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GBSC THEME
"To Convince the Unconvinced to be Convinced...through Education, Missions and Fellowship,"

Matthew 28:19-20

Q&A: A Perspective from the Executive

By Dr. Haywood T. Gray
GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

For nearly five years, I have traveled the length and breadth of North Carolina, meeting General Baptist pastors and lay leaders. It's been a wonderful joy and a unique opportunity. From time to time, questions are put to me



Dr. Haywood T. Gray

by very sincere Christians as to why their church should support missions through our General Baptist State Convention. Usually, this inquiring person is a pastor who is frustrated because he cannot move

his congregation to give and share in missions. Or, conversely, this seeking person is a church leader who is unable to motivate his pastor to lead the congregation toward giving to missions.

Of the many questions that have been posed to me over the years, perhaps this question (or some variation on the theme) has been asked most frequently: "What does our church get in return for supporting the GBSC?" Perhaps you've heard that question asked or maybe you've asked it yourself. In hard economic times, where every ministry must seriously think about every dime spent, it is a timely question.

I can answer that question rather succinctly and quickly. What does a church get in return for supporting the GBSC? The answer is absolutely, completely, unquestioningly, unequivocally, and without a doubt NOTHING. As CEO of our Baptist enterprise, I can promise you that.

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Lott Carey News and Recognition from Around the World

By Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D.

Let us rejoice that the 2010 Samuel DeWitt Proctor Clergy and Lay Leadership Conference has named Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention as one of the honorees for their "Beautiful Are The Feet Award." This honor is a lifetime achievement award for Lott Carey's gifts and sacrifices of leadership for the African-American and African Diasporan church community, as well as the global ecumenical community. The conference will be held February 22-25, 2010, and the honoree dinner is scheduled for February 24.

Your faithful partnership for Christian missions around the world has attracted the attention of our colleagues of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. Thanks for shining our light so that people can see our good work and glorify our God in heaven. You can find information about the conference at <http://sdpconference.info>.

Dr. Yvonne Y. Best, Associate for Program Development, traveled to Kenya on assignment. She arrived in Nairobi from working in Kisumu, Kenya with the Lott Carey Baptist Ministries of Kenya and Sudan. While in Kisumu, she led sessions with 58 widows. Some are HIV positive. Some are grandmothers raising orphaned grandchildren. This group is

involved in farming and other income-generation projects to help them sustain their families. Most of the families have at least five children to care for.

We offer special thanks to the Maple Springs Baptist Church of Capitol Heights, Maryland, and Pastor Larry W. Jordan for providing the seed and fertiliz-

the end of the gathering on Friday. FECCLAHA is our partner for the work we have done in Somalia in response to the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. While most of the world's attention was focused on Asian countries, Lott Carey concentrated on the eastern coast of Africa. We helped restart a fishing village

by purchasing boats, motors, and equipment to harvest lobsters. We provided skills training to build capacity for repairing the boats and other motorized vehicles; support for mental health care and psychosocial assistance; social and recreational activities in camps for internally displaced persons; and we provided a social activities center. We were a blessing to many people in Puntland, Somalia—a country that most of the world has turned their back on. Further, we were providing this support to Muslim people.

Your faithfulness has enabled me to join a project team designed to help reform commercial law reform in Liberia. A country needs transparent, predictable, and just laws to enable commercial to progress and to flourish. This will help improve the standard of living and opportunities for individuals, families, communities, and the country.

Connected with this project is an

Continued on Page 2



er that produced the widows' first crop of maize (corn). They offer their deep gratitude and their prayer for continued support to expand this project. This ministry is taking place at the Kipsitet Baptist Church in Kisumu, Kenya.

