



# BAPTIST MEMORIAL

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Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

April 2009

Easter, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ Jesus



Pontius Pilate washes hands of Jesus



Roman soldier gives Jesus cross to carry



Jesus struggles under the weight of cross



Jesus Christ is nailed to the cross



Jesus Christ crucified with criminals



Jesus Christ's dead body removed from cross



Angel stands guard over Jesus' tomb



Empty tomb of Jesus Christ



Risen Jesus Christ



Now empty cross of Jesus Christ (squidoo)

GBSC THEME

**"To Convince the Unconvinced to be Convinced...through Education, Missions and Fellowship," Matthew 28:19-20**

## Good News from the Graveyard

By William D. Watley  
*Sermons from the black pulpit*

Reverend Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr.  
President GBSC  
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Matthew 28:-7

If Easter is about anything, it is about the Good News that comes out of a graveyard. Easter, one of the biggest and one of the most significant (if not the biggest and the most significant) observances of the Christian faith comes out of a borrowed tomb, of all places. Easter, with all of the joy and all of the hope that it brings, was set in a graveyard. It did not occur at the banks of the Jordan River with the heavens opening up and the Spirit of God descending like a dove and the voice of God thundering forth, but in, of all places, a lonely graveyard. It did not take place on the Mount of Transfiguration or in the busy streets of Jerusalem amidst the cheering crowds of Palm Sunday but in a lonely graveyard, If Easter is about anything, it is the announcement and celebration of the Good News that love conquers hate, right conquers wrong, and nonviolence defeats violence. It is the message that good, though seemingly always on the run and on the ropes, can still conquer evil, and that holiness, without compromising itself or stooping to use the methods of the opponent, can still defeat sin. If the fact that all of this Good News comes out of a

graveyard seems strange, let me remind you that Christianity is a strange faith.

To begin with, its premise is the strange assertion that a God whose greatness and magnitude is beyond comprehension, is concerned about, cares for, and loves puny, insignificant human beings so much that to save us this God became one with us and one of us. And if that sounds strange, listen to this! Christianity would have you believe not only that God became a man but also that God became a poor man—he was born in a stable to poor parents and an oppressed people in one of the smallest countries of the world. When he was born, angels sang not to the high priest and the religious leaders but to lowly shepherds. And if that sounds strange, listen to this! Christianity would have you believe that this God, being born a man, associated with fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes, and all kinds of what we would call "lower class, common people," and "sinners."

And if that sounds strange, listen to this! Christianity would have you believe that when Jesus, the God-man, rode into Jerusalem as a king, he rode not in a chariot but on a donkey and that he was greeted not with trumpets but with palms. His army consisted, not of trained soldiers, but of ordinary poor men and women, girls and boys. Whoever heard of a king riding a donkey, without armed soldiers, without royal robes, without blasting trumpets?

And if that sounds strange, listen to



Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr.

this! Christianity would have you believe that even though he could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set him free, Jesus allowed himself to be beaten and bruised and judged in the kangaroo courts of ancient Palestine and then to be crucified between two thieves, like one of the worst of criminals.

And if that sounds strange, listen to this! This same Jesus, who opened blinded eyes and cut loose stammering tongues, who healed the sick and raised the dead, and who calmed raging seas claimed that it would be Calvary, with all of its pain and shame, that would glorify and exalt him. It was this same Jesus who said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." So then, when one considers how strange the Christian faith is anyway, it's not strange after all that the Good News it has for all of humankind comes from a graveyard.

Just what is this Good News that comes out of a graveyard? Well, the first thing that the angel at the tomb told the

(Graveyard, continued on page 3)

## GBSC OFFICERS

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First Vice President

Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch  
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President



Dr. Ricky Banks  
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Dr. Haywood T. Gray  
Executive Secretary-  
Treasurer

### Save the Dates

May 5-6, 2009

2009 Mid Year Session

Dr. J C Harris

First Baptist Church, Statesville, NC

October 26-28, 2009

GBSC Annual Session

Greenville, Convention Center

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church  
Greenville, NC

January 8, 2010

2010 Mik Banquet

Raleigh Convention Ctr

Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.

Oak City Baptist, Raleigh, NC

January 9, 2010

WBH & FMC, Raleigh, NC

May 4-5, 2010

Mid-Year Session

New Bern Convention Ctr

Dr. James L. Cooper

New Bern, NC

October 25-27, 2010

GBSC Annual Session

St Paul Baptist Church

Charlotte, NC

## From the desk of the First Vice President

Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.  
First Vice-President  
AveryRevKin@aol.com  
(704) 637-0954



Dr. Nilous  
Avery, II

To the beloved saints of the General Baptist family and all who love the Lord, the work, witness, ministry, and mission of the Lord:

"Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Timothy 1:2b, NKJV).

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus had a knack for glorifying common things and common people. He defended the defenseless, healed the afflicted, received outcasts, ate with sinners, delivered the downtrodden, elevated the oppressed, gave worth to women, loved the lepers --- you name it, Jesus did it. He shook up the foundation of political correctness and religious self-piety.

Because of Jesus, many insignificant things took on new significance: light, salt, sparrows, lilies, bread and wine, a crown of thorns, an old rugged cross, and a borrowed tomb. Nothing was too small and nobody was too insignificant to merit the attention of our Lord. This truth is manifested as spring begins to break forth in its divinely ordained splendor. New life appears in all of its colorful glory. The handiwork of God once again provides a marvelous array of greenery, pageantry, and imagery.

In all of this, the seemingly insignificant common dandelion will make its

presence felt. The dandelion is interesting. It will grow where nothing else will. It is not prejudice, picky, nor persnickety about where it will grow. It will grow in the yard of the rich or the poor. The dandelion is not concerned about the race, religion, culture, creed, or political preference of the yard's owner. It will grow wherever it can take root.

The amazing thing about the dandelion is its ability to persevere --- to rise above its surroundings. No matter how high the grass grows or how dry the ground becomes, it perseveres. The dandelion, much to the dismay of many gardeners, will rise above it all!

Some people are like that. They rise above it all. In the midst of discouragement and troubles, they RISE!

- Distress and criticism? They RISE!
- Limited resources and a succession of failures? They RISE!
- Red seas in front, pharaohs in the back, mountains on the side? They RISE!
- Hungry lions, flaming furnaces, high walls, ungrateful murmurers? They RISE!

They rise above it all because, like the dandelion, they understand that nothing can keep them down when they reach up for God's sunshine. They refuse to be smothered and bound by circumstances. The dandelion not only adds color to the drab places of earth. It eventually scatters seeds, and the seeds eventually bear fruit.

Our convention is similar to the dandelion. It has been able to RISE ABOVE IT ALL. It's fruitful ministry through varied objectives, including State Missions, has often been overlooked and

unappreciated. But through it all, the fruit of our convention's labor has provided color in drab places for many who are outcast and undernourished.

Through it all, our convention continues to scatter seeds that bear fruit for ministry through Christian Education, Missions, and Benevolence. Through it all, our convention scatters seeds that bear fruit for ministry, which Convinces the Unconvinced to be Convinced. Your prayers and support through the years have made this possible. Like the dandelion, our convention continues to RISE ABOVE IT ALL!

Please continue to be good stewards of this ministry. Rise above the tendency to assume that all is well. Refuse to be smothered by daily routines and "busyness" that may not always glorify God & edify others. Abhor the rumors that seek to pronounce the death sentence on a heritage and legacy that has stood the test of time.

Put off the fabric of being a spectator and put on the garment of being a participant. Experience and reflect the power of Jesus' resurrection even when the death sentence has been pronounced. Nothing and nobody will keep us down because we serve God who is able, willing, and available to lift us up. And if God be for us ... !

