Redeeming Money Symposium
Call for Papers

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Bretton Woods Conference, where leaders from all over the world determined monetary and trade policies that would last for generations. As the Second World War drew to a close, Europe was in tatters and the U.K. was losing both its grip on Empire and its place as a world superpower. Japan was facing imminent defeat, the Soviet Union was preparing for the Cold War and China was essentially out of the picture. With its industrial base thoroughly intact and as the world's largest creditor nation, possessing three-quarters of its monetary gold, the United States was in a unique economic position to bring economic stability back to the global economy while advancing its own economic interests. By making the U.S. Dollar convertible to gold at a fixed rate of $35 per ounce, the Dollar became the world's reserve currency, and in many ways, the hegemony of the U.S. Dollar remains to this day – but times have changed.

Today, the geopolitical landscape is quite different. The Eurozone is the world's largest single trading block and the prospect of Brexit notwithstanding, the U.K. is once again, a formidable player on the world stage. Despite a resurgent Russia, the Soviet Union is no more, Japan has a large, albeit stagnant economy and China is soon to become the world's largest economy. The United States, which abandoned the gold standard in 1971, is now the world's largest debtor nation and all of its gold reserves would only pay the interest on its $22 Trillion (and growing) national debt for roughly six months. Not only is the U.S. government in debt, its households are $13.54 Trillion in debt[1], surpassing levels seen just prior to the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. While international settlements are now valued against a basket of five currencies, (including the Chinese RMB which was added to the IMF's Special Drawing Rights formulation in 2015), the health of the U.S. economy and the stability of the U.S. Dollar are still essential to the overall health of the global economy. As new economic threats emerge[2], and as non-fiat (crypto) currencies complicate the monetary landscape, the nature of money as we know it, is in question, and it is reasonable to ask:

1.) What is the future of money?
2.) Is the current position of the U.S. Dollar sustainable?
3.) Is it desirable?
4.) Is it moral?
5.) What are the alternatives?

We are looking for 15 papers (addressing these and related topics) from leading Christian economists to be discussed at a Symposium entitled, "Redeeming Money: Bretton Woods at 75", to be held on October 30th - Nov. 1st 2019 in Bretton Woods, NH at the very hotel where delegates met in 1944 (The Mount Washington Hotel).

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[1]

https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/interactives/householdcredit/data/pdf/HHDC_2018Q4.pdf

[2] https://www.bis.org/speeches/sp180814.htm

The event will be hosted by Dr. Kenneth J. Barnes, Mockler-Phillips Professor of Workplace Theology and Business Ethics and Director of the Mockler Center at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and author of "Redeeming Capitalism" (Eerdmans, 2018); and convened by the Hon. Mr. Edmund C. Moy, 38th Director of the U.S. Mint (2006-2011).

In addition to a $500 travel stipend, hotel rooms and meals for delegates (contributors) and their accompanying spouses will be provided for by a generous grant from a supporter of the Mockler Center.

It is our intention to publish a compendium of the papers submitted for the Symposium. The timeline for submission / participation in the Symposium is as follows:

May 1, 2019 – Submission of working titles and abstracts (please send them for consideration to: kbarnes@gcts.edu)

June 1, 2019 – Acceptance letters sent to selected contributors

October 1, 2019 – First drafts submitted and disseminated to other delegates (contributors)

October 30 – November 1, 2019 – Presentations to delegates (contributors) for discussion

March 1, 2020 – Final drafts submitted for publication

October 1, 2020 – Publication of the compendium