Dr. Best will also represent Lott Carey at the 10th anniversary of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). See www.fecclaha.org. She will offer the closing meditation at

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Our 142nd Year

Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

1867 - 2009

The problem is with the mindset of the question. We do not give to missions to get something back. Giving to missions is not some spiritual investment of the church's money that will be returned later with material interest. We actually give to missions because we have already received. Our giving to missions is not forward-looking—to frame some reward because we have given. But real giving (and even giving by churches to missions) is really backward-looking—looking back to consider the blessings already received, the divine care that has been ours across the years, and the love and grace that has been so freely extended to us. It's really about saying thank you for what God has already done.

I can certainly understand why this question is asked. We are called to do ministry in an age where too many Christians have forgotten the age old Biblical adage that "it is more blessed to

"A series of articles addressing questions raised regarding why churches do not support missions and the GBSC"

give than to receive." Our mindset and our language are far more likely to be framed in terms that are inward focused: "bless ME," "increase MINE," "do something for ME and do it right NOW!"

While I am quick to admit that our God is gracious and loving in His favor toward us, I am also convinced that to be Christian, truly a disciple of Christ, is to frame our Christian walk in terms of service, sacrifice, and doing for others. The evidence of a person's conversion is not summed up in what he drives, what she wears, where he lives, or the size of her bank balance. The evidence of a person's conversion is shown in a love for others and a passion for extending the love of Christ to people everywhere. "We know that we have passed from death unto life," says 1 John 3:14, "because we love the brethren."

When we give to missions, we show our love because we say in our act of giving that I am putting someone else's needs in front of my own wants and desires. And isn't that exactly what God did for us in Christ? Our need for a Savior overruled God's love for His only begotten Son. God put us first in giving Christ. Should we not put Him first and give to missions as an acknowledgement of what He has done in Christ and in appreciation of what He has done for us?

As you consider your level of support for the GBSC going forward, take a moment and look back at what God has done for you (as an individual), for your family (as an object of God's love), and for your church and association (as instruments of God's love on earth). May your next gift to missions scream in testimony that the Lord has been good to us and this gift for missions is evidence of that awesome goodness.

Lott Carey News: Continued from Page 1
opportunity for new lawyers to get an incredible opportunity for serving and learning. I'm pleased to forward to you the earliest announcement of a law fellows program with a request for you to share it throughout your network. The introductory paragraph is below.

The Carter Center and the Transnational Law Institute of Washington and Lee University School of Law are pleased to announce the opportu-

nity for recent law school graduates to work as law fellows for a variety of government and non-governmental institutions in Liberia. Fellows will be placed according to their backgrounds and interests at various government institutions, including: the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Public Works, the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, The Land Reform Commission, The Law Reform

Commission, Independent Human Rights Commission, and The Carter Center. These unfunded fellowships offer a unique opportunity to engage in legal reform and legal development at a critical time in Liberian history, as well as a challenging and interesting personal experience.

For more on the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, visit www.lottcarey.org.

Student Internship Program In Jeopardy

From Staff Reports

Since 2006, the General Baptist State Convention has served more than two dozen bright young collegians in a student internship program. In this program, students from area colleges have been employed at the Baptist Headquarters. The student interns have come primarily from Shaw University (although the program has been open to students from other area colleges). The students have performed a variety of tasks, including bulk mail preparation, manning the telephones, data entry, records archiving, events preparation, and registration at GBSC sessions.

Students have been employed for as little as one semester to as long as three

years. "Our student intern program has been one of our most successful efforts under our state missions banner," said Dr. Haywood T. Gray, GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer. "It's been a win-win for everyone. The students have received valuable professional work experience and a paycheck. The convention has benefited from harnessing the energy of young people to complete needed tasks and assignments at Baptist Headquarters."

However, because contributions to state missions have fallen sharply in the last fiscal year, the convention has had to severely restrict the program. "This is the first semester since we started the program when we've only employed one student," Gray said. The program is budgeted for up to six students each semester. "It's been a real heartbreaker to have to turn down students who have come to us seek-



ing employment in these rough economic times."

