

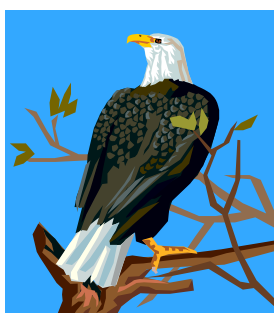
Metro Chicago

eWind

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

Weekly Electronic Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
A patchwork of varied news and announcements
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

November 11, 2009



You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off";
do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:9-10

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>ABCMC NEWS</i>	3
Annual Meeting	3
Thank You from the Editor	3
Regional Office	3
Call to Meeting	5
Engage Your Young Adults	6
Thinking Theologically	6
Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering	7
Music Festival	7

Festival de Navidad	8
NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS.....	8
South Church Craft Fair.....	8
Tea and Symphony.....	8
Jazz Vespers	9
COMMUNITY NEWS	9
Sing to Live Concerts	9
Celebrate National Mental Health Awareness Month: Learn Mental Health First Aid.....	10
ABCUSA NEWS	10
Judge Rules against “I Believe” License Plates in South Carolina	10
Judson Press Takes Home National Best Book Awards.....	11
Essay Contest.....	11
MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS	12
Ministers Meeting in Chicago on Friday, November 13	12
Come to Orlando	13
Registration Ends Soon.....	14
Check it Out	14
HEALTH CARE NEWS	14
National Rally in Chicago for Health Care Reform.....	14
Campaign for Better Health Care 20 th Anniversary and Annual Meeting.....	16
Wendell Potter to Be in Chicago November 18	18
The House Passed a Bill, But.....	19
PEACE NEWS	20
Community Forum on the War in Afghanistan	20
Palestinians and Israelis.....	20
PRAYER REQUESTS	21
CALENDAR.....	21

ABCMC NEWS

Annual Meeting

Dear ABCMCers,

I just got off the phone (Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.) with our guest speaker for the Annual Meeting on Saturday morning at North Shore Baptist Church, and I have to say I'm excited.

Miguel De La Torre is someone "at the top of his game," to borrow a phrase from the sports world, but he isn't at all playing games with the issues of contemporary Christian ethics. He's at the very center of the academic discussion while also speaking directly to the churches and our culture -- that is, he's at the crossroads and helping all of see what needs to be understood and what needs to be done.

I believe this is an unusual opportunity to hear and engage a Baptist brother on the cutting edge.

Larry

Thank You from the Editor

Thank you for granting me the privilege of serving on the ABCMC staff since March 3, 2003. November 14, 2009 will see the end of my work for ABCMC. This is the final issue of *eWind* for which I am the editor.

Together we have experienced a great deal over the past 6 ½ years. Much of this has been recorded and reported in *eWind*. Some of it was before *eWind*, which I started in March of 2005 just before the arrival of Larry Greenfield as our Executive Minister. I am grateful to the many volunteers and colleagues who have helped me with my work for the region.

My position at ABCMC is ending following the 2009 annual meeting. I shall then join the many Americans who have lost their jobs and are looking for new ones. I am sad about that. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to work with you. I am glad that it is ending on a positive note.

I will miss this work, and I will miss all of you. May God bless and keep you.

With love and gratitude,
Lynne Kelley

P. S. I would like to ask one last favor of you. Okay, three last favors. Please make three toll-free telephone calls to 1-888-436-8427. This toll-free number is provided by Health Care for America Now! to enable all of us to call Congress. Please call the number three times, once for each U.S. Senator and once for your representative in the U. S. House of Representatives. Please tell the aides who answer the phone that you, as a constituent, would like the Senator or Congressperson to support health care reform with a strong public health insurance option.

Regional Office

Dear ABCMC Friends,

The Family Cabinet and I are pleased to report that, beginning later this month, ABCMC will be operating with new arrangements for carrying out our shared ministry, as we shift from an office-centered operation to one in which a reconfigured staff will be largely working out of their homes and regional meetings will

be held in churches of the region.

As many of you know, we have tried to remain alert and open to new opportunities, models, and configurations that can achieve efficiencies and enhance effectiveness, recognizing that other regions of the denomination have accomplished this successfully in recent years.

Understandably, we've wanted to find ways of reducing administrative costs associated with space in order both to devote as much of our financial resources to ministries of the region and to narrow our budgetary gaps. A year ago we moved into a smaller, less expensive office space on West Grand Avenue and saved approximately \$20,000 annually. But over the past year we've also realized that much of the space we now occupy is devoted to files that aren't used very often and that much of the work that is done in the office could, with some adjustments, be done by staff from their homes – also saving time and expense of staff travel to and from the office.

So we initiated conversations with a number of our churches about the possibilities of placing our files in secured but unused space as well as sharing staff, equipment, and technologies. We are grateful for those churches that entertained the possibility.

The Greater Bethesda Baptist Church at 53rd and Michigan, with the leadership of its pastor, the Rev. David Watkins, indicated that it has a large amount of unused space that it would make available to the region without cost and that it was also interested in discussing ways of sharing administrative staff. We have accepted that generous offer and will be transferring files and equipment to the new location the week of November 16. This step will save the region an additional \$11,000 annually.

By sharing staff with Greater Bethesda, and with the (re)retirement of Tony Rake as the Office Assistant, a restructuring and consolidation of staff assignments was required. Jesse Smith will continue as the region's Bookkeeper, working both from home and with officers, committees, and other staff members. The role of Communication Coordinator that Lynne Kelley has so ably filled is being combined with Tony's previous responsibilities and other administrative functions and will now be carried out by Veronica Johnson from Greater Bethesda. Because our special funding for a development officer has become depleted, Lowell Young will also be stepping down as Mission Support Assistant.

