

Metro Chicago eWind

Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...
(Acts 2:2-3, TEV)

A weekly electronic newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
A patchwork of varied news and announcements covering a wide variety of interests
reflecting the diversity of the region

August 6, 2008

I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.
(Psalm 71:16, NKJ)

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Middle East Summit

TO: American Baptist Colleagues

FROM: Larry Greenfield

RE: Summit on Religion and Middle East Issues

Some of you know of my longstanding commitment to work for justice and peace in the Middle East, particularly related to Palestine and Israel. I currently serve as the co-convenor of a relatively new organization called the Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy, which attempts to bring voices of diverse faith communities to policy makers and the public. On Sunday, August 17, we are convening a summit that will bring together individuals and groups who share our concern about justice and peace in the Holy Land in the attempt to learn more about each other and explore ways of coordinating our efforts. If you have interest in this vitally important matter, I hope you will participate in the summit, which will be held at Elmhurst College. An announcement on the summit and information about registering can be found below.

Join Chicago-area faith leaders at a summit to advance justice and peace for Israelis and Palestinians

Sunday, August 17, 2008 from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM
Elmhurst College Lower level of Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel
190 Prospect Avenue
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

Host Committee

Rev. Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

Rev. Hee-Soo Jung, Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Michael McConnell, Regional Director, American Friends Service Committee

Rev. Wayne N. Miller, Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Chairman of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

Organized by the Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy [see our website at www.chicagofaith.org] for leaders who desire to promote justice, peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land

This event will bring together leaders from a wide variety of organizations to find common ground, build momentum and widen the network of people who share our concerns and act for justice, peace and reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians.

Agenda

- **Meet other leaders from a broad range of organizations who advocate for justice, peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land**
- **Organizations will have the opportunity to share their advocacy focus and programs planned for the next six to nine months**
- **We will brainstorm and reach consensus on ways that we can work together to amplify our influence.** Initiatives to explore will include: 1) post a website calendar that lists scheduled activities across our many organizations; 2) maintain an updated list of contacts for organizations that focus on justice, peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land; 3) schedule summits periodically to maintain networks and synergies.
- The Chicago Faith Coalition will report on and distribute the results of a Policy Position Survey conducted with all Illinois candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and suggest ways to use the survey content with candidates.

Please register today by contacting Lynn Pollack at the American Friends Service Committee:

- By phone: (312) 427-2533
- By email: lpollack@afsc.org

Directions to the event: <http://public.elmhurst.edu/visitors/1260852.html>

Junta de los Pastores Hispánicos

Los pastores Hispánicos de ABCMC tendrán junta en la Iglesia Bautista Central, 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago. Ellos se reunirán a las 9 de la mañana

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a column every other week for Protestants for the Common Good. His columns combine biblical scholarship and current events. Please take a look at his latest column, attached to this issue of *eWind*.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

IPBC Spirit

This past weekend Irving Park Baptist Church was spirit-filled. The congregation and guests experienced a meaningful revival. On Friday night, guest preacher Ozzie Smith brought his church's gospel choir of 38 talented singers. In addition to preaching a powerful sermon, Ozzie played his alto saxophone. Carol Jamieson Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Park Forest, preached a moving message on Saturday night. Zina Jacque, pastor of the Community Church of Barrington, preached eloquently on Sunday afternoon. It was a true time of renewal and rededication for those in attendance.

Community Health and Wellness Fair

This invitation is from Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

Irving Park Baptist Church is holding its 2nd Annual "Community Health and Wellness Fair" this coming Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come out as we hear from community health agencies, the local "Y" (they taught us belly, dancing last year!), financial consultants, and others who will provide vital information for health and wholeness. We'll have good healthy food too!

175th Anniversary Year Celebrations

This invitation is from the First Baptist Church of Chicago.

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary during 2008. Please join as we celebrate.

Our Anniversary Sunday, October 12 at 11 a.m. Dr. Michael Thomas, the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary will be our guest speaker. On that Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. our guest speaker will be Rev. Reginald Bachus, Pastor of the historic Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago.

Dr. Roy Medley, the General Secretary of ABCUSA, will be our guest speaker on December 14 at 11 a.m.

Morgan Park to Install New Pastor

Thomas Aldworth will be installed as pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago on Sunday, October 26. The service will take place at the church at 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Workshop with Ken Medema

On Saturday, November 1, the musician Ken Medema and Mark Vincent will be in Rockford to present a two-hour workshop on the Offering as Worship, based on their book and recorded music by that name. The workshop runs from 9-11 a.m.