The program's future frankly depends on how the churches of the GBSC respond in giving to state missions at the upcoming Annual Session in Greenville. Hopes are high that state missions giving will be strong enough to employ a full contingency of four to six students in the upcoming spring semester.

State Laymen's Quarterly Meeting Has 'Outstanding' Participation

*By Theodore David
President, GBSCNC State Laymen's League Auxiliary*

To God be the glory for all He has done! That excludes us all from receiving any glory for what God does in our daily lives and reminds us that we can't do anything unless He is working through us. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us and when He gives us the strength and power to do things, we should give Him all the glory, all the praise, and all the honor. He likes our being good stewards of those things which He entrusts unto us—including His strength and His power.

God met and moved amongst the laymen during our last State Laymen's Quarterly Meeting, which was held September 12 at Red Oak Baptist Church in Henderson.

The Reverend James Allen, Pastor of Lee's Crossroads Baptist Church in Wendell, delivered a powerful sermon to the Laymen. Deacon Romas Hales Sr. conducted the Christian Education Study peri-

od of the meeting. Outstanding laymen and/or laymen leagues who made great contributions towards the laymen's missions and objectives were recognized during an awards ceremony:

-Outstanding Layman: Deacon Phil Willingham, Lewis Chapel Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

-Outstanding Association Laymen's League: Union Association Laymen, Fayetteville area.

-Outstanding Walter Cade SE Workshop Attendance: Mountain and Catawba Association Laymen, West Mountain area.

The laymen enjoyed a fellowship luncheon following the quarterly meeting. They also visited and delivered gifts to three separate rest homes located in Henderson.

Pray that God would bless and grant each of us His strength, His power, and His traveling mercies. We thank you for your

prayers and we give God all the glory, praise, and the honor for what he has done, is doing, and will continue doing in our

**"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me,"
(Matthew 25:40)**

lives as individual laymen, and collectively as laymen leagues throughout the state, county, and the world. Thank you for your continued support.

Fulfilling a Higher Calling with Woman's Convention

By Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign
Missionary Convention of North
Carolina

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Inc., is



Dr. Linda
Bryan

poised to usher in a new chapter in its history. While we're building on the past, we're embracing what the Apostle Paul told the church at Philippi "...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13b-14)

The convention has a higher calling

that is all about God. Here are some questions we may need to ponder in preparation for the higher calling: 1) What is God saying to us? 2) What is God doing in us and to us organizationally and individually? 3) What is God summoning us to do? 4) What is our response to God?

Perhaps spending quiet time with God in anticipation of a kairos moment, where we may experience an epiphany, will enable us to answer some of the aforementioned questions. This is a time of preparation for what lies ahead in the new dispensation of the convention.

At the helm of the launching of this chapter are new officers installed at the Annual Session in July, who have pledged their commitment to the mission and ministry of the WBH&FMC.

They are as follows:

- President: Dr. Audrey Battle
- 1st Vice President: Min. Linda Inman
- 2nd Vice President: Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow
- 3rd Vice President: Mrs. Ellender LeMay
- 4th Vice President: Mrs. Lena Johnson
- Recorder: Ms. Arlethia L. Joyner
- Asst. Recorder: Ms. Barbara Harris
- Historian: Ms. Vanessa Gregory
- Dir. of Music: Ms. Alice Green
- Organist/Pianist: Mr. Harold Dixon

Pianist: Rev. Clarence LeMay

We're expecting God to move in some incredible ways as we seek to do God's will in this new chapter of the convention. We're excited about what is to come:

1. You will soon visit a rejuvenated website displaying upcoming events, history, general convention information, specific information pertaining to various programs, pictures, updates, registration information, etc.
2. The office is being automated such that handwritten receipts and check writing will become obsolete.
3. We now have a stamp machine so that our mail can be processed and stamped automatically.
4. An article will appear in The Baptist Informer every month to keep you informed.
5. Look for advertisements of our special events in the Informer and on the website.