I am sure all of you join me in expressing our deep thanks to Lynne, Tony, and Lowell for their significant contributions to the region over these past years. Each of them has been especially helpful to me and, I know, to many others in the region.

The relocation and administrative restructuring will also involve changes in telephone and fax numbers, along with mailing addresses. We will be installing a phone system that will allow callers to link to the telephones of staff members and to our fax machines – we will share these numbers with you next week.

Regular mail will be sent to our new Post Office Box number, which we will also share with you next week. Larger shipments, however, should be sent to our new location:

ABCMC
109 E. 53rd Street
Chicago, IL 60615

Please be patient and understanding with us as we live into this new way of doing the region's business. But do not hesitate to be in communication with me about any questions related to these changes or our on-going work of the region.

In the cause of the Evangel,

Larry Greenfield
Executive Minister

Call to Meeting

TO: American Baptists in Metro Chicago

FROM: Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister, ABCMC

RE: **2009 Annual Meeting**
Saturday, November 14
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago

There's hardly any debate about what will be the next big debate in our nation – that is, after the debate about health care gets settled one way or another in the coming weeks.

Virtually everyone agrees that the next big debate will be on **immigration policy**. It might begin yet this year, but surely will be the dominant public issue in 2010.

As a democratic nation (now mostly) of immigrants built (at least in stated ideals) on the rights and dignity of each and every human being, much is at stake in this forthcoming debate.

Christians have even more at stake, given what the whole Bible and Jesus in particular teaches about welcoming and caring for the stranger, the alien, the foreigner (although in some cases those so-called have an ancestry that is native to this continent).

And that's even more the case for American Baptists in this metropolitan area – in city and suburbs often originally constituted by immigrant communities. Our history as American Baptists here is filled with stories of immigrant churches, of ministries directed toward helping immigrants, of refugee resettlement.

This matter of immigration is in our genetic make-up. So we can't skirt this issue without denying who we have been, and are, and will become. And that's why the theme of our Annual Meeting this year is:

A HISTORIC MISSION RENEWED: THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE CHALLENGE

We can't escape the public policy dimensions of this issue that will be swirling around us in the coming year. We need to have voice – and voices – in that public debate. But, for us, this isn't just about public policy. It's also about all the other dimensions of our Christian ministry.

The Annual Meeting will get us started.

We have outstanding resources lined up. Many of them, of course, are our sisters and brothers in the Region who can and will give personal testimony about what refugees and immigrants face today. And our own Dr. Alvaro Nieves of the Community Baptist Church of Warrenville (and the Department of Sociology of Wheaton College) will be bringing us an understanding of the immigration "context" in the metro Chicago region.

And then we have the incredible good fortune of the Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, Professor and Director of the Justice and Peace Institute at Iliff Seminary in Denver, being a featured presenter.

Dr. De La Torre is an ordained Southern Baptist minister who gives a lot of Southern Baptists fits because of his creative and courageous insights about living the Christian life in today's world. But in the world beyond the SBC he is recognized as one of the most important voices in theology and ethics in the country today.



He is the author of more than a dozen groundbreaking books – groundbreaking because he admittedly thinks and writes “from the margins” as once an undocumented immigrant and one who can speak out of his own experience and deep learning.

His most recent book (released just this last week in October) is exactly on our theme: “Trails of Hope and Terror: Testimonies on Immigration” – a simply terrific book that has tremendous relevance for the churches.

We build the morning program in such a way that all of us can learn from and engage him directly. And toward the end of the morning session we’ll devote time to thinking about what we can do distinctively in our various congregations and together as a region.

Miguel A. De La Torre

I urge – that’s the word, *urge* – you to be a part of this Annual Meeting because of its biblical, theological, and ministerial substance and its relevance to the world in which God has placed us.

We will be treated to Burmese cuisine for lunch, prepared by our relative recent arrived Karen sisters and brothers. And at the lunch we do some recognitions and celebratory things that will be fun and fulfilling (the “filling” part, obviously relates also to the meal!)

The annual business meeting will take place immediately after lunch. Please share this news and invitation with other members of your congregation. And please make reservations by faxing or emailing the office (fax: 773-804-1656; email: office@abcmc.org).

Engage Your Young Adults

Are you looking for a springboard to get young adults talking about what Christianity is all about for this generation? DreamThinkBeDo is an engaging new catalyst for conversation among young adults searching for what’s next for followers of Jesus. Starting with the foundation of “Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (Luke 10:27), DTBD is what Christian educators have been looking for to help college groups and twenty to thirty-somethings build a 21st Century faith.

An overview of progressive Christianity for young adults, DreamThinkBeDo features the insights of over twenty-five theologians and teachers at the top of their game. Each of the twenty self-standing sessions contains a 20-minute DVD segment drawn from the critically acclaimed Living the Questions series, but is updated with connecting narrations, graphics and music to engage young adults. Bundled in four five-session modules, each session is divided into convenient and easily navigable chapters. Use the DVDs and downloadable participant guides as is—or take advantage of the flexible format to customize the material for gathering ranging from small groups to retreats to enhancing worship. However you slice it, DTBD is rich with the material you’ve been looking for in a format that will connect your young people with the best in today’s theological thought. DTBD is available at www.livingthequestions.com.

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC’s Executive Minister Larry Greenfield is a very busy guy. In addition to everything he does for ABCMC, he writes a biweekly column for the newsletter of Protestants for the Common Good. Larry’s latest column, “Delivering,” appears at the end of this issue of *eWind*.