Encourage your church, ministry, association, and community to support our convention, the objectives, and particularly State Missions. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from you soon. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Philippians 4:23, NKJV).



Rev. Ricky  
Banks

Rev. Ricky Banks  
Third Vice-President  
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Football and basketball coaches and players claim that most ball games are won or lost in the fourth quarter. Indeed, many games are decided in the last few minutes-or even seconds. Conditioning, ability, alertness, endurance, strategy, and game plan all coalesce in the waning moments of an athletic encounter to let the real winner be known. We have come to this kind of time.

For many people, life is lost in the fourth quarter of play. For some people, life loses meaning even earlier. We know that the grim specter of death stalks us

## The Gospel of Resurrection

all. With all our modern medical and surgical techniques, we still have not stopped people from dying. The sting of death and the seemingly overwhelming victory of the grave could make all of us feel that we are destined to lose in the end.

The final, authentic word of the Bible is not the pang of death, however, but the good news of resurrection. Rather than despairingly reporting that life is a long day's journey into night, the Bible declares that through Jesus Christ, life is a long night's journey into day! The message of the Bible ends on a glorious note of affirmation-Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! If you by faith know this truth deep in your own heart and life, whenever the waning moments of the fourth quarter come for you, you will be a winner.

### "NEWS FROM SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL"

SHAW UNIVERSITY NATIONAL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
RALEIGH-WAKE CHAPTER  
FIRST ANNUAL WALKATHON 2009

The Raleigh-Wake Chapter will host its first annual walkathon on Saturday, April 11, 2009 at Chavis Park and Recreation Center 505 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Times: *Session 1* 7:45- 10:00am;  
*Session 2* 10:15am-12:30pm (each session includes a 15 minute warm-up).  
**Registration:** \$10.00-adults; \$5.00-children and college students with ID  
**For information contact:** Lynn Bitting (919-231-3586) or visit the website: RaleighWakeAlumni.org

*(Graveyard, continued from page 1)*

women was "Fear not." We have become very fearful these days. We lock ourselves in our homes behind four and five locks, wrought-iron gates, and barred windows. Not only are we prisoners in our homes but the fear of the violence of the streets holds our minds captive and keeps our spirits bound when we venture out. We are afraid of each other. We fear our spouses, our children, our parents, and other relatives. We are threatened by our employers, skeptical of our associates and colleagues, and afraid to trust our friends. We have forgotten that God's Word tells us to "Fear not!" God lives and God still watches over his own. If God is for us, who then can prevail against us? Therefore we need fear no power, force, or opposition; no sickness, circumstance or condition; no person (black or white, male or female); no angel or demon or principality; no height and no depth; nothing present and nothing to come. Fear not. We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who loves us. Fear not. "For he whom the Son sets free is free indeed." Fear not. In every condition—in sickness, in health; In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth; At home and abroad; on the land, on the sea, "As thy days may demand, shall thy

strength ever be."

The second statement the angel made to the women was "He is not here; for he is risen." And that's certainly good news. Our Lord was lied about, but lies couldn't hold him down. He is risen! Our Lord was hated, but hate couldn't hold him down. He is risen! His opponents were jealous of him, but jealousy couldn't hold him down. He is risen! Jesus was persecuted, but persecution couldn't hold him down. He is risen! He was slandered, but slander couldn't hold him down. He is risen! In the end, he was killed, but not even death, the grave, and all the powers of hell and the forces of darkness could hold him down. He is risen! Because he lives, truth lives, hope endures, love triumphs, and virtue is justified. Because he lives, integrity is legitimated, honesty has overcome, righteousness is proven, and sanctification is empowered. Because he lives, holiness is real, salvation has come, grace is all-sufficient, and mercy is invincible. Most of all, because he lives, we live also. "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Then, third, the angel told the women, "Tell his disciples that he is risen and that he goeth before you into Galilee." That's why we can walk by faith rather than by sight. We know not

only that our Lord walks with us but that he also goes before us. I don't know about you, but I am a witness that if you trust his promises, the Lord will go before you to straighten out situations before you get to them. He will go before you into a church meeting, and by the time you get there, he will have smoothed the ruffled waters. I know that it gets rough sometimes, but that same Jesus who sends you into the storm is also able to go before and smooth the rough, make straight the crooked, exalt the valleys, and level off the mountains.

You say that nothing of significance ever happened in a graveyard? I say unto you that humankind's greatest discovery occurred not when the atom was split or when we learned to harness and channel the power of electricity. Neither did it take place in a school or laboratory. Our greatest discovery occurred when a few women went to a graveyard looking to anoint the dead body of a good man and discovered a living Lord with a glorified body and with the keys to hell and death and life and eternity in his hands. The greatest battle that humankind ever fought was not at Waterloo, Gettysburg, or Hiroshima. Our greatest battle was fought in a lonely graveyard when Jesus Christ took on death, hell, and the demonic.

The Good News that I have come to

announce to you is that Jesus won! He is the victor now, the winner henceforth, and the champion forevermore. He is King of kings, and he is Lord of lords. The greatest pronouncement that was ever made to humankind did not originate at the United Nations or in the Oval Office at the White House. It came, rather, from a graveyard when the angel of the Lord spoke to several women and said, "Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him."

So then it was not only in the deed of the cross but also in all that came out of a graveyard that first Easter morning that shows once again that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and the things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are." And so from a lonely graveyard comes a message that still gladdens the hearts of people everywhere who hear it—He lives! He lives! Glory, hallelujah! He lives! ■

# Your Promised Land, Inc.

## Asks....

# Got Debt?



Our team of Attorneys and Church Consultants can help you increase your churches' income and tithes and offerings by helping your members get out of debt-Now! (Luke 16:1-8)

YPL has a team of Attorneys who "negotiate unsecured debt". Our Attorneys can...

- Reduce your unsecured debts up to 50 %
- Reduce your interest rate to 0%
- Reduce your payment up to 30-40%
- Reduce your time in debt from years to 24-36 months

**Here are real results from a Debt Negotiator case:**



Mr. William B. Thompson  
Financial Strategist

	Before Debt Negotiator	After Debt Negotiator	Savings
Unsecured Debt	\$31,725	\$19,035	\$12,690
Monthly payment	\$810/mo	\$500/mo	\$310
Avg. Interest Rate	22%	0%	Potentially Thousands
Time in debt	108 month	36 months	72 months or \$58,000

**We saved this family over \$58,320; this includes principle & interest!!!**

www.Solutions4U.TV • 618-355-1755 option 2 (recording) • email-Solutions4U@Rocketmail.com • 336-272-7373 office)

## Walking and Talking With the Risen Savior Lord Jesus Christ

Dr. Priscilla Brodie  
WBH & FMC Interim  
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Dr. Bronnie  
**Daniels**

We have come to witness the fourth month, April, of the New Year. Usually Easter comes in this month when the Resurrection of Jesus Christ receives more emphasis. Luke 24:13-35 records the experience of two persons, walking with Jesus Christ after His resurrection. How the meaning of the times in which they find themselves changes as they walk and talk with the Risen Lord. He removes the "scales" from their eyes so that they begin to understand that such a death was needed. He explains the scriptures to them. He lifts them to a higher dimension in the walk of life. For at their invitation He carries with them, takes bread and blesses it and breaks, and gives to them. Now

Church members sign covenants requiring them to participate in small groups. There are a couple of other phenomena that occur in the small groups. The first is bonding, so that people feel "plugged-in" to these generally large or mega-churches. "Small groups are the most effective way of closing the back door of your church"

(THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN™ Church by RICK WARREN. Copyright © 1995 by Rick Warren. -Rick Warren)

they know Him and He has quickened a fire within their hearts, and with this zeal they go forth to find the others to tell them. "The Lord is Risen indeed..." and the things He has done.