Please mark your calendar for the Youth Evangelism Conference, scheduled for November 7 at 9 a.m. at Warren County High School. The event will be hosted by the Warren County Missionary Union, Mrs. Wadie Ryan, President.

GBSC Gives \$10,000 to Support Boyd Chapel

From Staff Reports

The General Baptist State Convention contributed \$10,000 to the Thomas J. Boyd Chapel at the close of the 2009-10 fiscal year. "The convention seeks to remember Boyd Chapel with a special gift each year to express our support for the mission of the chapel on the university campus and to reinforce our historic link with Shaw," said Dr. Haywood T. Gray, GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer. This contribution, as with the ones preceding, are given to assist in the enhancement of the programs and services offered by the chapel.

The chapel at Shaw University was first dedicated on June 15, 1948. After World War II, the United States military had a surplus of wood-framed "temporary" chapel buildings that were being made available to the civilian sector. Shaw University applied for one of these chapels and one was so designated. In 1993, the chapel was completely renovated. The renovation was made possible because of funds donated by Rev. Thomas J. Boyd, for whom the chapel

Continued on Page 4

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Mr. William B. Thompson
Financial Strategist

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Shaw Students Winners In National Research Competition

From Press Release

The Institute for Health, Social, and Community Research (IHSCR) at Shaw University announces that two Shaw University students were selected as first-place winners in a national competition of student researchers at the Minority Access Inc. Tenth National Role Models Conference, which was held September 11-

14 in Washington, D.C. The goal of Minority Access Inc. is to increase the participation of minorities in biomedical research.

Because of the outstanding research that Shaw students have been involved in through internships at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Johns Hopkins University, and in Jamaica, twelve students were strongly encouraged to enter the competition that featured undergraduate and graduate students from universities across the nation. These students have either participated in or conducted research using unique methodologies in the areas of social sciences, biomedical sciences, environmental sciences, or diversity.

Ms. Andrea D. Mickle, President of Minority Access Inc., said this was "a diverse group of young researchers from diverse colleges and universities who presented their research findings in a competitive forum on a myriad of health related issues." She added, "Minority Access encourages research by

scholars because we know that more medical research will inevitably lead to more cures and a narrowing of the health disparities gap between minorities and the general population; a gap that is currently wide." Shaw University was well represented at this forum and the students represented Shaw well at this major event.

Natieka Green, a sophomore with a major in kinesiotherapy and minors in political science and international relations, won first place in the oral presentation category and received \$1,000 for her research presentation developed from her research study titled, "Racial Disparities in Alcohol Use: Findings from the Exploring Health Disparities in Integrated Communities Study." Green's summer internship was organized through the IHSCR's partnership with the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was selected to participate in a paid 10-week

summer internship at Johns Hopkins University and her presentation was part of the final requirement for successful completion of the internship.

Kalada Kienka, a sophomore with a major in computer science and a minor in mathematics, won the first place prize of \$250 in the research poster category. His poster presentation, titled "Identifying Proteins in Prostate Cancer Cells Using Mass Spectrometry Data," was the final requirement for the Shaw-UNC Undergraduate Program in Prostate Cancer Research and Training research summer internship program. Kienka participated in a paid 10-week intensive residential research internship with a research mentor at UNC.

To learn more about the institute, visit www.imls.gov. For more information on North Carolina's LSTA program, visit <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lsta/lsta.htm>.

First Vice-President

Fruit-Bearers Must Press On

By Rev. Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.
First Vice-President GBSC

"To the General Baptist family, together with all the saints throughout the world: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," (2 Corinthians 1:1b-2, NIV paraphrased). We are called to be fruit-bearers of God through Jesus Christ. True fruit-bearers possess inward divine power that transforms lives and overcomes obstacles to ministry.