A congregation can bring 6 persons for \$95, which includes a free copy of the resource. If they already own the resource, 6 persons can attend for just \$35.

The presenters promise the workshop to be fast-paced and life-changing for congregations that put what they learn into practice.

For more information, please contact Mark Vincent by e-mail: marklv@DesignForMinistry.com or marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com or phone: 877.771.3330 or 888.463.9995.

ABCUSA NEWS

For additional articles from the American Baptist News Service, please visit <http://www.abc-usa.org/whoweare/newsservice.aspx>.

National Ministries Convenes First Conference of Baptist Leaders from Burma

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/4/08) — More than 30 pastors and lay leaders are expected to gather for the first conference of Baptist Leaders from Burma, October 21-22, at the Chin Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

The conference is being sponsored by National Ministries' American Baptist Personnel Services (ABPS) and Asian Ministries. National Ministries is underwriting air travel, lodging and meal costs for attendees. The conference will help newly resettled pastors and lay leaders involved with local churches become familiar with the American Baptist process for attaining professional standing, ordination, training, seminary and continuing education. The conference also provides an opportunity for Karen, Chin, Kachin and other ethnic leaders, previously housed in refugee camps in Thailand and Malaysia, to come together for support and to network with each other.

Commenting on this unique gathering of ministry partners, ABPS Manager Rev. Richard G. Harris said: "I welcome and support our new pastors and lay leaders from Burma as they resettle in the United States to begin their pastoral ministries in local churches. This 'Mission at our Doorstep' event is one of the exciting opportunities that the denomination provides for our ministerial leaders, supported by United Mission and America for Christ Offering dollars."

National Ministries' Asian Churches Strategist Florence Li added, "It's also a valuable time for us to learn about their [the pastors] experiences and to hear about their struggles so that we can respond appropriately to their needs."

Following the Baptist leaders conference, the Asian Pastors Conference and Asian Caucus Convocation—"Building Ministry from Generation to Generation: Staying Rooted, Going Forward"—will convene at the same location October 22 – 24. Keynote speaker for the former is Dr. Daniel L. Wong, a noted theologian and assistant professor of Christian Ministry at Tyndale University College and

Seminary. Wong, who has served as chair of the Task Force on Multicultural Ministries, is well-known for his work in Asian American ministries and multiculturalism.

Also on the program is Dr. Tim Tseng, president and executive director for the Study of Asian American Christianity. Dr. Tseng, who teaches at the University of San Francisco, will deliver a training session on "Cross-Training Leaders for the Multiplex Asian American Church."

Registration for the conferences must be received by August 31.

To obtain information and a registration packet, contact Ruthann Glover, National Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851; 800-222-3872, ext. 2454. Completed registration forms can be faxed to her at 610-768-2470.

Green Lake Chautauqua Explores "Being Christian in a Religious Pluralism" October 5-9, 2008

This is an invitation from Green Lake Conference Center.

We live in a world that is filled with people whose faith is radically different from ours. What is our role as Christians when we are surrounded by a religious pluralism? This is the theme of Chautauqua, October 5-9, 2008 at Green Lake Conference Center.

To understand and address this question, Green Lake has brought together an outstanding Bible scholar, a missionary skilled in cross-cultural evangelism, a professor of world religions, and a pastor of a large intercultural church from Washington, D.C. Each day begins with a time of worship led by Roger Fredrikson, speaking on the 'Marks of a Reconciler.'

Chautauqua begins with dinner the evening of October 5 and concludes October 9 after breakfast. The package price for room, meals and program fee is \$372 per person. Partial scholarships are available through Green Lake's Program Office.

Time will be provided each afternoon to enjoy the beauty of the conference center. Perhaps this is your year to attend the Green Lake Chautauqua! For more information visit www.glcc.org or call 920-294-3323.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Important Health Care Discussion

On [Tuesday, August 19th](#), there will be a community health care discussion in Rogers Park. It is from 6:30-8:30 pm. The location is [1505 W. Morse Ave](#) (2 doors down from The Common Cup Café).

The broken health care system adversely affects the health and well being of local communities. Please help spread the word about this discussion! If possible, could you make an announcement to your congregation about this discussion?

The [Health Care Justice Campaign](#) is committed to advocate for statewide comprehensive health care reform. What is comprehensive health care reform? It is simple: *Guaranteed access to affordable, compassionate, and quality health care for everyone in the state of Illinois.*

Eric Quamme, who works with the campaign, says, "I would like to work together with you and other community partners on making health care a priority for our state legislators. It is time to move forward with health care reform in this state. Nothing is getting accomplished in Springfield while communities and families across the state are struggling with the high costs of health care.