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

This is the time of year when American Baptists bring an offering that says we remember with love and give with gratitude. Since the Great Depression of the 1930's American Baptist congregations have contributed to special offerings to provide financial support to retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977 to continue this tradition.

The RMMO provides you with a tangible way by which to honor, say "thank you" and provide financial assistance to retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who supported you in times of need, guided you on your spiritual journey and provided inspiration.

Recipients of Thank You checks and emergency and other financial assistance express gratitude not only for the gift but for less tangible benefits, such as evidence of God's providential care, encouragement, hope and assurance that they have not been forgotten by their ABC family.

Music Festival

ALL METRO CHICAGO AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 3rd ANNUAL ABCMC
CHRISTMAS/ADVENT SEASON MUSIC FESTIVAL

DATE: Saturday, December 12, 2009

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago



The purpose of this program is to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas/ Advent season through music and song. Each participating church is asked to send a musical component (ranging from a full choir to a smaller number of singers, including duets or soloists, as well as musicians and praise dancers) to participate in this glorious afternoon of musical praise for our Lord and Savior and the Christmas/Advent season. And as happened last year, this year's musical festival will begin with a mass sing-a-long (involving all in attendance) of many of everyone's favorite Christmas carols and will conclude with a mass (unrehearsed) singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus", involving all the participants in the program, as well as willing volunteers from the audience.

Regardless of whether or not your church decides to participate musically, members and friends of Chicago Metro ABC churches are encouraged to attend. Admission is **FREE**. There will be a Free-Will Offering to support ABCMC and its programs and missions.

So mark the date and time (Saturday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.) on your calendar, encourage your church to participate, plan to attend, and warm up your voice for the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus"!

Any church wishing to participate is asked to call Lowell Young, ABCMC Mission Support Associate, at 773-370-2003, or e-mail him at younglowell@aol.com.

Festival de Navidad

TODAS LAS IGLESIAS AMERICANAS BAUTISTA DE METRO CHICAGO ABCMC
ESTÁN INVITADAS A PARTICIPAR EN EL 3ro FESTIVAL DE NAVIDAD

Fecha: Sábado 12 de diciembre
Hora: 3:00 p.m.
Lugar: Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago



El propósito de este programa es celebrar Navidad y la estación de Advenimiento con música y cánticos. A cada Iglesia participante se le pide que traiga un componente musical, puede ser desde un coro, un cantante, dueto o un solo para participar en esta gloriosa tarde de alabanza a nuestro Dios y Salvador en esta Navidad época de Advenimiento. Así como hicimos el año pasado, empezaremos cantando los coros navideños favoritos, para concluir con un coro masivo del “Aleluya,” en donde incluiremos a todos los participantes, voluntarios y la audiencia.

Ya sea que su Iglesia participe musicalmente o no, todas las Iglesias y amigos de ABCMC, están invitados. La admisión es GRATIS. Habrá una ofrenda voluntaria para ayudar a los programas y misiones de ABCMC.

¡Marque en su calendario el 12 de diciembre a las 3:00 p.m., participe, asista y entone su voz para cantar el “Coro Aleluya”!

La Iglesia que desee participar comuníquese con Lowell Young, ABCMC, al 773-370 2003, por Internet younglowell@aol.com.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

South Church Craft Fair

Find great gifts for friends, family and yourself. Crafts, jewelry, food and more will be available... The 2nd Annual South Church Craft & Vendor Fair is Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 847-253-0501 or email mciske@earthlink.net for details. The South Church is at 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect.

Tea and Symphony

Woodside Church is committed to supporting the arts throughout Flint and the surrounding area. The congregation and its leadership believe the talent that resides throughout our community is truly a blessing. Therefore, the church designed a series of four special events corresponding to performances by the Flint Symphony—High Tea & Symphony. This is a pre-concert event including fine dining, music and art.

The first event of the 2009-2010 series will be held on Friday, November 14 and centered on the theme, “Star Gazing.” The evening includes a gourmet four-course dinner served in the style of high tea in an intimate art gallery setting. The menu has been designed to cater to a variety of tastes and includes vegetarian options. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and will conclude at approximately 7:15 p.m., with plenty of time to make the Flint Symphony’s performance.

Music and artwork enhance the experience. Dr. Quincy Dobbs, Minister of Music and Fine Arts, will perform musical selections based on the evening's theme and diners will be surrounded by the artwork of local artists such as photography, paintings and sculpture.

Woodside invites anyone who shares an appreciation of the fine arts in our community to enjoy elegant dining, wonderful music and beautiful art to attend this wonderful event. The recommended donation is \$30 per person, which does not include tickets to the concert. Similarly, it is not necessary to be attending the symphony to attend this dinner.

Reservations are required and must be made by the Monday prior to the event by calling the church: 810-767-4911. Please contact Dr. Quincy Dobbs at 810-767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net for more information.

The donation will be \$30 per person. Symphony tickets are not included. One does not have to be attending the symphony to participate

Please mark your calendars for the next three events, which will take place in 2010: January 23: Winter Solstice; February 20: Celestial Creations; April 17: Here Comes the Sun

Jazz Vespers

All are invited to Jazz Vespers on Friday, November 20—beginning at 6:00 p.m. This monthly event is designed to be spiritually uplifting with some of the area's best jazz musicians adding their musical interpretation to a selection of readings—classic to contemporary—creating a unique experience. For November, Woodside welcomes E J Joier from Bushnell Congregational Church and some of his talented friends. There will be a splendid mix of music, sure to enhance the service.