True fruit-bearers do not falter nor waver in the face of naysayers, doomsday prophets, or ship jumpers. Rather, they fully embrace the reality of being under girded by the

unmerited favor of God's grace. Because of God's sufficient grace, abundant mercy, omnipresent power, and blessed provisions, our convention remains alive, well, and full of Jesus' resurrection power!

As we move forward under the anointed leadership of our administration and energetic leadership in our auxiliaries, we must be equipped, empowered, and encouraged to wage spiritual warfare on this Christian journey. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul warned the Christian community to never underestimate the strength and impact of satanic warfare.

In his paraphrase, the Message, Eugene Peterson summarizes Ephesians 6:10-18:

"God is strong, and [God] wants you to be strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the devil throws your way. This is no athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget

about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the devil and his angels.

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them.

You'll need them throughout your life. God's word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out."

General Baptists, let us press on! We are fueled by a faith in God that embraces the past, enhances the present, and envisions the future. We must press on by supporting our convention and its objectives with our gifts and service. We must press on by endeavor-

ing to worship, work, and witness for the Lord. We must press on as true fruit-bearers in the work of God and as prophetic witnesses of God's transforming power.

We can and will fulfill God's mandated ministry through your sacrificial support of the General Baptist State Convention. Your generous prayerful and financial support of State Missions will enable us to invest and benefit greatly in convincing "the Unconvinced to be Convinced...through Education, Missions and Fellowship."

I am challenging all pastors, laity, churches, moderators, associations, and those who love the Lord to:

- 1) Be a loyal subscriber and encourage others to subscribe to The Baptist Informer.
- 2) Support our President, Dr. Gregory K. Moss, our Executive Secretary, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, our auxiliaries, and State Missions.

Contact GBSC Headquarters or myself to become and remain a true fruit-bearer to the glory of God!

Rev. Avery can be reached 704-637-0954 or averyrevkin@aol.com.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen,"
(1 Corinthians 16:23-24, NIV).



Dr. Nilous Avery, II

Third Vice-President

Face the Problem and Praise God

By Rev. Dr. Ricky L. Banks
Third Vice President
GBSC



Rev. Ricky Banks

"Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are His," Daniel 2:20 NIV.

What do we do when we face problems that seem impossible? What are the options? We can run, hide, give up, or use human wisdom or common sense. We must learn to trust God.

Let us use Daniel as a model for our behavior. Daniel had a problem that the wisest men in the country said was impossible—to not only interpret a dream, but recall it for the king who had forgotten it. Daniel did not run away or ignore the problem. He faced it. He went to his friends to ask for their prayers, and together the four of them asked God for mercy and wisdom. God granted their request. Even before Daniel went to the king to tell him his dream, he praised and thanked God. He had faith that God would grant wisdom and mercy.

Just as we can use Daniel as a model for our behavior, we can use his prayer of praise as a model for prayer. Praise God for His wisdom and power. Praise Him for His revelation to us. Praise Him for giving wisdom and knowledge to us. How long shall I praise Him—morning worship only, mid-week service, revival, special occasions only? The psalmist speaks and reminds us from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. He is worthy to be praised.

Rev. Banks can be reached at 252-335-5003 or pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com.

GBSC Gives: Continued from Page 3

was subsequently named.

The philosophy underlying religious life at Shaw is that any education which proposes to equip students for wholesome living and efficient service must of necessity include religion. Shaw's philosophy purports that a well-developed personality can be achieved only by the cultivation and enhancement of all areas of an individual's life and that a religious environment for college students constitutes fertile soil for growth in the realm of spiritual aspirations.

In accepting this year's gift, Dr. Quincy Scott, Dean of the Thomas J. Boyd Chapel, wrote: "[The convention's] understanding, concern, compassion, and sacrifice touches me in a way that increases my own resolve. Thank you for being an agent of grace."