"It's impossible for me to quantify the amount of suffering, frustration, and disparities I have encountered in communities across the state when it comes to health care. With so many other burning issues demanding our utmost attention these days, access to affordable and quality health care seems to be relegated a lesser priority. The reality of the situation, though, is that communities and families across the state are struggling with the rising costs of health care

"The tough question that we need to ask ourselves is: "Can we, in good conscience, continue down this broken path that leaves families and individuals without adequate coverage?" It is time to acknowledge that our health care system is broken. We cannot afford to do nothing. The rising cost of health care in this state is causing economic hardships for hard-working families all over the state. The rising cost of health care is having an adverse effect not only on families and communities, but on the state budget as well. Something must be done. Illinois can do so much better. Wouldn't it be great to see Illinois take strong leadership on health care reform?"

Please come, and bring others, to the meeting on August 19. This is an important issue for everyone in Illinois.

PEACE NEWS

American Baptists Urged to Advocate for Peace and Justice in Sudan

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/31/08) — American Baptists are being urged to advocate for peace and justice in Sudan, a country in northeast Africa that has been mired in two civil wars since its independence from Great Britain in 1956. These conflicts have been rooted in northern economic, political, and social domination of largely non-Muslim, non-Arab southern Sudan.

The first civil war ended in 1972, but broke out again in 1983. The second war and famine-related effects resulted in more than 4 million people displaced and more than 2 million deaths over a period of two decades. Additionally, a separate conflict broke out in the western region of Darfur in 2003. It has resulted in at least 200,000 deaths and nearly 2 million displaced. This conflict has seen ethnic fighting, with Arab militias carrying out atrocities under the blessing of the government, and the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has accused the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir of genocide and other crimes.

Said Marina Peter, European coordinator of the Sudan Ecumenical Forum for the World Council of Churches, "The root problems of Sudan are marginalization, lack of development and racism. Outside Khartoum, the capital, many people do not have basic services and cannot exercise their political rights. If people feel sidelined and learn that by taking up arms they will be heard, that is exactly what will happen - and it has happened. Without a solution to the Darfur crisis, Sudan cannot have peace and the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (which ended the two decade-long war between north and south) will not work."

Persons, churches and communions of various Christian traditions have expressed concern about the conditions in Darfur as well as southern Sudan. Evangelical and mainline Protestant Christians have raised their concern and are calling for the intervention of the U.S. government and international community in Sudan, which is a troubling yet tremendous opportunity for American Baptists to increase their awareness of the devastating conditions in Sudan, and to join with others in bringing change.

"The civil conflict between northern and southern Sudan cannot be resolved without also bringing slavery to an end in that nation," notes Reid Trulson, executive director of American Baptist International Ministries. Trulson urges the public to learn from leaders in our midst such as Dr. Jok Maduk Jok, a southern Sudanese scholar now in Los Angeles as Associate Professor of History at Loyola Marymount University. "Dr. Jok has rightly shown us that slavery has inflicted Sudan for centuries. Today's conflict has simply aided the resurgence of buying, selling, and trading people for sexual, domestic, agricultural and military use. God is already drawing American Baptists back into the antislavery struggle through the

work of our missionaries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. I urge those who want to be part of this movement to contact International Ministries for more information.”

Last year American Baptist International Ministries passed a "Resolution Against Slavery" that reaffirmed its historic stand against slavery and renewed its struggle to end human trafficking, citing slavery as “contrary to Christ’s mission and an assault against humanity.”

American Baptists are theologically and missiologically well poised to lend active support in the efforts to bring stability and Christian witness to this vast and troubled region in Africa. This was expressed in a September 2000 resolution, passed by the general board of ABCUSA, which urged American Baptists to:

1. Keep the people of Sudan in our prayers;
2. Educate ourselves on the tragic situation in the Sudan;
3. Donate funds to groups working on meeting the needs of the people of Sudan for peace and reconciliation;
4. Engage our political leaders in using their influence to do everything in their power to hasten the peace process in the Sudan.

American Baptists continue to minister in Sudan through National Ministries’ [refugee resettlement programs](#), International Ministries’ work [confronting the atrocity of slavery](#)...so much a part of the conflict in Sudan and in so many other places around the world...and through promoting justice and development training through [One Great Hour of Sharing](#).

