



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

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### ~FROM JOE KUTTER

We are late with this issue of "News You Can Use." It's little less than amazing what the crash of a single hard drive in the Executive's office can do to scheduling and productivity.

We are trying new things. If you use "facebook," look for the "American Baptist Ministers Council" page. We try to frequently and regularly post something that will be useful to ministry.

And look below for the link to "Our Church Videos," another experiment in communication.

We now have our lead speakers for "Together in the Lord", TITL, our Ministers Conference to be held in Orlando at the Wyndham Orlando Resort, January 4-7 have been confirmed: Miraslav Volf, Shane Clayborne, Marvin McMickel, and Trinetta McCray. An outstanding line up of workshop leaders will soon be announced.

I look forward to seeing you in Pasadena where Dr. Leonard Sweet will lead two sessions prior to the Biennial. We are grateful to our partners, Interim Ministries, Women in Ministry, and the Area Ministers group for helping to make this event possible.

### ~JUDSON PRESS

Judson Press's newest release *Crazy Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives* by Susan K. Williams Smith received a starred review in a recent issue of *Publishers Weekly* (the book industry's "bible"). PW wrote, "Feisty, enthusiastic and encouraging, the author's language will inspire readers to face seemingly insurmountable challenges." In the book's foreword, Iva E. Carruthers, Secretary General of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, noted "Susan Smith has given us a mighty work that retells the stories of those who have turned vision, faith, and action into marvels of human accomplishment. *Crazy Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives* reminds us that faith is not a destination, but a journey, and along the way, each of us can become an instrument of God's miracles." The book retails for \$15.00 and is 20% off online at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).

### ~HOW TO MINISTER IN OUR INCREASINGLY CULTURALLY COMPLEX SOCIETY

Many pastors embrace the value of culturally diverse ministry, but find their actual experience of it to be frustrating and confusing. *God's Tapestry: Understanding and Celebrating Differences*, written by William Kondrath and published by the Alban Institute, is an excellent resource for pastors and churches considering how to minister in our increasingly culturally complex society. Reflecting on the personal challenges we experience as we seek to open up to those who are different from us, this book provides

thoughtful spiritual companionship for pastors and churches on this journey. The basic theoretical constructs and practical exercises that are included make this a valuable resource to use with key church leadership. For example, by separately considering personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural aspects of dealing with differences, he increases the likelihood for constructive conversation rather than the frustration that usually ensues when these four areas are conflated. Overall, Kondrath is hopeful without being Pollyannaish about the growth that can happen in a church that seeks to value diversity. – *Rev. Ross Peterson, Executive Director, Midwest Ministry Development (Columbus, OH, Chicago, IL and Kansas City, MO)*

## **~STEWARDSHIP NOTES**

In the United States, a person making \$30,000 a year is not considered to be wealthy. However, that income puts a person in the top 7.16% of incomes in the world. Only 429,712,644 of the 6,000,000,000+ people currently living on our planet would earn more. If you are fortunate enough to earn \$100,000 per year, you jump to the top .66%, with only 39,615,049 making more. Recent political candidates spoke about a threshold income of \$250,000 to be considered wealthy. That income would make you the 107,565<sup>th</sup> richest person on the planet, in the top .001%. (To check out your income go to [www.globalrichlist.com](http://www.globalrichlist.com))

*Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required. Luke 12:48* What is required of you today?

## **~THE LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE - Is Helping Overrated? by Margaret J. Marcuson**

Is helping overrated? How could it be? Many people, especially those in ministry, social services and education, see helping as a big part of their job description. To read more click on the link – <http://margaretmarcuson.com/articles/Is%20Helping%20Overrated.pdf>

## **~RESOURCE FROM DUKE DIVINITY: “Faith and Leadership”**

Faith & Leadership offers video interviews, articles, reflections and other resources, including reading lists. Its companion blog, Call & Response, offers a daily roundup of the top news and ideas Christian leaders need as well as several writers who are exploring research, culture, politics and other topics.

Our purpose is to cultivate thriving communities and develop three interrelated capacities: transformative leadership, traditioned innovation and vibrant institutions. Our website will explore those ideas and visit people and places who offer insight into them.  
<http://www.faithandleadership.com/>

## **~OUR CHURCH VIDEOS**

We are experimenting with the use of video to tell our story and stories. Click on the link to see our progress.  
<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Our%20Church%20Videos/OurChurchVideosInfo.aspx>

## **~REMEMBER US!**

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

**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 [joe.kutter@abc-usa.org](mailto: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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