Jazz Vespers is presented in a coffee house setting at Woodside Church, 1509 East Court Street in Flint, right next to Mott Community College. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendars for all of the Jazz Vespers services, all beginning at 6:00 p.m.: December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21 and June 18. No admission is charged. Please call the church at 810-767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sing to Live Concerts

The Sing to Live Community Chorus had successful concerts in October, and will have 4 more concerts this season. Upcoming concerts will be:

- Sunday, March 7, 2010, 4 p.m., Anne and Howard Gotlieb Hall, 38 S. Peoria, Chicago
- Saturday, March 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m. Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston
- Saturday, May 15, 2010, 7:30 p.m. Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston
- Sunday, May 16, 2010, 4 p.m., Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park

Founded in January 2005, **Sing to Live** was created to provide a musical outlet that celebrates hope and survival for singers whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. In addition, we provide the gift of music to the breast cancer community by, in part, offering complimentary concert tickets and performance CDs to breast cancer survivors.

Celebrate National Mental Health Awareness Month: Learn Mental Health First Aid

Worried that someone you love is depressed, or suffering from addiction? You can learn the facts about mental illness and substance use and what you can do to help by enrolling in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA.)

Offered by Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4), MHFA is a 12-hour training targeted to the general public and taught by certified mental health professionals. Through interactive exercises and films, participants learn the symptoms and how to help people find resources to treat depression, anxiety disorders, bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, eating disorders and self-injury. Participants also learn how to help people experiencing psychiatric crises until professional help arrives.

Dates for the next trainings are: November 16-17; December 10-11 and the program will take place at C4 Clark, 4740 N. Clark, or C4 Broadway, 5710 N. Broadway from 9 am to 4 pm.

Cost per participant is \$150 for materials, lunches and snacks. Limited scholarship aid is available.

For more information, please contact Marta Gomez at 773-765-0824 or marta.gomez@c4chicago.org or visit www.c4chicago.org.

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

Judge Rules against "I Believe" License Plates in South Carolina

This article by Jeff Huett is from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

A federal district judge has ruled that a state-sponsored Christian license plate distributed in South Carolina is unconstitutional.

The plates, which feature the phrase "I Believe" with a cross over a stained glass window, were designed as a result of the I Believe Act and passed in both houses of the South Carolina legislature before an injunction halted their distribution.

In the ruling, U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie wrote that "this case presents a textbook example of the need for and continued vitality of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly warned that 'government may not promote or affiliate itself with any religious doctrine or organization.'"

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel K. Hollyn Hollman applauded the decision.

"Religion never benefits when government starts picking certain groups to receive special treatment," Hollman said. "That's precisely what was going on in South Carolina."

The BJC and others have been quick to point out that the "I Believe" plates are different from other specialty plates. These plates were the product of a special initiative of the South Carolina legislature rather than through the normal Department of Motor Vehicles approval process based on a private application by a private organization.

Judson Press Takes Home National Best Book Awards

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/2/09)—On October 20, 2009, USABookNews.com announced the winners of its National “Best Books” 2009 Awards. Among the winners and finalists in over 140 categories, three Judson Press titles were included:

- Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens by Marvin A. McMickle won in the African American Studies category;
- Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down by Kirk Byron Jones won in the Audio Book: Spiritual category; and
- Crazy Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives by Susan K. Williams Smith was a finalist in the Religion: Christian Inspiration category.

This is the third national award for Profiles in Black, which in September was recognized with the bronze medal in the Multicultural Non-Fiction – Young Adult category of the 2009 Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards. In 2008, the book was also a finalist for the ForeWord Book of the Year.

USABookNews.com is the premiere online magazine and review website for mainstream and independent publishing houses. Jeff Keen, President and CEO of USABookNews.com, said this year’s contest yielded an unprecedented number of entries, which were then narrowed down to more than 500 winners and finalists among print and audio books.

Founded in 1824, Judson Press—a publishing ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA—produces Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of persons, congregations, communities and cultures. In 2009, Judson Press celebrates its 185th year of Christian publishing. To order Judson Press titles, call 800-458-3766 or visit www.judsonpress.com.

The media can request review copies of these titles by contacting Marketing Director Kim Shimer at kim.shimer@abc-usa.org or 610-768-2458.

Essay Contest

This announcement is from the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty.

The Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee announces the 5th annual Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest, which is open to all high school students in the graduating classes of 2010 and 2011. This year’s contest will commemorate the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy’s landmark speech about the relationship between his religion and his politics and the separation of church and state.

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

To read this year’s topic and to download entry forms, visit www.BJOnline.org/contest . Entries are due March 1, 2010.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Ministers Meeting in Chicago on Friday, November 13

As you read in earlier announcements about ABCMC's Annual Meeting, Dr. Miguel De La Torre will be with us for the weekend of November 13-15. We have arranged for the Ministers Council to have a conversation with him centering on his book *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins*. This gathering will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at Central Spanish Baptist Church, 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago. As you know, the book has been recognized as a very important contribution to contemporary Christian ethics. (You don't need to have read the book to participate in the conversation, but is available in book stores and online.)

Linda Tossey, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Warrenville, sent us the following message related to the speaker at both the Ministers Council Meeting on November 13 and ABCMC's Annual Meeting on November 14:

I am thrilled that Miguel De La Torre will be sharing more about his book, *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins* at the upcoming Ministers Council. This book was required reading in my Christian Ethics class at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. All I can say is "Wow!" De La Torre speaks from the margins for the marginalized and right from the heart of the gospel. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us in ABCMC to interact with this highly respected ethicist who calls us to have "eyes to see" through a critically important lens if we are to authentically respond to the gospel imperatives of Christ.