“Sudan, because it is a long-standing conflict, often fails to gather sustained coverage,” said General Secretary A. Roy Medley. “However, we must not let it escape our prayers and consciences. Let us pray especially for the body of Christ in Sudan. Christians in the south continue to experience violence directed against them.”

Northwest Suburban Meeting

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 13. The meeting will take place at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, at 7 p.m.

War on Iran

Some Chicagoans are concerned that the United States may be preparing to carry out a preemptive war against Iran. This past Saturday, August 2, there was a demonstration downtown against War on Iran. Similar events took place on the same day in 50 other U.S. cities. If the U.S. makes an attack on Iraq, Chicago participants in Saturday’s demonstration extend a call to those opposing U.S. military action against Iran to gather at 5 p.m. at Federal Plaza on the evening following the attack.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Ministers Council Cookout at McVetty-Harris Home

This invitation is from Doug Harris and Carol McVetty, pastors at North Shore Baptist Church. Doug is president of the Ministers Council of ABCMC.

ALL MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED.

Join us for a potluck cookout on Saturday, August 9 at 4:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite picnic cookout dish to share with others

We live at 5232 North Lakewood Avenue, just south of the North Shore Baptist Church.

RSVP **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6** to dharris@northshorebaptist.org or by phone 773-728-4200.

When you respond, please let Doug know if you are a vegetarian, or whether you have other dietary requirements. Also, please let Doug know how many family members will be coming with you. We will provide the drinks and stuff for the grill, so come and let's have good time!

ABCMC Ministers Council September Meeting

The Ministers Council of ABCMC will have an afternoon meeting at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, on September 25, 4:30-6:00 p.m. The program for the meeting will include discussing with Bob Thompson, pastor of Lake Street Church, his recently published book, *A Voluptuous God*.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for World peace.

Please pray for all who are dealing with the effects of violent storms in this season.

Please pray for all who are working to bring about peace and justice in Sudan.

Please pray for Baptists in and from Burma, and all who are seeking peace and justice in that troubled land.

Please remember in prayer ABC missionaries Ann and Bruce Borquist, who work with the National Baptist Convention of Brazil and train Brazilian missionaries.

Please hold in prayer ABC missionary Dan Buttry, serving as a global consultant around the world. He works for peace and justice in many places with groups that are often openly hostile toward one another.

CALENDAR

August 9--Ministers Council Cookout at McVetty-Harris Home, 5232 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 4:30 p.m. RSVP **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6** to dharris@northshorebaptist.org or by phone 773-728-4200. ALL MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED.

August 9—Community Health and Wellness Fair, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 11--Foreclosure and Domestic Relations workshop for clergy, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 13--Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mt. Prospect, 7 p.m.

August 17-22--Christian Writers Conference, Green Lake Conference Center. Visit www.glcc.org and click on "conferences" for complete information.

August 19—Discussion on health care in Illinois, [1505 W. Morse Ave](#) (2 doors down from The Common Cup Café), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

August 23--Family Council meeting, Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington, 9 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Suggested donation for lunch: \$5.

September 4-7--Many Stories One Voice Conference, New Orleans. Please visit web site, www.manystoriesonevoice.org.

13 de septiembre--Junta de los pastores hispánicos, Iglesia Bautista Central, 2417 N. Campbell,

Chicago, 9 a.m.

September 14--ABCMC Sunday, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago; Larry Greenfield preaching, 11 a.m.

September 16--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

September 25--Ministers Council meeting, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, 4:30-6 p.m.

October 17-19--Health Care Sabbath. Please contact Eric Quamme (equamme@ilmaternal.org) for more information.

October 21--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

October 21-22—Conference of Baptist Leaders from Burma, October 21-22, at the Chin Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

November 1—Workshop with Ken Medema, Rockford. For more information, please contact Mark Vincent by e-mail: marklv@DesignForMinistry.com or marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com or phone: 877-771-3330 or 888-463-9995.

November 8--ABCMC Annual Meeting.

November 18--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

December 20--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

The Metro Chicago *eWind* is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessarily express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. We email the newsletter each Wednesday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to lynne@abcmc.org. If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655. The ABCMC office is at 7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102, Chicago, Illinois 60707



Reflections

Vol VII no.16, August 1, 2008

Thinking Theologically
About the Common Good
*Reflections on theology, scripture, and public life
from the Rev. Larry Greenfield.*

"Leftovers"

During the week I live a block from the western shores of Lake Michigan. Since I get up early, that means I'm treated, on all but completely cloudy days, to amazing sunrises. It's awesome — literally, awe-inspiring.

