009. For more information and application information visit www.lillyendowment.org and click on Religion.

~JUDSON PRESS

Hot off the press! ***Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens*** by pastor, professor, and prolific Judson Press author Marvin A. McMickle. In a teen-friendly format with rich illustrations, famous quotes, "Phat Facts" and the "411," *Profiles in Black* highlights the names and events that forged African American experience in the twenty-first century. This is a must-have for the church library and an important resource for Black History Month. Retail price: \$22.00. Web price: \$17.60. To order, visit www.judsonpress.com or call 800-458-3766.

~WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE – SUN CITY, ARIZONA

Do you hate Christmas shopping?
Don't know what to buy for the person who has everything?
Why not give them the WORLD for just \$25?
Give them the **World Mission Conference!**

NEW!! Reduced Program Fee - \$25!!

What will they get for \$25?
Engaging workshops – vibrant worship – dynamic programs!
An international reception – forums – hands on mission experiences!
Guest choirs – an opportunity to “rub shoulders with the world!”

Plus the missionaries! Who will be there?
Rick Barnes (Mexico), Duane Binkley (Thailand & USA), Jill Lowery (Congo),
Iris and Mario Morales (Bolivia), Dave Perkins (India), Karen Smith (Thailand),
and Walt White (Global Consultant for Cross-Cultural Evangelism)

February 20 – 22 in Sun City, ARIZONA

Registration opens **Friday, November 21st.**
www.worldmissionconference.org

~MEDITATION ON RETIREMENT

(Ian Rankin, [Exit Music](#), (New York: Little Brown and Company, 2007) 421 pages)

John Rebus is about to retire from a 30 plus year career, described in several good crime novels, as an Edinburgh detective and this decisive reality establishes the emotional setting for [Exit Music](#). As the story winds its way towards the solving of the crimes in focus, Rebus and his cohorts ponder retirement.

Arriving home “he promised himself he’d make it as far as the bedroom but there was a spare duvet behind the sofa just in case. He had a bottle of whiskey, too – eighteen-year-old whiskey too – eighteen-year-old Highland Park, bought the previous weekend and with a couple of good hits left in it. Ciggies and booze and a little night music. At one time they would have provided enough consolation, but he wondered if they would sustain him once the job was behind him. What else did he have? P. 14

‘Bit maudlin tonight, are we, John?’ he asked himself out loud. Then he gave a little chuckle....” P. 14

“Groups of kids were weaving their way past the shop fronts, paying him not the slightest heed. ‘When did I become the invisible man?’ Rebus asked himself. Catching his reflection in a window, he saw heft and bulk. Yet these kids teemed past as if he had no place in their version of the world.

Is this how ghosts feel? he wondered. P. 184

~REMEMBER US!

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

~DETAILS RELEASED FOR THE 2009 ESSAY CONTEST!

Contest open to all students in 2009, 2010 graduating classes

The Baptist Joint Committee has released details of its annual religious liberty essay contest, which is open this year to **all** high school students in the 2009 and 2010 graduating classes.

The contest offers a grand prize of **\$1,000** and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is **\$500**, and third prize is **\$100**.

The topic for the 2009 contest and all of the requirements are available from <http://www.bjconline.org/contest/index.html>

~AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY – AFTER THE MOVE

Contact information for the Historical Society:

- Research and Inquiries – American Baptist Historical Society Archives Center & American Baptist Samuel Colgate Historical Library – Transition Hours (through 2008) Monday-Thursday 1-4 p.m.; Friday – 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Volunteers – If you live in or plan to visit the Atlanta area, please sign up as a volunteer. Volunteer assistance of all kinds needed. Call 678/547-6680 or email abhs@abhsarchives.org
- Business Mail – ABHS, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341

For more information see <http://www.abhsarchives.org/>

~JOB POSTINGS AT THE MISSION CENTER

The Office of Human Resource Development is announcing the opening of the following positions with the Office of the General Secretary:

1. *Associate Director of Development* –
2. *Staff Accountant* -

For job descriptions please contact jobs@abc-usa.org.

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

~MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.