All ABCMC's ministers are invited and encouraged to attend a Ministers Council meeting on Friday, November 13. You are welcome to bring a guest or two, but our colleague and host Shakespeare Osorio would like to have a count, so please email Larry at larry@abcmc.org or phone him at 312-497-0688 to indicate whether you will be attending and how many will be in your group.



Below is some biographical information on Dr. De La Torre.

Born in Cuba, Miguel De La Torre has lived in the United States since he was 6 months old, when his parents fled their native land shortly after Fidel Castro came into power. He became a Southern Baptist as a young adult. He earned his M.Div. at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After serving for a time as a pastor in rural Kentucky, he continued in graduate school and earned a doctorate in social ethics from Temple University in 1999.

He taught Christian Ethics for several years at Hope College in Michigan. Since 2006 he has taught social ethics at Iliff School of Theology in Colorado.

He is author of numerous articles and several books. In addition to his academic training, his writings draw on his experiences as a Hispanic immigrant in the United States. We are blessed to have him as our guest.

Come to Orlando

TOGETHER IN THE LORD

Ministry Renewal Conference

Presented by American Baptist Churches USA January 4 - 7, 2010, Orlando

To be held at the [Wyndham Resort and Conference Center](#)

Keynote Speakers:

Miroslav Volf (Yale Divinity School)

Miroslav Volf teaches at Yale Divinity School.

His well-known work in the field of forgiveness and reconciliation

has had a transforming impact on thousands of people around the world.

Watch his sermon in a recent Sunday Morning edition of "The Hour of Power" by clicking here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ymml6rYjflo>

Shane Claybourne (The Simple Way)

Watch Shane Claiborne speaking at a "Fusion Youth" gathering:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPANKUHabx4>

Inspired Preachers:

Trinette McCray

Ordained in 1981 by the late civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, the Milwaukee-based Rev. Dr. McCray has over 25 years experience in local and national ministry and holds the distinction of being the first clergywoman to be elected president of the American Baptist Churches, USA. As an instructor in

Urban Ministry at Cardinal Stritch University, McCray is the executive director of the Center for Calling and Engagement which includes programming that furthers partnerships in Milwaukee's social justice and urban transformation efforts through churches and faith based organizations.

Marvin McMickle

Marvin McMickle is the pastor of The Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland Ohio and is a "best-selling" author for Judson Press.

Click here to watch Marvin preach at an outdoor rally in Cleveland:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTxkpSmzjmM&feature=channel>

Registration Ends Soon

This article is from the Ministers Council of ABCUSA.



Join us in Orlando for “Together in the Lord”, January 4-7, 2010

A Ministry Renewal Conference presented by American Baptist Churches USA and the Ministers Council

Registration will be closing soon, so don't forget to sign-up and plan on attending this fulfilling event!

- **Worship led by Brad Berglund** will refresh your soul.
- **World Class speakers led by Shane Claiborne and Miroslav Volf** will stimulate your minds and hearts.
- **An outstanding line-up of workshop leaders** will inform and revitalize your ministry.
- **The company of colleagues** will allow for networking and growing your direct community.
- **The change of pace and the Orlando setting** will rest and renew your body following the excitement and intensity of Advent and Christmas.
- **Disney prices are at their lowest** during this season.

Register now for Together in the Lord, at

www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfo.aspx. You may qualify for a \$300.00 scholarship through National Ministries that will help offset the cost. For more information, go to www.nationalministries.org/education/financial_aid/ministerial_info.cfm and click the link for "Cultivating New Life Grant Application", then follow the instructions given there.

Check it Out

This recommendation comes from Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the ABCUSA.

FAITHFUL REFORM IN HEALTH CARE

Over 45, 000 people die each year because they lack the insurance they need for adequate health care. This is a moral issue that we, as people of faith must respond to. National Ministries (The American Baptist Home Mission Society) has signed on to Faithful Reform In Health Care in order to help facilitate American Baptist action on behalf of the 40 million people in this country who lack health care insurance. Please visit the web site at <http://www.faithfulreform.org>

HEALTH CARE NEWS

National Rally in Chicago for Health Care Reform

Next Tuesday, November 17, the Association of Health Insurance Providers (AHIP) will be meeting in Chicago. AHIP is the lobbying organization for the health insurance industry. AHIP is the organization largely responsible for the lies that are being spread about health care reform. This is the group responsible for the “astroturfing” that is going on. (Their professional lobbyists gather groups of people to appear to be grass-roots effort opposing health care reform, but it is not a grass-roots effort at all.) These are the folks who brought us the infamous “Harry and Louise” commercials that spread lies and prevented health care reform in 1993.

The American Baptist Churches supported health care reform in 1993, and we still do.

All American Baptists are invited to join in a rally on November 17 with our partners from Health Care for America Now! (a real grass-roots effort with a position virtually identical to ABC's), Illinois Main Street Alliance and other faith groups to let AHIP know that we are onto their untruths, and the American people

want health care reform that isn't designed to pad the pockets of the insurance industry.

Supporters of health care reform will be coming from throughout the Midwest. Health Care for America Now! is providing buses from a number of suburban locations to the rally site in the Loop.

CHANGE COMES TO CHICAGO ***National Action for Health Care Reform***

November 17th

**IT IS TIME FOR THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO
GET OUT OF THE WAY OF HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Join health care supporters from across the Midwest as we take on the insurance industry at their national conference in Downtown Chicago!