And a little later — around 6:30 usually — my dog and I take our daily three-mile run. That takes place even closer to the Lake's shore: on the grassy spread between Lake Shore Drive and the water, including what's called Promontory Point and the 57th Street Beach, the turn-around spot where Deal (the dog's name, based on the ridiculously low price I paid for this stunning Standard Poodle) and I head back home.

Especially on Mondays, however, our run is frequently interrupted. The weekend draws, I would guess, thousands of people to that grassy spread and beach, and a portion of them feel no obligation whatsoever to take the thirty seconds it would require to walk to the abundantly distributed trash cans and deposit their garbage. Instead they leave their cans and bottles, Styrofoam plates and paper napkins, plastic and paper sacks, and chewed-on chicken bones and pork ribs and assorted accompaniments scattered on the ground. On Mondays, Deal and I spend a lot of time picking up that trash from the weekend picnickers.

So now when I read the story in all the Gospels of Jesus feeding the five thousand men, plus all the women and children, gathered on the grassy area near the lake shore, I pay more attention to that part about the disciples who, after everyone else had left, "took up what was left over."

I wonder if the disciples, like me, would have said to themselves or to each other, something on the order of: "Why couldn't they just have taken this leftover stuff with them, or at least put it in the trash cans on the way home."

* * * * *

It's a slightly different narrative after Deal and I have done our civic duty of cleaning up the leftovers on the first half of our run. When we head back home, admiring the job of restoring these park areas back to their unspoiled beauty, we always round a circle and catch an uninterrupted view of the Loop off in the distance. It isn't as awesome as the earlier sunrise, to be sure, but it is stunning in its own human-made way.

Except on certain days, especially when the humidity is high and the dirt and soot and smog — the leftovers — in the air, are particularly visible. Then the view is stunning in a completely uninspiring and even frightening way.

I realize that these leftovers that I'm seeing aren't confined only to the Loop, but that the dirt and soot and smog in the air is the very stuff Deal and I are taking into our lungs right now. Not just this man and his dog, but virtually every resident and visitor in the Chicago metropolitan area on that day — and not just that day when climate conditions make the leftovers visible, but on almost every day.

I realize, moreover, that unlike the civic task Deal and I have completed on the first part of our run — picking up the leftovers on the ground and placing these in these

bins for recyclables — there isn't any commensurate action we could take related to the dirty air we (all of us) are taking into our lungs with every breath.

And that sense intensifies as we run back home alongside Lake Shore Drive and recognize that all the cars that zip by us are spewing out those leftovers — those leftovers in the air that we *cannot* pick out and get rid of.

* * * * *

Am I right? Is there nothing I can do?

Certainly nothing as immediately noticeable or satisfying as picking up a piece of leftover trash and placing it in the garbage container.

But still maybe something that I (and others) could do that might just have an even longer term impact on my own well-being and the well-being of those committed to my care, and to my fellow residents of metropolitan Chicago — even the well-being of those living across the nation and around the globe, given what we know now about the way in which pollution travels so extensively and destructively.

I've made a small start by driving a hybrid car — enjoying 50 mpg fuel consumption and fewer dollars spent at the gas pump — and by investing in a geothermal heating and cooling system at our residence in downstate Illinois (when I checked recently, we hadn't burned even a gallon of heating oil last winter and the only air conditioning costs for this summer were for the electricity used to transmit cool air to our two-story house).

This, I acknowledge, is pretty small impact stuff. But multiplied by the thousands and millions, it could make a big difference over time on the "leftovers" front. But think of what you and I could do if we insisted that our state and federal governments adopted public policies that mandated high gas mileage and clean-burning engines and that mandated low-energy heating and cooling systems, first on new construction and then, over a longer period, on existing structures.

All it would take is for enough of us to expend enough of our human political energy to make this happen in statehouses, and the White House, and the halls of Congress. Yes, we'd have to do it with a kind of evangelical zeal. But what's wrong with that, especially if our discipleship could extend over many election cycles, starting right now?

* * * * *

At the end of the G8 meeting held in Japan in early July, outgoing President George W. Bush punched the air with his fist and told his fellow world leaders, "Goodbye from the world's biggest polluter."

He thought it was funny, although that wasn't the reaction of his colleagues from other nations.

We Americans will have to deal *seriously* with the leftovers of this leftover administration for a long time. The heartening news is that we don't have to wait until the President leaves to start following what I suppose was Jesus' command to his disciples after feeding the thousands:

"Let's get this place cleaned up."

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