National Baptist Convention, Red Cross Partner for Disaster Relief

From Press Release

Recognizing that response to large disasters is bigger than any one organization, the American Red Cross has expanded its ability to respond to these situations by forming diverse and inclusive partnerships with faith-based and civic organizations across the country. The National Baptist Convention,

USA, Inc. has joined the ranks of these Red Cross partners by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Red Cross which calls for the two organizations to work together to provide disaster preparedness and response services to diverse communities.

"We are delighted to form this critical partnership with the National Baptist Convention," said Joe Becker, Red Cross Senior Vice President for Disaster Services, "Their leadership and assistance in helping communities prepare for and respond to disasters will be invaluable."

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. is the nation's oldest and largest African-American religious convention with an estimated 7.5 million members. Founded in 1886 and headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the group recently held its first Disaster Response, Relief, and Recovery Training. In attendance were local pastors as well as district and state representatives.

Under the new agreement, National Baptist Convention churches may be used as shelters and will be trained in different disaster response roles; churches will help local Red Cross chapters prepare their communities; chapters and churches will work together on community disaster planning; and

churches will support blood drives held by their local Red Cross Blood Services regions.

For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join their blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.



Churches Report Drop In Offerings, but Few Tighten Budgets

From The Christian Post

While nearly half of all churches have reported a decrease in tithes and offerings, many have still increased their budgets this year, a new survey shows.

Forty percent of surveyed church leaders said current economic conditions have resulted in a drop in weekly giving by two percent or more, according to Your Church

magazine's Budget Priorities Survey. Despite the losses, more than one-third of respondents said they expect their current church budget to increase by at least two percent. Just nearly a quarter of church leaders said their church budget will shrink. Nearly one-third of the respondents expect

Continued on Page 6

Survey Shows African-Americans Want Action on Climate Change

From Press Release

A majority of African-Americans believe climate change is a growing problem that both government and individuals should take action on now to mitigate the potential impacts, according to the results of a national poll conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a research and policy institution in Washington, D.C.

The survey of 750 African American adults found that more than half of respondents identified the issue as a "major problem," with 58 percent giving that response when it was described as "global warming" and 52 percent reacting that way when the term "climate change" was used. Only about ten percent in each group said global warming or climate change is not a problem.

A large majority of respondents said that government and individuals can do things to reduce global warming. About a third believe federal and state government can do a lot to mitigate the problem, while some three-quarters believe government can at least do something. A majority of African-Americans express support for the cap-and-trade legislation passed earlier this year by the U.S. House of Representatives, and a large majority said they would be even more supportive with strong provisions for green jobs and incentives to buy more energy efficient cars and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The poll was the second that the Joint Center has conducted to determine African-American views on climate change. The previous survey, released in July 2008, also found a majority of African-Americans defining climate change as a problem that government must address.

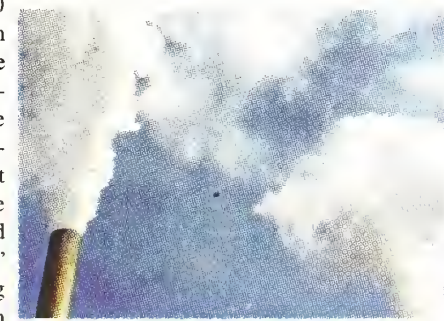
A key finding in this year's survey is that 26 percent of African-Americans think they—and others like them—can do a lot to reduce global warming, and an additional 44 percent believe they can take at least some measures to combat the problem. The survey results indicate that a majority of them recycle and purchase energy saving appliances and light bulbs, while nearly half of them purchased products in the last year that were better for the environment even though the products were more costly than similar non-environmentally friendly items.

Like all Americans, there are limits to what African-Americans will buy into on public policy choices for the environment. The survey found that about half of black households have two or more cars, and while they are willing to pay more for energy in some circumstances, they oppose higher gasoline taxes. Similarly, while about two in five

African-Americans support building more nuclear power plants, fewer than one in four would support building a nuclear power plant in their own community.