When:

Tuesday, November 17th
12:00 Noon

Where:

12:00 PM March Begins: Blue Cross H.Q.
(300 E. Randolph St. - Randolph & Columbus)

12:30 PM March Ends & Rally Begins: Renaissance Hotel
(1 W. Wacker Dr. - Wacker & State)

**Tell the Insurance Industry:
"Get Out of the Way of *Real* Health Care Reform!"**

Join people from across the Midwest as we take on the insurance industry at their national conference in downtown Chicago. Now is the time to tell the insurance industry to "Get out of the way!"

NOON: We will gather at Blue Cross Headquarters at 300 E. Randolph and ma...jessica@citizenaction-il.org

Campaign for Better Health Care 20th Anniversary and Annual Meeting

This article is from the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.

As the national health care reform debate continues around the country, come find out how Illinois' next governor sees it playing out in our state. What are their plans for implementation?

Wednesday, November 18

Illinois Gubernatorial Candidate Debate on Health Care

Governor Pat Quinn and **Comptroller Dan Hynes** are both confirmed to take part in the [Illinois Gubernatorial Health Care Debate](#), one of the events of this Campaign for Better Health Care's 2009 Annual Meeting!

The gubernatorial candidate debate will take place from 3-5 PM at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza (15th floor). This is the first head-to-head debate, and will likely be the only health care specific debate of the campaign, so you will definitely not want to miss it. Seats are going fast so [order your tickets](#) today.



Invited candidates include State Senator Bill Brady, State Senator Kirk Dillard, and Andy McKenna. The debate will be moderated by WTTW's Elizabeth Brackett (*Chicago Tonight*).



Dan Hynes, currently State Comptroller, has said of Illinois' health care system: "The current system is causing people of all ages to go untreated, to travel great distances just to receive basic care, and in some cases, to go deep into debt to pay for expensive services out of pocket...Some of the most vulnerable Illinoisans are being denied service because of a broke health care system."

Pat Quinn, currently Governor of Illinois, says of the state of health care in Illinois, "Access to affordable and adequate health care is essential to the economic well being of every family."



In 2001, Governor Quinn walked across Illinois, from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan, to raise awareness of the need to provide decent health care for everyone.

Ask Your Question of the Candidates



Ask Governor Quinn, Comptroller Hynes, or one of the other invited gubernatorial candidates your health care question now and it might be answered at the debate!

This is likely to be the only health care focused debate among the 2010 gubernatorial candidates so don't miss it!

Submit your questions on health care at <http://www.cbhc20.org/am2009/debate-questions>

Tickets are available online at <http://www.cbhc20.org/am2009/order-tickets> for all three events of the 2009 Annual Meeting!



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- 3-5 PM: IL Gubernatorial Candidate Health Care Debate (Holiday Inn Mart Plaza) \$25
- 6-7:30 PM: IL Health Care Roundtable Reception with special guest Wendell Potter (Carnivale Restaurant) \$50

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 9 AM - noon: IL Health Care Forum (Holiday Inn Mart Plaza) \$50

Two combined ticket packages are available as well:

- Debate + Forum: \$65
- Debate + Reception + Forum: \$100

Wendell Potter to Be in Chicago November 18

This announcement is from the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.



CBHC is delighted to announce that Wendell Potter is joining us as a special guest at our 2009 Annual Meeting Reception!

In a year that has brought many health care heroes into the spotlight, none has so openly detailed the abusive practices of the insurance industry towards consumers as [Wendell Potter](#).

Mr. Potter now serves as the Senior Fellow on Health Care for the Center for Media and Democracy. In announcing his testimony to the Senate Finance Committee, they [said](#) he "spent more than 20 years as a public relations executive for two large health insurers - CIGNA and Humana - but left the industry after witnessing practices he felt harmed American health care consumers. To him, there was a heartbreaking discrepancy between Americans struggling to find affordable, comprehensive coverage and wealthy insurance executives who based their premium charges - and coverage decisions - on profits rather than people's health care needs. He decided to come forward in the hopes of stopping the health insurance industry from once again derailing meaningful reform."

Following his testimony in the Senate earlier this year, [Time magazine said](#): "Wendell Potter may be the ideal whistle-blower. The former head of corporate communications for health insurance giant CIGNA, Potter turned against his old colleagues in June to testify before a congressional committee about what he viewed as the health insurance industry's "duplicitous" behavior in the current health reform debate. In his testimony, Potter outlined specific techniques insurers employ to "dump the sick" and protect stock price at all costs."

On Wednesday, November 18, please join CBHC in welcoming Wendell Potter to this intimate gathering, in his only one on one Illinois appearance. The reception will be held at [Carnivale](#) (702 W Fulton St., Chicago) from 6-7:30, and [tickets are available](#) online for \$50.

The House Passed a Bill, But...

This information is from Health Care for America Now!

As you know from all the news media, the U. S. House of Representatives passed a health care reform bill this past Saturday. Now the Senate must pass a bill, and then the two bodies must come to terms and pass legislation to reform our health care system. Since many articles in the media are vague about the contents of the House bill, we are publishing some clarifications.

The biggest problem we have with the bill that was passed is that too many of the changes won't take effect until 2013. But in the House Bill, we have a strong, national public option that will open up to the public over the course of three years (initially only available to those not insured by employer), and it has good affordability provisions (subsidies up to \$88,000 for a family of four) and progressive financing (funded by a tax on those making above \$500,000 as an individual, \$1 million for a couple). A number of the changes will, however, take place immediately.