Walking, talking, tarrying, eating, fellowshiping with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ will open our eyes even more to Who He is as portrayed in the scriptures and keep a fire within our hearts to live in and for Him and to tell others about him. For He is alive and sustains us, regardless of the times in which we live.

### He Lives

I serve a risen Savior, He's in world today;  
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need him He's always near.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,  
And tho my heart grows weary I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading thru all the stormy blast,  
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,  
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Chorus  
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and He talks with me  
Along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.

—Alfred H. Ackley

**Yes, Our Lord Jesus Christ Is Risen and Lives! Have A Blessed Easter!**

### Reminders

1. Ministers Wives/Widows' Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, 2009. The retreat will be held at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, located on Moore Street. Please attend and share in the experience. Please secure a registration from the office now and return by April 24, 2009. The theme is "Stand On God's Promises...for Victorious Living."
2. Self Denial Envelopes. Please write to the Woman's Convention, P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602 in order to receive these, or fax your request to 919-833-7599.

3. Housing Reservation Forms for our 125 Annual Session are now available. You may visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) to make reservations online. The group code for the Marriott is WBHQBHA, which you will need to make reservations. You may also, call 1-800-320-0924

You may visit [www.embassysuite.com](http://www.embassysuite.com) to make reservations online. The group code for Embassy Suite is WBC, which you will need to make reservations. You may also call 1-800-696-6107. (See announcement elsewhere.)

4. Scholarships are given by the Woman's Convention to qualified youth and young adults. Contact the Office for an application. Returned applications are due no later than May 31, 2009.

5. Leadership Training Conference and Youth Bible Camp information will be given later.

6. Quotas 2008-2009 have been sent out to church missionary circle presidents or a contact person. If your church has not received a suggested quota, please write the Woman's Convention at P.O.

Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602. Or contact the Convention Office immediately at (919) 833-4823. Please give us the name of contact person, mailing address and telephone number, and the name and location of church. Missionary Unions, Auxiliaries and District Conferences will receive quotas this year also. Please give as you are led and enabled by the Holy Spirit!

7. Budget for 2008-2009 is \$802,200.00 which will be distributed among the objectives. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention or Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina and sent to P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602. Please be reminded that of the funds you send for objectives 2/3 should be sent for State Missions. State Missions funds provide all funds for the cost of all ministries and operations for home missions done with and for you in the conventional state-wide ministry.

## Announcement!!!!

The WBH&FMC United Southern Assembly

(All Persons, named in purpose, from Districts V & VI)

**"Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand."**

II Corinthians 1:24

### Introductory Statement:

For many a year the Woman's Convention has envisioned having getting acquainted/visionary meetings in different regions across the state. Thus under the leadership of President Daniels, the Woman's Convention seeks to implement this initiative.

### Purpose(s):

To inform pastors, church circles, missionary county unions, district conferences, auxiliaries, interested persons of the Mission of Jesus Christ through the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC, in assisting witnessing and missions-in action across the state, country, and globe

To allow interaction or dialogue between WBH&FMC officials/representatives and the above mentioned constituency in four (4) different settings across the state (one setting per quarter) To renew and/or cultivate new partners of missions for the Cause of Jesus Christ through/with the Woman's Convention

**Attendees: All above named persons in Districts V & VI**

**Date:** May 23, 2009  
**Time:** 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.  
**Place:** TBA

District Chairpersons:	District	Group	Chairperson
	5	1	Mrs. Mattie Garmon
	5	2	Mrs. C. Trumilla McDowell
	6	1	Ms. Joyce A. Hardison
	6	2	Mrs. Arvella Marlo

**Notification to "Inactive" Church Members**

For many, many years, (CHURCH NAME) neglected to keep its membership rolls up-to-date. Since there were too many households to visit personally, the (CHURCH NAME) sent letters to those who did not fulfill the requirement of an active member. The (CHURCH NAME) wanted to encourage inactive members to return to worship and congregational life, so the tone of the letters were as welcoming and sensitive as possible. The (CHURCH NAME) also wanted, however, to be straightforward and clear about the issue of membership.

The following process was followed at (CHURCH NAME) and is shared with others in the hope that it will assist other congregations who are dealing with the "sticky" issue of inactive members and removal from membership rolls.

A computer printout, listing all persons who had not communed or made a contribution of record for at least one year.

- A small group of persons should be chosen who knew the membership well to carefully review the list and delete the names from the inactive list of those who had unusual circumstances (college students, shut-ins, etc.).
- Church staff reviewed the remaining names. If in doubt, persons were retained.

**• Inactive Letter #1 •  
(Sent to local inactive persons)**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,



We miss you! Our records indicate that you have not shared in worship with us for at least a year. Therefore, the (CHURCH NAME) has placed your name on the roll of inactive membership on (date). This action does not remove you from our prayers and concern. Any time you call we will seek to minister to you faithfully as the church has done in the past. Inactive members are not eligible to vote in church meetings or to hold church office, but we encourage you not to lose touch with the fellowship.

Please check the area most appropriate for your situation and return this page to the church office using the enclosed envelope.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you wish to remain a member of (CHURCH NAME) welcome back! We would like an opportunity to visit with you and find ways to encourage your active membership in this congregation. Please give us some possible times that would be good for us to visit with you:

\_\_\_\_\_ If you have found another church home, please know you will be missed. However, we are happy to know you are being nurtured by another church family.

We believe things will change for you and you will be interested in becoming active in your church again. When that happens, you may request to be returned

to the active roll, and upon reaffirmation of the membership and renewed participation in the worship activities of this local church, this may be done. We look forward to hearing from you.

**• Inactive Letter #2 •  
(Sent to all whose names were removed)**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,



We had hoped to hear from you! Because you have not responded to the August letter from the (CHURCH NAME) and because you have not participated in the life of the church for at least a year, your name has been removed from the active membership of church name.

However! . . . Because our desire is to have you involved in the worship and ministry of the church, please know you can be restored to the membership roster at any time should you desire to become active.

A life of faith is certainly more than having your name on a membership list. It is about worshipping, studying God's Word, serving in the name of Christ, and receiving the nourishment of the Lord's Supper. It's about gathering regularly with other sisters and brothers of the faith. That is what is important!

If and when you are ready to commit yourself to active involvement at (CHURCH NAME), it would be our joy to welcome you back into membership.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. The (CHURCH NAME) will always be open to you! ■

**Reasons why a member should be removed to inactive status:**

- unknown—a member no longer attends and cannot be contacted by mail, email or phone.
- Member has not attended the congregation for more than a year and has not contributed either financially or in service to the church.
- The person attends another congregation, but your congregation has never received a request for transfer.
- The person is attending a church affiliated with another denomination, and no longer gives to your congregation or participates in your congregation's worship.

Ministers' Wives & Widows Fellowship of the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of NC.

**2009 Retreat**

**"Stand on God's Promises...for Victorious Living"**

• Saturday, May 2, 2009

First Baptist Church • 3002 Moore St. • Fayetteville, NC 28301

**Workshop Topics**

- "Speaking Words of Promise"
- "God's Promises are Like a Sweet Roll"
- "Wanted: Victorious, Vigorous Women for the 21st Century Church"
- "Mind, Body and Soul - Rest in God's Promises"

**Come.... Experience:**

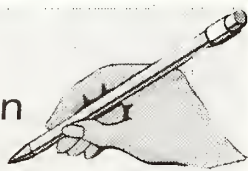
God's Presence • God's Power  
God's Leading • God's Faithfulness • God's Rest

Pre-registration Fee: \$18.00 - Deadline April 24, 2009

For Registration Information Contact the Woman's Convention at (919) 833-4823



Charles Spurgeon took



one night a week and personally interviewed every person who came to join his church. What does this tell us about the role of the pastor in dealing with the issue of meaningful church membership? Maybe pastors should interview every individual who desires church membership. This is not opposed to training other church memberships to participate in some steps of the membership process, but it is ultimately the church's pastors who are accountable before God for that particular congregation. Pastors have to both model meaningful church membership (as they should model the Christian life in general) and labor to preserve meaningful church membership insofar as is humanly possible.