While opposition to gas tax increases is strong, a solid majority of African-Americans (63 percent) believe that people they know would be willing to change their driving habits or drive less to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Findings from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' national survey, "African-Americans on Climate Change and Conservation," are from a random digit-dialing telephone survey of 750 African-American adults conducted between July 20 and July 30, 2009. The full survey can be downloaded at www.jointcenter.org/climate.



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Drop in Offerings: Continued from Page 5

their current church budget to stay about the same.

Your Church magazine, part of the evangelical Christianity Today International media ministry, surveyed and interviewed more than 1,100 "active Christians," those who believe salvation is through Jesus Christ and read the Bible regularly and most of whom are in leadership roles, early this year to learn church budgeting priorities, identify sources of church income, and assess the influence of current economic conditions on churches.

The average worship attendance in respondents' churches is 580. Notably, however, 47 percent of those surveyed are from churches with less than 200 people in average attendance.

Survey results show that tithes and offerings are the principal source of income for churches, comprising 87 percent of church budgets. Thirty-three percent of churches said tithes and offerings are their

only sources of income.

Other much smaller sources of income include investments, special campaigns (such as capital fundraising) and ancillary programs/ministries (such as bookstores, daycare centers, and schools).

The economic downturn has forced churches to consider various options, such as salary freezes, for tighter budgets. The survey found that churches were more likely to consider such options than actually experience them despite losses in giving. More than a quarter (27 percent) said they considered salary freezes, but only 20 percent ended up actually freezing salaries as a result of current economic conditions. Nearly one in

five said they considered hiring freezes, but only 14 percent went ahead with it. Moreover, 14 percent considered pay cuts, but only 7 percent actually experienced it.



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built in 1953 to house the operations of the General Baptist State Convention

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on the campus of Lott Carey Missions School in Liberia

HENRY P. CHEATHAM HALL —

one of the oldest buildings on the campus of Central Children's Home

ALSTON LODGE —

a dormitory building on the campus of J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill, NC

ESTEY HALL —

on the campus of Shaw University, the first building constructed for the higher education of women in the United States

LEONARD MEDICAL BUILDING —

present home of Shaw University Divinity School and the former site of the first four year medical program in the nation

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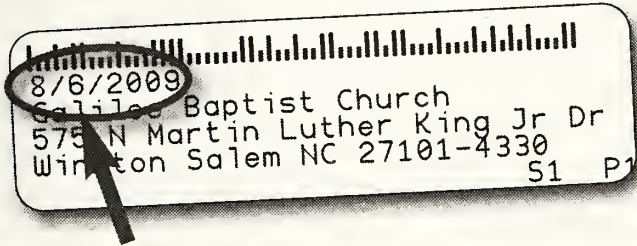
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PASTORAL VACANCY New Release

First Missionary Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina

First Missionary Baptist Church of Smithfield, North Carolina, an African-American church with approximately 200 members, is seeking a pastor who meets the following criteria:

- Is an ordained Baptist minister
- Holds a degree from an accredited seminary or theology school
- Has 5 or more years experience as a pastor

Interested persons should send a resume to:
First Missionary Baptist Church
Attention: Pastoral Search Committee
P.O. Box 1422, Smithfield, NC 27577

Resumes may also be sent via email to: Lmcswane@aol.com

The deadline for all submissions is November 30, 2009

SENIOR PASTOR

Orcutt Baptist Church, Newport News, VA

Orcutt Baptist Church seeks
a full time senior pastor.

We are a caring, dynamic congregation with a vision for reaching the community. Orcutt is located in the heart of historic Tidewater Virginia. We are a diverse moderate Baptist church with a rich history of missions and ministry. Orcutt is a member of the BGAV and partners with the SBC and CBF.

Current staff includes a full time Associate Minister of Youth and Children, full time Church Business Administrator, part time Minister of Music, part time Missions Coordinator, and Church Secretary.