TOP 14 PROVISIONS THAT TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

- 1. BEGINS TO CLOSE THE MEDICARE PART D DONUT HOLE** —Reduces the donut hole by \$500 and institutes a 50% discount on brand-name drugs, effective January 1, 2010.
- 2. IMMEDIATE HELP FOR THE UNINSURED UNTIL EXCHANGE IS AVAILABLE (INTERIM HIGH-RISK POOL)** —Creates a temporary insurance program until the Exchange is available for individuals who have been uninsured for several months or have been denied a policy because of pre-existing conditions.
- 3. BANS LIFETIME LIMITS ON COVERAGE**—Prohibits health insurance companies from placing lifetime caps on coverage.
- 4. ENDS RESCISSIONS**—Prohibits insurers from nullifying or rescinding a patient's policy when they file a claim for benefits, except in the case of fraud.
- 5. EXTENDS COVERAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO 27TH BIRTHDAY THROUGH PARENTS' INSURANCE**—Requires health plans to allow young people through age 26 to remain on their parents' insurance policy, at the parents' choice.
- 6. ELIMINATES COST-SHARING FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICES IN MEDICARE**—Eliminates co-payments for preventive services and exempts preventive services from deductibles under the Medicare program.
- 7. IMPROVES HELP FOR LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES**—Improves the low-income protection programs in Medicare to assure more individuals are able to access this vital help.
- 8. PROVIDES NEW CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE**—Prohibits Medicare Advantage plans from charging enrollees higher cost-sharing for services in their private plan than what is charged in traditional Medicare.
- 9. IMMEDIATE SUNSHINE ON PRICE GOUGING**—Discourages excessive price increases by insurance companies through review and disclosure of insurance rate increases.
- 10. CONTINUITY FOR DISPLACED WORKERS**—Allows Americans to keep their COBRA coverage until the Exchange is in place and they can access affordable coverage.

11. CREATES NEW, VOLUNTARY, PUBLIC LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM—Creates a long-term care insurance program to be financed by voluntary payroll deductions to provide benefits to adults who become functionally disabled.

12. HELP FOR EARLY RETIREES—Creates a \$10 billion fund to finance a temporary reinsurance program to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees age 55-64.

13. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS—Increases funding for Community Health Centers to allow for a doubling of the number of patients seen by the centers over the next 5 years.

14. INCREASING NUMBER OF PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS —Provides new investment in training programs to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals.

PEACE NEWS

Community Forum on the War in Afghanistan

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project (NWSPEP) invites us all to a community forum on the war in Afghanistan. This gathering will take place at the Arlington Heights library, 500 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights on Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m.. This event is free and open to the public. The program will feature the documentary film *Rethink Afghanistan*.

The film is a ground-breaking, full-length documentary focusing on the key issues surrounding the war. The program will raise critical questions regarding Afghanistan—concerns that Congress must address in oversight hearings, which inform the public and challenge policy makers.

Discussion will follow the viewing of the film. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Palestinians and Israelis

This information is from the American Friends Service Committee.

On Friday, November 13 American Friends Service Committee will host a program, "Acknowledging the Past, Building a Landscape for Future Reconciliation: Palestinians and Israelis on 1948 and the Right of Return."

This event explores the raw, emotional encounters with the refugee right of return and investigates its practical implementation. The program will highlight reconciliation efforts based on understanding the past and building future peaceful coexistence.

The program will be on Friday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at DePaul University, Schmitt Academic Center, Rm. 254, 2320 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. It will feature three noteworthy speakers.

EITAN BRONSTEIN is a Jewish Israeli educator, activist, and Director of the Israeli organization, Zochrot. Founded in 2002, Zochrot seeks to educate Jewish Israelis about al-Nakba, the Arabic word for "catastrophe" which refers to the 1948 dispossession of Palestinians.

RULA AWWAD-RAFFERTY is a Palestinian American Professor of Landscape Architecture and Bioregional Planning and Community Design at the University of Idaho. Born to a Palestinian refugee mother from Qula, she was able to go back to the place of her birth only as a U.S. citizen in 2008, after 42 years of absence.

ALI ABUNIMAH is author of "One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse" and has contributed to numerous other volumes and written hundreds of articles on the question of Palestine. He is co-founder of The Electronic Intifada, an award-winning online publication about Palestine and

the Palestine-Israeli conflict.

Free and open to the public.

For more info, contact Miryam at American Friends Service Committee:
312-427-2533 x 18 or mrashid@afsc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray and take action for real reform of the health care system in the United States.

Please pray for current and future ABCMC staff in this time of transition.

Please pray for all persons facing job loss and job searches in the current economy.

Please join in prayers of thanksgiving and blessing for Inés Young, who translated annual reports into Spanish for the Annual Meeting booklet.

CALENDAR

November 13—Ministers Council meeting with Miguel De La Torre, Central Spanish Baptist Church, 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago 1-3 p.m.

November 13—AFSC program on peace in Palestine, DePaul University, Schmitt Academic Center, Rm. 254, 2320 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m.

November 14—ABCMC 174th Annual Meeting, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. See above article for more information.

November 18-20—Campaign for Better Health Care's 20th anniversary celebration and annual meeting, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago.

November 18—Illinois gubernatorial candidate debate, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, 3-5 p.m..

November 18—Campaign for Better Health Care's Health Care Round Table Reception, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, 6-7:30 p.m.

November 19—Illinois Health Care Forum, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, 9 a.m.-noon.

December 12—ABCMC's 3rd annual Advent and Christmas Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 3 p.m.