## Church Dropouts: Faces of Young Adults Ages 18-22

Young people have left the church. It's instructive to look at why they hit the exit:

1. Wanted a break from church: 27%
2. Found church members judgmental or hypocritical: 26%
3. Moved to college: 25%
4. Tied up with work: 23%
5. Moved too far away from home church: 22%
6. Too busy: 22%
7. Felt disconnected to people at church: 20%
8. Disagreed with church's stance on political/social issues: 18%
9. Spent more time with friends outside church: 17%
10. Only went before to please others: 17%
11. People who became de-churched were more than twice as likely than those who continued attending church to describe church members as judgmental (51% for dropouts, 24% for those who stayed), hypocritical (44% vs. 20%) or insincere (41% vs. 19%)

Contrast this with the reasons cited by the 30% who kept attending church:

1. It's vital to my relationship with God: 65%

2. It helps guide my decision in everyday life: 58%
3. It helps me become a better person: 50%
4. I am following a family member's example: 43%
5. Church activities were a big part of my life: 35%
6. It helps in getting through a difficult time: 30%
7. I fear living without spiritual

- help guide their decisions in everyday life
2. Teens who at age 17 have parents who are still married to each other and both attending church
  3. Teens who find their pastors' sermons relevant to their life
  4. Teens who have had at least 1 adult from church make a significant investment in them personally and spiritually between the ages of 15 and 18



guidance: 24%

**Terminology • Dropouts** – Church “Dropouts” are defined as those who “stopped attending church regularly for at least a year between the ages of 18 and 22”

**Key Findings** Characteristics with the greatest combined impact on the ability to predict if a young adult will drop out or continue attending church:

1. Teens wanting the church to

**Key Findings** Families have a large role to play – being proactive and consistent those who stayed in church compared to those who dropped out:

1. 20% more of those who stay indicate they had parents or family members who provided them with spiritual guidance (79% vs. 59%)
2. 20% more of those who continue attending indicate their family regularly discussed spiritual things (50% vs. 30%)
3. 20% more of those who stay indicate their family prayed together regularly (42% vs. 22%)

Source: LifeWay Research survey of 1,023 Protestants, conducted April and May 2007. Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage

## Justices' ruling upsets NAACP

### Group aims to protect minority voters

Wed, Mar. 11, 2009

Dan Kane – N&O Staff Writer

The North Carolina NAACP blasted the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday for its interpretation of the federal Voting Rights Act, saying the decision was a “direct blow” to the state's efforts to heal the “racist wounds of the past.”

The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision issued Monday, found that the Voting Rights Act did not apply to legislative districts that are less than 50 percent minority. As a result, state lawmakers will have to refashion districts in the Wilmington area so that Pender County is not split between two districts.

The Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP, said the decision ignores the troubled history in that part of the state. In 1898, white supremacist mobs came to Wilmington, which was governed by a “Fusionist” coalition of black and white council members. The mobs drove out the elected leaders, burned down a black-owned newspaper and killed at least 14 blacks. “Somebody's really got to examine this from the perspective that people don't really know the history,” he said. “They don't know that Pender County was separated [from New Hanover County] to make it an all-white county.”

The U.S. Supreme Court's more conservative members found that a House district that state lawmakers created to increase the likelihood of black representation violated the state's constitutional goal of keeping counties whole. House District 18 includes parts of Pender and New Hanover counties, but its black voting population is just under 40 percent. Therefore, the court found, the district could not be protected by the Voting Rights Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court's dissenting members said the majority had misinterpreted the act. Such a narrow interpretation, they said, forces minorities to be packed into majority-minority districts. While that guarantees some minority-supported candidates will be elected, it diminishes their opportunity to form coalitions with white voters

in other districts, the justices said. Barber and Al McSurely, the NAACP's legal redress committee chairman for North Carolina, said the decision was strictly partisan and intended to reverse the momentum that allowed Democrat Barack Obama to win the presidential vote in North Carolina in November. They said their next move was to petition Congress to amend the Voting Rights Act so that it protects districts with a sizable, if not majority, percentage of minority voters.



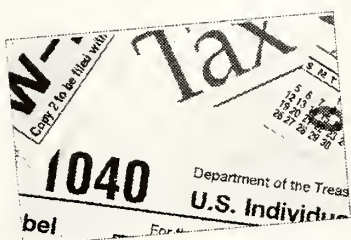
Rev. William Barber, President North Carolina NAACP State Conferences of Branches

It's time to file various tax returns once again. Among the tax deadlines you may be required to meet in 2009 are the following:

**April 15**  
 » **Tax return due.** Your 2008 income tax return is due, unless you file for an extension until Oct. 15.

» **File for extension.** If you want an automatic extension of time to file your 2008 tax return, file Form 4868. Filing the form gives you until Oct. 15 to file your return. To avoid a penalty, however, be sure to pay any tax that was due on April 15.

» **Individual Retirement Accounts or Roth IRAs.** This is the deadline for making contributions to IRAs or Roth



**Tax time**

IRAs for tax year 2008.

» **Estimated tax payment.** Your first-quarter estimated tax payment for 2009 is due.

» **State tax returns.** If you are required to file a state tax return, it is probably due -- but check with your state to be certain. Many states automatically extend the filing time for those who have filed for a federal extension.

» **Household employers.** If you paid cash wages of \$1,500 or more in 2008 to a household employee, file Schedule H (Form 1040) with your income tax return and report any employment taxes by April 15.

**June 15**

» **Filing deadline.** If you're a U.S. citi-

zen or resident alien living and working (or on military duty) outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico, file Form 1040 and pay any tax, interest and penalties due. You can file for an extension until Oct. 15.

» **Estimated taxes due.** Your second-quarter estimated tax payment (using Form 1040-ES) for 2009 is due. Sept. 15

» **Estimated tax due.** Your third-quarter estimated tax payment (using Form 1040-ES) for 2009 is due

**Oct. 15**

» **Income tax return due.** Your 2008 income tax return is due if you filed an extension request using Form 4868. Dec. 31

» **Deduction deadline.** The last date to make payments that can be deducted from your 2009 return. (IRS) ■

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.** President Obama has signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law. Moving through Congress in less than four weeks, the \$787 billion new law, which contains nearly \$300 billion in tax relief, sets in motion a wave of direct spending and tax incentives intended to jump start the U.S. economy out of recession.

**The 4 reasons why people say they don't go to church.**

1. The church is not relevant to what is going on in their lives.
2. Never have been invited.
3. Mistaken notion about the church is only after their money.
4. They believe that the church is insincere.

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## 105 Reasons Of Church Dropouts



Portia H. Brandon, M. Div.  
Christian Education Coordinator/  
Managing Editor  
(919) 821-7466  
gbscbrandon@bellsouth.net  
portiabrandon@hotmail.com

A church dropout is a Christian who leaves a church for any reason except death before completing their course on earth without transferring membership to another church.