Minimum educational requirement – Master of Divinity - preferably a Doctorate.
Experience: 8-10 years minimum. Salary range – 79K – 86K.

Forward resume to:

Betty McCloud,
Chairman Pastor Search Committee (bmcccloud100@cox.net)
or Orcutt Baptist Church 653 Baxter Lane
Newport News, VA 23602 757-249-1280

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Scruggs Elected NBCUSA President

From Staff Reports



Delegates at the National Baptist Convention decided overwhelmingly to elect the Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs to the presidency of the National Baptist Convention USA. Scruggs, who is Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, most recently served as Vice President-at-Large of the convention. He received 4,108 votes in the election compared to 924 received by Dr. Henry J. Lyons, his challenger for the seat. The NBCUSA is said to be the largest African-American religious organization in the nation.

After the results were announced on September 10, Scruggs thanked the voters for trusting him to lead. "I do not

take your trust lightly," he said. "I will do everything in my power to seek to live up to your trust."

Although General Baptist Churches in North Carolina are aligned with different conventions, the majority of GBSC congregations are NBCUSA affiliated. GBSC President Gregory Moss led a large North Carolina delegation to Memphis for the Annual Session to participate in the election. Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, was elected Vice President-at-Large.

Outgoing President Dr. William Shaw, left, introduces President-Elect Rev. Julius Scruggs at the National Baptist Convention USA meeting in Memphis in September.

BAPTIST
INFORMER



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Upcoming Events

142nd Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C.

October 26-28, Sycamore Hill Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road, Greenville, NC

Monday, October 26

11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Registration
12-1:30 p.m.: General Board Meeting,
Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., Chairman
2-3 p.m.: Worship
3-3:30 p.m.: Information Session—
How H1N1 Flu Virus Impacts Churches
3:30-4 p.m.: Information Session—
Avoiding Investment Scams and Financial Fraud
4-4:30 p.m.: Information Session—
Where the Church and the School Intersect
6:30-7:30 p.m.: Seminar for Associate Ministers
7:30-8 p.m.: Welcome Program
8-9 p.m.: Worship
9-10 p.m.: Late-Night Worship

Tuesday, October 27

8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Registration
9-10 a.m.: Worship

10-11:30 a.m.: Concurrent Seminars:
A) Economic Stimulus Package
B) Christian Education
C) Ministry to College Students
D) Planning for Church Construction
2-2:30 p.m.: Official Opening of the
140th Annual Session
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Worship
3:30-4:30 p.m.: "Two Generations,
Two Glances at the Church"
6:30-7:30 p.m.: President's Reception,
Sycamore Hill Fellowship Hall
7:30-9 p.m.: Worship with Keynote Preacher,
Dr. Joel C. Gregory
9-10 p.m.: Late-Night Worship

Wednesday, October 28

7-9 a.m.: Pastors Only Breakfast,
Featuring Dr. Joel C. Gregory
8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Registration
9-10 a.m.: Worship
10-11 a.m.: Business Session
11-11:30 a.m.: Executive Secretary-
Treasurer's Annual Report, Dr. Haywood T. Gray
2-3 p.m.: Worship

3-3:30 p.m.: Missions Focus, Dr. Linda W. Bryan
3:30-4:30 p.m.: Objectives Focus:
-Central Children's Home
-Shaw Divinity School
-J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
-Lott Carey Foreign Missions
-State Missions
7-7:30 p.m.: Music
7:30-8 p.m.: Spotlight on Shaw University,
Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancey
8-9 p.m.: The President's Hour, Dr. Gregory K. Moss Sr.

28th Annual Youth Evangelism Conference Sponsored by the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.

November 7-9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Warren County High School
149 Campus Drive, Warrenton, NC

Hosted by the Warren County Missionary Union,
Mrs. Wadie Ryan, President
WBH&FMC:
Ms. Jewyl Dunn, Youth Supervisor
Dr. Audrey Battle, President
Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

10/30/2010

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