December 18—Community Forum hosted by Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, 7 p.m. The program will feature the documentary film *Rethink Afghanistan*.

January 4-7—Together in the Lord ministry renewal conference, Orlando, Florida. Please go to <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfopage.aspx> for online registration and more information.

March 1, 2010—Deadline for entries for BJC’s essay contest.

March 7, 2010—Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Anne and Howard Gottlieb Hall, 38 S. Prairie, Chicago, 4 p.m.

March 13, 2010—Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Chicago Music Institute, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m..

May 15, 2010—Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Chicago Music Institute, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

May 16, 2010—Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, 4 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 send them to office@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

THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT THE COMMON GOOD

November, 2009 by Larry Greenfield

“Delivering”

You have to wonder what would have happened if Eli the priest hadn’t delivered.

He had plenty of reasons to pay no attention to the woman praying at the edge of the Temple. The old priest probably had a lot more important things on his “to do” list than give this woman any of his time. And besides, it appeared that the woman had been imbibing a little too much wine – that’s what old Eli assumed because the woman was moving her lips but he couldn’t hear any sounds, any voice, any words.

So when he approached the woman, it certainly wasn’t because he wanted to commend her for her devotion in coming to the Temple, or to aid her in her prayerful supplications. It was just the opposite: he approached her to condemn Hannah, to chastise her, to shame her into changing her ways. (“How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you.” I Samuel 1: 14)

But Hannah quickly explained that she wasn’t drunk at all, that she had come to the Temple out of her “great anxiety and vexation” for not being able to have a child by her husband, Elkanah – unlike Elkanah’s other wife (Peninnah) with whom he had many children.

Hannah repeated to Priest Eli the prayer that had been in her heart and on her lips but couldn't be voiced: "O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thy maidservant, and remember me, and not forget thy maidservant, but wilt give thy maidservant a child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." (That bit about the razor had to do with the child being dedicated to an especially disciplined, even ascetic, religious life.

The old priest took her at her word and told Hannah: "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have made to him."

Eli, that is, delivered. So did the God who heard the prayers of Hannah and Eli. And so, in time, did Hannah.

As the biblical text reports: "And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her; and in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'"

That son, it turns out, became the one who anointed David the king of Israel.

So you really do have to wonder what would have happened if Eli the priest hadn't delivered.

* * * * *

The House of Representatives delivered over the weekend. It passed, by the narrowest of margins, a health care insurance program that would eventually cover about 96% of Americans, irrespective of their employment status or earning conditions, disallow the denial of coverage based on pre-existing health conditions, and provide a public health insurance option to reduce costs through competition and to make coverage available to those who would be otherwise excluded. It wasn't as much as many of us wanted, especially compared with the health coverage provided by other nations, yet it was an important and large step.

But you have to wonder what would have happened if the House hadn't delivered.

Would we have decades more of the most prosperous (even in recessionary times) and most medically talented nation in the history of the world delivering health care in such a way that at least 45 million people would be without health insurance and over 60 million underinsured?

Or might the U.S. Congress have had to fall back to the alternative Republican health care insurance plan? That plan certainly would be less costly (\$61 billion over a decade, compared to more than a trillion dollars for the one that passed this weekend), but would increase coverage by only a couple of million over those ten years. Actually, when all the calculations are made, the Republican bill would leave us, as a country, essentially where we are today – with projections that 52 million people who would not be covered by the single payer Medicare system still remaining uncovered – around 17 percent of that non-Medicare population. And the Republican plan allows insurance companies to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions, allows no tax credits or subsidies for purchase of insurance, and allows the insurance companies to drop their patrons because of the patrons' illnesses.

That's a lot like Eli the priest choosing to walk away from the vexed and anxious Hannah.

Or maybe the Congress could follow the lead of Senator Joseph Lieberman (Independent of Connecticut), who acknowledged back in August (on CNN's program "State of the Union") that "we morally, every one of us, would like to cover every American with health insurance," but just can't afford to be moral at a time when the economy is in trouble and the cost is just over a trillion dollars. (This is the same Senator Lieberman who proposed last February raising taxes by billions of dollars to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.)

Those scenarios are, at least for the moment, only hypothetical about what *could have happened* over the weekend. But like Eli, the House of Representatives delivered.

Still, you do have to wonder about a bi-partisan group of Representatives – 215 of them – who, to use Senator Lieberman's frame of reference, chose to set aside morality in their political priesthood for other priorities. Or, to use President Obama's, terms: chose not to answer the call of history.

Another set of political priests – members of the Senate – will, of course, have their chance to take or forsake a moral stand and to answer or ignore the call of history in the coming weeks. So we will again face the question of whether enough of them will decide to deliver.

But it doesn't end there.

In the Protestant Christian traditions there is a central teaching that the priesthood isn't and can't

be confined to some special class or rank or order of the faith. Instead there is the understanding that every believer is a priest – a mediator between God and humanity as a follower of Jesus the Christ. It's the idea that everyone serves as an Eli to the Hannahs of this world.

If we find ourselves in this Protestant Christian body of believers, therefore, we've got priestly work to do in the coming weeks. That priestly work certainly includes lifting up our prayers to a loving and merciful God for all the anxious and vexed Hannahs who don't have health insurance in our country or don't have enough of it.

But our prayers will be even more effective if we are mediators – priests – between those Hannahs and the Senators who will be deciding the place of morality in their political vocations and how they will be recorded in the call of history.

It isn't just a question of whether the Senate, like the House of Representatives, will deliver. It's the question also that is being put to us who, by our faith, claim to stand with Eli, as well as our High Priest.