1. Preachers are fired time after time.
2. Sins of the saints tolerated
3. Real decision-making is done in a small group of older, better-known members
4. Respect for the wealthy more than others.
5. Actions and words designed to diminish the value of others and their accomplishments.
6. Don't start on time.
7. Inadequate Christian Education And Training.
8. Pastor-Centered Ministry.
9. Sees others as pawns on the chess board. Maneuvers people around for their own purposes. When done with them, they are 'checkmated' or rejected.
10. Chronic lying.
11. Poor planning with time and activity.
12. Teachers are unprepared.
13. A loud minority runs the church. What they say, more than what is right or wrong.
14. Complain about what's wrong, but never how to fix it God's way.
15. Tell what to do but not how to do it.
16. Act like they are perfect. (Holier than thou.)
17. Take credit for others work.
18. Always looking for the glory.
19. Want the praise too much.
20. No appreciation given.
21. Discipline without love.
22. Uncomfortable talking about the things of God.
23. Outdated stuff on the bulletin boards and walls.
24. Building used very little. (Only Sundays.)
25. Little or no activities.
26. Preacher not given a raise in pay.
27. The preacher is not allowed to go to seminars, clinics, conventions and not allowed days off or vacations.
28. Not aware of the preacher's needs. (Or his wife and family.)
29. No goals, targets or dreams.
30. Attitude of do it and get it over with. (Sermons, baptisms, prayer etc.)
31. The preacher does most everything.
32. Sunday school attendance is minimal.
33. Preacher dominated by leadership instead of team effort.
34. Problems poorly handled, ignored or magnified.
35. No plans for growth.
36. Little or no show of love.
37. Hold grudges.
38. Arguing at business meetings.
39. Threats to quit.
40. Forget the purpose of the church.
41. Priorities confused.
42. Lose touch with God.
43. Fail to seek God's advice and direction.
44. Bitterness, hatred and a lack of forgiveness.
45. Critical with a focus on peoples faults.
46. The Holy Spirit is neglected.
47. The joy of salvation and serving Jesus is lost.
48. Routine, rut, ritual and action without meaning.
49. Problems are not looked at as opportunities.
50. Things are thrown together and done second class with God getting the leftovers.
51. Confusion.
52. Disorganization
53. No church vision.
54. Not aware of God's plan.
55. Minimal knowledge of the Bible.
56. No calling out or crying out to God.
57. Division.
58. Cliques.
59. Emphasis on social rather than spiritual.
60. Rejection of new ideas.
61. Resistance to change.
62. It won't work here syndrome.
63. Everything seems too much of an effort.
64. Not willing to give any time.
65. Sacrifice is out of the question.
66. Not familiar with the dangers of apostasy. (backsliding)
67. Blame each other.
68. Not willing to take a stand for anything.
69. Isolation from other churches.
70. Against multiple staff.
71. Against having a secretary.
72. Against visuals.
73. Against new songs.
74. Not against sin.
75. No soul winning.
76. Power struggle among the leaders.
77. Music is a slow and lifeless routine.
78. Visitors feel that the church is cold and dead.
79. Lack of unity.
80. Not meeting the needs of the church or the community.
81. No equipping of Christians for ministry.
82. Sermons lack power. No Biblical application to everyday life.
83. Giving is minimal, few tithers.
84. No missions or constant struggle against any giving outside the local congregation.
85. Lack of co-operation.
86. No volunteers.
87. The Biblical purposes of the church are lost.
88. Pessimistic.
89. Attendance low or stagnate.
90. No vision.
91. No baptisms.
92. No new members.
93. No new life.
94. No or few children.
95. No or few college age.
96. No or few young couples.
97. All or mostly elderly.
98. Few or no visitors.
99. Routine boring services.
100. Talk mostly about money at church meetings.
101. No prayer meetings.
102. Cancel evening service.
103. Cancel youth meetings.
104. Little or no fellowship
105. Little or no hope.

Sources:  
*Reopening the Back Door : Answers to Questions...* by Kenneth C. Haugk  
*Reclaiming Inactive Church Members* by Mark S. Jones  
*Congregations Alive* by Donald P. Smith  
*The Inviting Church* by Roy M. Oswald  
*How to Mobilize Church Volunteers* by Marlene Wilson

# Reclaiming **INACTIVE** Church Members

# Walking By Faith...

## leads to spiritual growth and fitness



By Jennifer Harris, *The Warren Record*

The Walking By Faith Exercise Group of Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its first anniversary on Jan. 29, as well as birthdays for two of its members, Christine Hill and Beverly Gardner. Hill, the most senior of the group, had turned 91 earlier in the month proving that it's never too late to take care of your health.

Led by Carolyn Hawkins, the 14-member group gathers two mornings a week for sessions focusing on worship for 30 minutes then another half-hour or so of exercise. Individual members of the group, comprised mostly of women from Olive Grove and other churches, go at their own pace, but Hawkins said most are comfortable working out to a two-

mile video the group watches.

"We have a good time," Hawkins said. "God is the center. This helps you to become strong spiritually."

Hawkins, who has always made fitness a part of her life, said she believes exercise brings balance to the body, mind and spirit. She began the exercise program last year and received assistance from the Warren County Health Department, Health Promotions program, which helped the church establish a marked walking trail for church members and residents of the community.

The bi-weekly gatherings give members a chance to speak about what's on their minds and to share poems and testimony. Their prayer focuses on such issues as faith, hope, forgiveness and peace. This spiritual sharing combined

with exercise motivates the members for the remainder of the day and week, Hawkins said.

The group has grown over the past year through word of mouth. One lady started attending after she had a heart attack, and another, Sylvia Stark of Vaughan, who participates in annual cycling events, rides her bicycle to the exercise sessions except in bad weather.

"It's a power-packed hour of worship, fellowship, exercise and prayer and truly people are strengthened by it," Hawkins said. "They leave armed to go to work for the Lord and to serve."

For more information on Walking By Faith Exercise Group, call Carolyn Hawkins at (252) 586-7767, (252) 678-2446 or the church at (252) 586-4517.

## Congress Calendar

**May 29, 2009**  
Officers Planning Session  
Fayetteville, NC



Ms. Lula **Gainey**

**June 21 - 27, 2009**  
National Baptist Congress,  
Detroit, MI

**June 29 - July 1, 2009**  
State Oratorical Contest, TBA

**July**  
Annual State Congress, TBA

**Sept. 7 - 12**  
National Baptist Convention  
Memphis, TN

## 2009 LAYMEN'S LEAGUE CALENDAR



Theodore **David**

**April 10, 2009**  
Mid-Annual Banquet  
Nicey Grove MBC, Charlotte

**April 11, 2009**  
Mid-Annual Session  
Nicey Grove MBC, Charlotte

**May 16, 2009**  
Mini-Skill Conference, TBA

**June 13, 2009**  
Study Commission  
Mt. Vernon MBC, Creedmoor, NC

**July 10 & 11, 2009**  
Men & Boys Retreat  
Mt. Pisquah MBC, Raeford NC

**July** - Trinity Session, TBA

**August 22, 2009**  
Scouting Camporee, TBA

**Sept. 12, 2009**  
Men's Retreat  
Red Bud MBC, Henderson, NC

**Sept. 2009**  
WALTER CADE REGIONAL,  
Hampton, VA., (tentative)

**Dec. 12, 2009**  
Study Commission  
Mt. Peace MBC, Raleigh, NC

## National Baptist Convention of America Annual Session

**Sept. 6 - 11, 2009**  
Shreveport, LA



Dr. Stephen J. Thurston

For information contact:  
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754 East 77th Street  
Chicago, IL 60619  
Phone: (773) 224-5570  
Fax: (773) 224-8200

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Administrative Assistant: LaJuanda Jones  
lajuanda.jones@tx.twcbc.com

## The 2009 Congress of Christian Education Annual Session

**Detroit • June 22-26, 2009**



Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr.  
Congress President

**Theme:**  
"The Heavenly Vision:  
The Mission of the Church"

*Ephesians 5:16-21*

More information:  
Ms. Panielius M. Howell  
Assistant to the President  
National Baptist Congress of Christian Education  
P. O. Box 10789  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
Phone: (850) 222-8440  
Fax: (850) 222-5873  
Email: phowell@betheltally.org

## 2009 - 2010 Oratorical Topics



### SENIOR DIVISION

1. Ask not what God can do for you; ask what you can do for God.
2. My biggest challenge.
3. Why church is so important to me.
4. Not my will but your will be done.
5. How to become popular!
6. What should Christian teens believe about creation and science?
7. How can I write an evolution assignment, when I don't believe in evolution
8. Safe sex is not safe.
9. The importance of integrity.
10. To convince the unconvinced to be convinced through fellowship.

