



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

October 2007

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### DEATH OF CHARLES FORSBERG, MINISTERS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 1965-1986

Chuck Forsberg's service as an ordained pastoral leader in the American Baptist Churches USA began in 1944 and endured for more than four decades.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/PrayerRequests/MinistersCouncilPrayerRequest.aspx>

### 2008 CONFERENCES

1. ***Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant***  
January 30-February 1, 2008  
Atlanta, Georgia

There is no conference registration fee. All conference information and links to register and to reserve lodging may be found on this page:

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

The American Baptist Churches USA will sponsor a breakfast free of charge for American Baptist conference participants on Saturday, February 2, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. The speaker will be Neville Callum, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary. BREAKFAST RESERVATIONS ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. The registration form can be found in the conference section of the Ministers Council website or go directly to this link:

<http://www.bimwebport.org/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx?DirectLink=ATLBKFT>

A letter from ABCUSA General Secretary Roy Medley extends his invitation to participate:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/documents/NBCInvite.pdf>

2. ***North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy***  
"Faith, Life and Philanthropy"  
April 23-25, 2008  
Cleveland, Ohio

AMERICAN BAPTISTS REGISTER THROUGH THE AMERICAN BAPTIST FOUNDATION FOR A GROUP DISCOUNT AND FOR ADDITIONAL AMERICAN BAPTIST FOUNDATION DISCOUNT.

***THE MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL HOST A DINNER FREE OF CHARGE FOR AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS ON THURSDAY Evening.***

Details and registration: <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/NAPhilanthropyConference08.aspx>

3. ***For other 2008 conferences visit:***  
<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/2008ConferenceInfo.aspx>
4. Information on your 2008 ABC conference or gathering sent in electronic format to the Ministers Council office will also be posted on the website for more widespread sharing of family get-togethers.

## **MINISTERS' CONFERENCE SEED MONEY**

We thank God for a generous donor who has contributed \$200,000 as seed money for an endowment fund that will underwrite biennial national ministers' conferences in the future. We also extend the invitation to other donors to contribute to the cause she has so graciously initiated. If you or any person you know wishes to discuss the possibility of a gift please contact the Ministers Council office.

For donors over the age of 70 ½ or older, 2007 provides a unique opportunity to:

- o save paying income taxes
- o fulfill the obligation to withdraw the minimum annual IRA distribution
- o support the Ministers Council of American Baptist Churches

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/IRA/TaxWiseGiftsIRA.aspx>

## **IS YOUR CONSTITUENT COUNCIL SEEKING A WEB PRESENCE?**

Some Councils have inquired whether they may post their information about membership and meetings on the national Ministers Council website. Some Councils are charged for a web presence on their own region's web site and some have no access to post on it. Absolutely a Council may post on [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org). Just send documents and photographs in electronic format to [kate.harvey@abc-usa.org](mailto:kate.harvey@abc-usa.org) and a landing page for your Council will be created. Or if you already have a website, send the link to the existing website, whether it belongs to the Council or is posted on the region's site.

To see samples click on this link and view the constituent Council information posted on the top three links. More are most welcome.

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

## **BOOK CLUB PAGE**

The Ministers Council website Book Club Page is available to publicize works by members or works we have read and want to share. Do you have a book you would like to describe to share with colleagues? Please email your recommendation and comments to [kate.harvey@abc-usa.org](mailto:kate.harvey@abc-usa.org).

A key dynamic of the Ministers Council in its early years was the sharing of insights on books and even the books themselves through book clubs. For other interesting tidbits about the history of the Ministers Council check these links:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WhoWeAre/historyupdate.aspx> -  
<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WhoWeAre/markers2004update.aspx>

The most recent Book Club Page post reviews a book that assesses this age called postmodernity. Have you read the book "Who's Afraid of Postmodernity: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church" by James K. A. Smith, Baker Academic, 2006? It presents these

postmodernist philosophers' insights on contemporary culture that might prove helpful to the Church seeking to minister in this time called postmodernity. For a book review click on: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/BookClubPage/JamesSmithBookReview.aspx>

## **RESOURCES FOR MEETINGS**

For constituent Council, region and other group gatherings you are invited to request Ministers Council resources, such as a display, a membership information postcard, copies of Minister and brochures (check <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Brochures/default.aspx> for list). Just email [sue.sechrist@abc-usa.org](mailto:sue.sechrist@abc-usa.org). And once your meeting has concluded please make sure that the display is returned or sent on to the next Council with all its parts intact.

## **TOGETHER IN MINISTRY GRANTS FOR 2008**

1. October 31 is the deadline for the national office to receive applications for 2008 TIM grants. The applications are to be reviewed by constituent Council leadership before mailing them to the national office. The application process is explained: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/08ApplicationProcess.aspx>
2. Application forms may be completed online here and printed (please print and retain a copy for yourself) for sending to the constituent Council for their review: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/2008Application.aspx>
3. Many Ministers Councils and regions are seeking ways to connect and support pastoral leaders. The Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware has just submitted a proposal for Together in Ministry funding for a project that will endeavor to serve those ends.  
  
Perhaps your Ministers Council would be interested in a similar project. Funding is available immediately.  
  
ABCOPAD leadership is willing to share their model. Other such creative proposals are most welcome. <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/PADEModel07.aspx>
4. The new option for TIM group formation initiates pastoral leader-laity groups focused on faith practices. A model for Pastor-Youth Covenant Group on Practices has been presented by Gregg Sneller from Portland: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/AncientPracticesYouth.p df>
5. Some TIM groups have inquired about what other groups are doing. Various resource lists for groups and individual have been compiled. <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/ResourceListforClergy.aspx>
6. The Lilly Endowment's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence newsletter for October includes a sermon by Kate Harvey, "Good to Go: Collected, Connected, Commissioned." <http://www.divinity.duke.edu/programs/spe/>

## **REFLECTION ON RETIREMENT**

Beloved colleague Dick Sutton, who pastored and served on the National Ministries staff, wrote a profound reflection after his first year of retirement that will inform any one of us at any stage of ministry. Carol Sutton gifted us with this piece because she does not want us to forget Dick. As if any of us could. Check it out here: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/RetirementReflectionDickSutton.aspx>

## RESOURCES ON PASTORAL WELL-BEING

Bruce Epperly, Director of Continuing Education and Professor of Practical Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary and director of a Lilly Endowment Sustaining Pastoral Excellence project, has written a series of four articles on pastoral excellence with specific strategies for pastoral leaders.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/BruceEpperlyInfo07.aspx>

## JUDSON PRESS RESOURCES

Judson Press has recently published several resources for pastoral leaders. Read more about these new books on the Judson Press website where they can be purchased at 20% off:

*Violence among Us: Ministry to Families in Crisis* by Brenda Branson and Paula J. Silva, Foreword by Tim Clinton

*Multidimensional Ministry for Today's Black Family* edited by Johnny B. Hill, Foreword by Wallace Charles Smith

*Rewired: Youth Ministry in an Age of IM & MySpace* by Peggy Kendall, Foreword by Duffy Robbins

<http://www.judsonpress.com/>

## 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

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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."*