### JUNIOR DIVISION

1. If not now, "when?"
2. My hero in the religious world is...
3. Watcha know about that!
4. Where do I go from here?
5. Turn around!
6. Is it OK to play guitars in the church?
7. How to make friends.
8. Learn some cool new words.
9. To have religion or be religious!
10. I do not participate in hurtful gossip.

### PREPARATORY DIVISION

1. Be real.
2. All people are created equally.
3. How would the world be different if everybody was truly caring?
4. Give thanks.
5. Blessed.
6. Who, what, when, where, why and how!
7. Dancing for Jesus.
8. Do you see what I see?
9. God will do the rest.
10. What you want is what you are going to get.

## Usher's Convention Calendar 2009

**May 16, 2009**  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting,  
Raleigh, NC

**August 15, 2009**  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting,  
Raleigh, NC

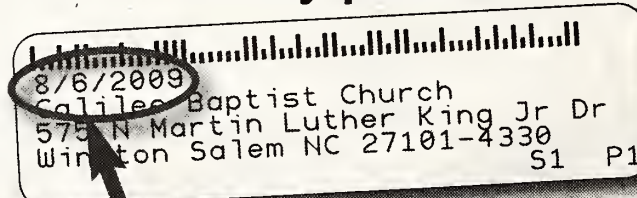
**November 6-7, 2009**  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting, TBA



Helen **Thompso**

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MINISTERS' CONFERENCE '09

*Featured Panelist*

*Conference Presenters*

**A. C. D. Vaughn Senior Statespersons Hour**



**Moderator**  
Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn  
Baltimore, MD



**Guest Speaker**  
Dr. Harold Carter  
Baltimore, MD



**Conference Preacher**  
Dr. H. Beecher Hicks  
Washington, DC



**Morning Preacher**  
Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr.  
Suisun City, CA

**G. A. Crawley Women In Ministry Panel**



**Co-Moderator**  
Dr. Susan Johnson-Cook  
Bronx, NY



**Co-Moderator**  
Dr. Cynthia Hale  
Decatur, GA



**Panelist**  
Rev. Shon Adkins  
Vauxhall, NJ



**Panelist**  
Rev. Classy Preston  
Holly Springs, NC



**Lecturer**  
Dr. Renita Weems  
Nashville, TN



**Noon Day Preacher**  
Dr. Claudette Copeland  
San Antonio, TX



**Lecturer**  
Dr. Brad Braxton  
New York, NY



**Panelist**  
Rev. Brenda Ray  
West Palm Beach, FL



**Panelist**  
Rev. Lorraine Jacques-White  
Marietta, GA



**Panelist**  
Rev. Sarah Roberts  
West Hempstead, NY



**Panelist**  
Rev. Johnnie Cogman  
Accokeek, MD



**Early Morning  
Prayer Leader**  
Rev. Jerome Barber  
Hampton, VA



**Early Morning  
Prayer Leader**  
Dr. Rita Twigs  
Dallas, TX



**Evening  
Praise Song Leader**  
Elder Peggy Britt  
Portsmouth, VA



**Evening  
Praise Song Leader**  
Eli Wilson  
Orlando Florida



**Reverend Dr.  
William J. Shaw**

**National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.**

*Annual Session*

**Memphis, TN • September 7-11, 2009**



**Theme: *The Heavenly Vision and the Mission of the Church* (Ephesians 5:16-21)**

2009 is a Convention President voting year. Remember that you must register with the Parent Body to be eligible to cast a ballot in this election. For details on the requirements for voting, please refer to this page of the website:

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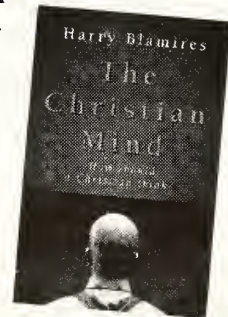
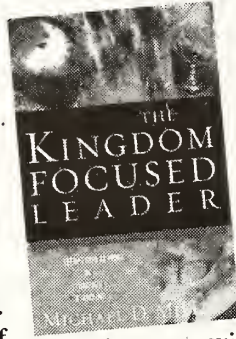
**Leaders with a Kingdom Mindset**



*Dr. Michael R. Smith  
Chairman AIM*

**Michael R. Smith**

The Christian leader is essential in setting the spiritual mindset of a local church. Therefore, it is vitally important to know what is on the leader's mind. Does the leader have a biblical worldview from which the Kingdom of God is becoming a personal reality? The Kingdom of God is what Jesus Christ announced at the beginning of his earthly ministry (Mark 1:14). Michael D. Miller writes, "The kingdom of God is the reign of God through Jesus Christ in the lives of persons as evidenced by God's activity in, through, and around them."<sup>11</sup> Church leaders must be Kingdom minded persons who seek to be informed and guided by the divine values of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. In essence, the Kingdom minded leader has grown to be a loyal servant who is consumed with the desires of the King. Yet, there are serious challenges a leader faces



today. Harry Blamires in his classic book, *The Christian Mind* writes, "But as a thinking being, the modern Christian has succumbed to secularization. He accepts religion – its morality, its worship, its spiritual culture; but rejects the religious view of life, the view which sets all earthly issues within the context of the eternal..." Within some churches there is a drought in regard to Kingdom minded leaders. These are churches that for the most part have been infiltrated and overrun with leaders whose passion is not for the glory of the King of kings. I call this type cultural leaders because they are more concerned about following the culture than promoting and pursuing the Kingdom of God.

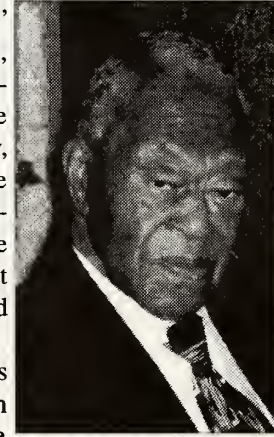
<sup>11</sup>Michael D. Miller, *Kingdom Leadership A Call to Christ-Centered Leadership*, (Nashville, Tennessee, Convention Press, 1996),

11. Harry Blamires, *The Christian Mind, How Should a Christian Think*, (Vancouver, British Columbia, Regent College Publishing, 1963), 3-4.

**Life Reflections**

**IN MEMORY**

Rev. Dr. Vernon E. Brown, called "Preacher" and "VEB," of Durham, North Carolina transitioned from this life to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 21, 2008. He continued to serve as pastor of the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church until God called him home.



Pastor Brown was born to the late Aytch Allen O'Berry and Sallie Yates Brown on September 29, 1908 in Chadbourn, North Carolina. He was educated in the Columbus County School System. Rev. Brown studied at Columbia University in New York City and Voorhees Institute in Denmark, South Carolina. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the Christian Bible Institute of Goldsboro, North Carolina in 1989. Dr. Brown was married to the late Ocia McMillan Brown in 1947.

Rev. Brown leaves to cherish his

memory five children: Helen Canty of VA, George Wayne Brown (Beverly), Pinkey Faye Graham (Herman), Marva Brown Peace and Vernon Gayle Ellis (Craig) all of Durham, NC. He was a proud grand-father of nine; Linda Williams (Anthony) of VA, Tanya Canty of VA, Harold Pratt, Jr. of MD, George W. Brown, Jr. (Joanna) of OH, Jason Peace and Mia Peace Morris (Quinton) of Durham, NC, Geoffrey Brown of OH, Jocelyn Ellis and Emerson Ellis of Durham, NC and the guardian grand-father of two; Marcus and Jeffrey Carpenter of Durham, NC. Dr. Brown is the great grand-father of eleven and the great great grand-father of four. He leaves cherished memories with one sister, Ms. Lurmie Brown of CA and one brother, Dr. Eldee Brown, Sr. of Durham, NC and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

**112th Annual Session Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention  
August 10 - 14 • Raleigh, NC**



*Dr. David Emmanuel  
Goatley  
Executive Secretary-  
Treasurer*

Grace to you, and greetings from your Lott Carey family around the world – Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America!

The 112th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention will be 10-14 August 2009 in Raleigh, NC. Dr. David C. Forbes, Pastor of the Christian Faith Baptist Church will serve as our Host Pastor. We will begin the week with Bible Study and Worship on Sunday. We will begin Monday with our Missions Focus Prayer Breakfast and follow breakfast with our missions blitz where we serve throughout the Greater Raleigh community. We will have our community Feast where we will dine with some 300 homeless guest and rejoice with a Musical Feast in the evening. We will welcome and learn from international partners from Guyana, India, Liberia, Nigeria and South Africa. We will celebrate the leadership of Dr. Keith A. Troy as our President as he concludes his tenure during this session. Our youth and children will share in missions education and mission action. We will inform and inspire one another to



invest in Christian missions around the world.

You will find two items that you will need in preparation for our Annual Session. First, on the next page is your Personal Registration form. This registers you as a member of the Lott Carey family. Payment

also entitles you to admission to the certified Missions Education Course of Study, subscription to the Lott Carey Herald, and receipt of the official program, Annual Report, and official Minutes. Please complete the Personal registration form and return your registration fee to our office: 220 I (Eye) Street, NE, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20002. Second is the Hotel Reservation form. Please follow carefully the instructions and return your Hotel Reservation form and deposit to the housing bureau address on the form.

According to the Lott Carey way, the headquarters hotel is the hotel where you choose to stay. However, your participation in some of the events may influence where you choose to request a room. Most of our events will be at the new Raleigh Convention Center. The Monday morning Mission Focus Prayer Breakfast and the Daily Morning Praise and Prayer Services will be at the Marriott Hotel. The Hope Missions and Youth Missions Programs will be based in the Sheraton Hotel. The Pastoral Excellence Program will convene in the Marriott Hotel. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. We will not "bump" people who reserve rooms early for others who reserve rooms late. Everybody is somebody in the Lott Carey Convention!

We look forward to seeing you in a few months. Thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

*See registration forms on next page!*

**112th Annual Session  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
August 10 - 14, 2009**

**HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Reservations can be made beginning February 2009 by choosing one of the following methods:

**FAX**  
FAX a completed form, one copy per room to 505-247-8200

**MAIL**  
Send a completed form, one copy per room to NMCR Housing Bureau 800 20<sup>th</sup> St., NW Suite B, Albuquerque, NM 87104

**INQUIRIES:**  
Call (505) 246-0522  
Or e-mail [reservations@nmcr.com](mailto:reservations@nmcr.com)

Please note the phone number on this form is for inquiries/assistance only. Reservation requests must be made by fax or online.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Confirmations will be sent after each reservation booking, modification and/or cancellation. Review it carefully for accuracy. If you do not receive a confirmation via e-mail, fax, or mail within 14 days after any transaction, please contact the housing bureau at the number listed above.

**ROOM RATES/TAXES**

To take advantage of the Lott Carey rates, be sure to book your reservation by 15 July 2009. After this date, room availability or conference rates will not be available and the hotels may charge significantly higher rates. All rates are per room per night and are subject to 12.75% tax (subject to change). Hotels may charge additional fees for rooms with more than one occupant. When making a reservation, please provide room and bedding preferences in the Special Needs section of the Housing Form. The hotels will assign specific room types upon check in, based upon availability. *Please be advised that requests are not guaranteed.*

**MODIFICATIONS/CANCELLATION**

For new reservations or modifications, you may continue to make reservations from February 1, 2009 through July 15, 2009 via the NMCR housing bureau. Reservations secured by credit card may be modified and/or cancelled without penalty from open date through cut-off date, after which cancellations will be assessed a \$25.00 processing fee. Reservations made after cut-off date and cancelled are also subject to the \$25.00 processing fee. Please be aware of the individual hotel cancellation policy; requires 24 hours cancellation prior to arrival in order to receive a deposit refund.

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
List choices in order of 1 - 2 (#1 being the most preferred)

RANK	HOTEL	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
	Marriott	\$121	\$121	\$121	\$121
	Sheraton	\$121	\$121	\$131	\$141
	Holiday Inn	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
	Chariton	\$90	\$90	\$100	\$110

Tax is 12.75% per room per night and will be added to the rate at check out.  
Reservations will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. If requested hotel(s) are unavailable, reservation will be processed according to proximity to conference site.

**DEPOSIT INFORMATION**

All reservations must be guaranteed by a major credit card. I understand that if I do not arrive or cancel by 48 hours prior to arrival, I will be liable for my first night's deposit. (Confirmation from the NMCR Housing Bureau will contain specific hotel cancellation policy.)

**Credit Card**  
Please be advised that the credit card must be valid through the dates of the conference.

Type of card:  
 American Express  
 MasterCard  
 Visa  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CARDHOLDER

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE

Room Type: (please fill out both)

Number of people in room: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of beds in room: \_\_\_\_\_

List all occupants in room: (include yourself)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Smoking  Non-Smoking

**SEND CONFIRMATION TO: (FILL THIS PORTION COMPLETELY)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_  
MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

If outside the USA, please also include country and city codes.

**DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO Lott Carey**

**SEND IT TO NMCR Housing Bureau MAKE COPIES AS NEEDED\*\***

**Personal Registration Form  
112th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention  
10-14 August 2009  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete one (1) registration form for each individual who will attend the convention. The personal registration fee entitles you to: a delegate kit, the convention program, annual minutes, annual report(s), delegate badge, one 1-year subscription to the Lott Carey Herald Magazine, and enrollment in the Mission study course.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

E-mail address (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check (✓) one:

- Clergy  Laymen's League  Women's Auxiliary  Young Adult (ages 18-35)
- Youth (ages 13-17)  Hope Missionary (ages 10-12)  Hope Missionary (ages 6-9)

Please circle one: REV. DR. MR. MRS. MS. (YOUTH ONLY: MALE / FEMALE)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you wish to appear on badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening)

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT: TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first time attending the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention?  YES  NO  
Did you attend Mission Study Class in 2008, Rochester, NY?  YES  NO

	Cost	Quantity	Total
Adult Registration (postmarked through 30 June 2009)	70.00	X	=
Late Adult Registration (postmarked after 30 June 2009)	85.00	X	=
Youth Registration (ages 6-17 ONLY)	60.00	X	=
Late Youth Registration (postmarked after 30 June 2009)	70.00	X	=
Prayer Breakfast (Monday, 10 August 2009, 7:00 a.m.)	25.00	X	=
Community Feast/Banquet (Monday, 10 August 2009, 5:00 p.m.)	40.00	X	=
Musical (Monday, 10 August 2009, 7:30 p.m.)	10.00	X	=
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>			=

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

LOTT CAREY BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION CONVENTION  
112th ANNUAL SESSION  
220 I STREET, N.E., SUITE 220, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

ADVANCE PERSONAL REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 30 JUNE 2009.

TODAY'S DATE	RECEIVED BY	REGISTRATION NO.	AMOUNT RECEIVED

# BAPTIST Informer

## ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECIFICATIONS

### NON-PROFIT OR CHURCH AD RATES

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
FULL PAGE	\$ 350.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 3,000.00
HALF PAGE	\$ 200.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	\$ 125.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 800.00
EIGHTH PAGE	\$ 80.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 540.00

(Pastor / Church Musician Vacancy Ads are considered an eighth page ad)

### FOR PROFIT COMPANY AD RATES

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
FULL PAGE	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 3,900.00
HALF PAGE	\$ 325.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,100.00
QUARTER PAGE	\$ 200.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,500.00
EIGHTH PAGE	\$ 150.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 900.00

### AD SPECIFICATIONS

FULL PAGE	10.5" x 12.5"
HALF PAGE	10.5" x 6.25"
QUARTER PAGE	5.25" x 6.25"
EIGHTH PAGE	5.25" x 3.125"

ALL AD'S MUST BE PAID IN FULL BEFORE ADVERTISED.

Insertion orders are due to 10th of the previous month prior. Ad's should be EMAILED to Portia Brandon-Managing Editor [gbscbrandon@bellsouth.net](mailto:gbscbrandon@bellsouth.net) or [portia Brandon@hotmail.com](mailto:portia Brandon@hotmail.com).



## Baptist Informer

### RENEWAL / SUBSCRIPTION FORM



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing: (check one)  Check  Money Order

Check # or Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_ In the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Your subscription expiration date will be listed on your mailing label. Please make a note of this date so that you will know when to renew your subscription.

The Baptist Informer is produced and mailed around the first of each month. Individual subscriptions are \$20.00 per year.

Type of Change (please check) Number of Years: (check one)

New Subscription  1 Year  2 Years

Renewal  3 Years

Address Change (include old address label)

**MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:**

**General Baptist State Convention**  
603 S. Wilmington Street • Raleigh, NC 27601  
(919) 821-7466 • [www.gbsc.org](http://www.gbsc.org)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.  
Dr. William J. Shaw, President**



**To All Presidents, Moderators, Pastors  
and Laypersons of the Southeast  
Region NBC USA, INC.**

All pastors and laypersons from the Southeast region (VA, NC, SC, GA, FLA, and the Caribbean) are urged to attend this meeting. The Parent Body will meet at Royal Baptist Church, 1807 Pearson St, North Charleston, SC 29405, telephone # (843) 744-0586m Rev. Isaac Holt, Pastor. The session will begin on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 1:00 pm and end in Friday night May 15, 2009.

Each church is asked to register with a minimum of \$150.00, Associations \$200.00; State Conventions \$300.00 and individuals \$30.00. You can bring your contribution or send it to First Missionary Baptist Church; Attn: Dr. W. E, Givens Jr., PO Box 338, Summerville, SC 29483. Please make checks payable to National Baptist Convention (USA).

Additionally all Auxiliary bodies of the National Baptist Convention will be meeting in this session. Each Auxiliary will be responsible for their own registration. The Ushers Music Department will meet at Charity Baptist Church, 1544 East Montague Ave; (843)747-2737, Rev. Nelson Rivers, Pastor. The Women, Laymen and Moderators will meet at Canaan Baptist Church, 1561 Mosstree Rd, (843) 744-9030, Rev. Alfred Williams, Pastor.

**Pulpit Vacancy  
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church  
Ivanhoe, North Carolina**

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church has a vacant pastoral vacancy. The church was established in 1880 and has a long rich heritage of Christian service to the community.

Applicants who want to be considered should possess the following:

- Must be a licensed and ordained Baptist Minister
- Must have a college and seminary degree
- Must be versatile and able to relate to a diverse age group within the congregation
- Willing to follow Baptist Doctrine and polity
- Willing to work with the community at large
- Provide a vision for the church and display strong leadership ability

All interested persons should submit a resume to the following:

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.  
C/O Pastoral Search Committee  
9364 Wildcat Road  
P. O. Box 66  
Ivanhoe, NC 28447

Deadline for Resumes: June 1, 2009

*Published the first of each month at Raleigh, N.C.  
Periodicals class postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27601,  
and additional mailing offices.  
Postmaster send address and all communications  
for publication and inquiry to  
Baptist Informer Baptist Headquarters,  
603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601.*

**PASTORAL VACANCY  
GETHSEMANE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Applications are being accepted for the position of Pastor. Qualifications must include, but not limited to:*

- Licensed and/or ordained in the Baptist Denomination at time of application
- 5 years pastoral leadership experience
- MA in Divinity or some formal training
- Gifted in teaching, preaching, counseling

- Committed to the needs of the church (with a vision)
- Understanding of church administration/operations & versed in Baptist policies
- Excellent oral communication skills
- Personal financial status
- Strong morals/ethics
- Open door policy to members

**Interested applicants should submit resume and references to:**

Pastoral Search Committee  
Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church  
906 South Roxboro St.  
Durham, NC 27707

*Applications must be post marked by May 1, 2009*

**PASTORAL VACANCY  
Piney Wood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church**

1. Born again
2. Faithful Christian with a solid belief in the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Holy Bible.
3. Biblical qualities of a pastor as defined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
4. Solid knowledge of God's Word and God's will in doing and carrying out the function of the church.
5. Married to a Christian spouse.
6. Family, community and politically oriented.
7. Effective working with all ages groups in the church.
8. Bachelor's Degree in Theology from an accredited college or university.
9. Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination.
10. Believes/abides by the Missionary Baptist Doctrines, policies, and Church Covenant.
11. Supportive of the association and General Baptist State Convention.
12. Expected to teach, preach, & counsel in word and deed to all ages group in the church
13. Able to guide the critical management functions of the church spiritually, intellectually and financially.
14. Willing to submit to a criminal background check and credit report.
15. Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
16. Implements policies fairly and consistently and respects individual needs and abilities.
17. Supports church function including Sunday School, Bible Study, and prayer meeting.
18. Visits the sick and shut in (hospitalized, homes and nursing homes).

**The ending date to receive applications is July 31, 2009.**

**Please forward all correspondences to:**

Search Committee  
Piney Wood Chapel Baptist Church  
C/O Deacon William Ward, Jr.  
P O Box 235  
Powellsville, NC 27967

**The Baptist Informer**

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.  
Voice of 500,000 Baptists  
(USPS 042-680)

**Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Mrs. Portia H. Brandon, Managing Editor**

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

# Upcoming Events:

# BAPTIST Informer

The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

## 2009 Mid-Year Session



• HOST PASTOR •  
Dr. J.C. Harris

• HOST CHURCH •  
First Baptist Church - Statesville, North Carolina

# BAPTIST Informer

603 S. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
USPS 042-680



## **Reclaiming Inactive Church Members**

by Mark S. Jones



This work of reclaiming the lost sheep, as Jesus so vividly expressed it, must receive top priority by every church. In seeking the inactive, we are concerned with four general groups:

1. Lifetime members who have never been active and, as a result, often times raise their families in inactivity.
2. New converts who become spiritually disaffected and fall away, usually in their first few years of membership.
3. Active members who slip into transgression or have other problems that cause them to fall away. Often their problems include lack of knowledge and testimony of the gospel, hurt feelings that result in attitudes of unworthiness and guilt, and sometimes fear of participation in Church assignments.
4. Youth who are caught up by the philosophies or behavior of the world and stray from their Church commitments. Some of these youth are persuaded by worldly attitudes of instant pleasure. Some are influenced by peer groups that take nothing seriously until the realities of life forces them.

Subscription Department  
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.  
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919 917