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# BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 134, No. 11

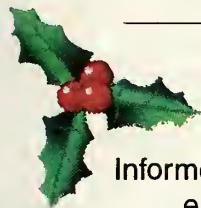
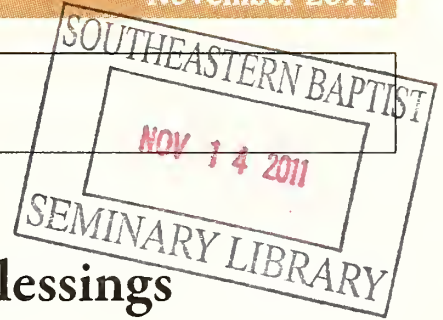
Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

November 2011

GBSC THEME

*"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"*

Matthew 28:19-20



The Baptist Informer will present a special

## "Holiday Greetings"

section in December and January. Those interested may have God-filled messages or memorials sent to family, friends and/or church members. For details, please contact the Rev. Anthonette Wright at the Baptist Headquarters - (919) 821-7466.

Don't miss out!

## THANKSGIVING: Reflecting on God's Bountiful Blessings



Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan  
Executive Secretary-  
Treasurer/Woman's Baptist  
Home & Foreign Missionary  
Convention of NC

When we think of Thanksgiving, often what comes to mind is home, family gatherings, mom's cooking - turkey and dressing, gravy, collard greens, candied yams, yeast rolls, and other delicacies. Many of us decorate our homes with tradi-

tional pumpkins and table decorations in fall colors. Some front porches are decorated with bales of straw with corn stalks, mums, stuffed stick dolls, and fall wreaths to greet visitors. However, while we enjoy the decorations, food, and celebration, we must be mindful that Thanksgiving has theological implications. It is a legal holiday set aside for the purpose of giving thanks to Almighty God for God's bountiful blessings.

Imagine that - a federal holiday legalized by government officials for the purpose of setting aside an entire

day for this country to give thanks to Jehovah, our God! Is there such a thing as separation of church and state? In my opinion, the answer is simply "no."

While Thanksgiving has been celebrated since 1621 by the Pilgrims with Native Americans, the first national proclamation of Thanksgiving was given by the Continental Congress in 1777. On October 3, 1789 President George Washington proclaimed the first Thanksgiving Day. In November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a National Thanksgiving Day

(Continued on Page 2)



**Generational Winners:** Families who received achievement certificates at the Family Missions Conference, presented by the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C. in September at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Oxford, N.C. (See related photo and story inside the Informer).

## CHURCH SECURITY: Safe and Secure from All Alarm?

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (ABP) -- By definition, a "sanctuary" should be a place of refuge and protection where people feel welcome and feel safe.

In practice, churches struggle with what it means to open their doors to everyone while providing a sense of security for people inside their walls.

And if that holds true when

groups gather for worship, the tension mounts for personnel who work alone on weekdays in a church office.

**Changing policy**

Until a few months ago, First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City maintained an open-door policy during business hours. A person could walk into the church facility through any of several unlocked entrances.

"Our policy was to keep the outside doors open to give an air of invitation to anyone in need, while locking most inside doors

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**P2** The Informer's Spotlight

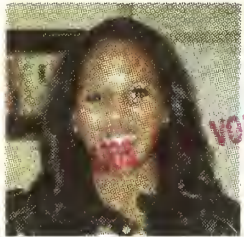
**P7** CHURCH SECURITY: Safe and Secure from All Alarm?

**P11** "Strong Families: Praying and Staying Together" 32nd Annual Family Missions Conference Held in Oxford



# THE INFORMER'S SPOTLIGHT

## Blood Cancers: Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma



Loreal Massiah, MSW  
Patient Services Manager  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
(North Carolina Chapter)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), blood or hematologic cancers, (cancers of the blood, bone marrow, and lymph nodes)

include leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. In 2007, more than 119,724 cases of blood, bone marrow, or lymph node cancers were diagnosed in the United States, and nearly 54,999 people died from these cancers. Among children and teens less than 20 years old, leukemia is the most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer death. Although the number of new cases of leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma diagnosed each year has

increased, deaths from these blood cancers have decreased in recent years. This decrease in deaths may be due to many factors, including earlier detection and better treatments.

Loreal Massiah, patient services manager, North Carolina Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), is the face of the LLS mission to cure blood cancers and improve the quality of life in the community. She oversees all NC patient services programs including: education, awareness, community outreach, health-care professional education, support groups, financial assistance, and the peer to peer support program. Loreal's job also allows her to assist patients throughout their cancer journey and ensure that they have the resources and services to successfully get through treatment and survivorship. She helps others by assisting patients in better understanding their diagnosis, treatment options and how to access resources available in our organization and in the community.

"Blood cancers, unlike many of the other cancers can affect anyone. These particular types of cancer do not discriminate. Our patient demographics literally run from infants to our elderly population and every race, culture and so-economic status that exists" explains

Massiah.

### Getting Involved

There are many ways to get involved in the patient services program in North Carolina. The NC Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is always looking for dedicated ambassadors, volunteers and committee members to help enhance

their mission in the community. "LLS prides itself in the amazing work of volunteers. It is because of volunteerism that we are able to successfully meet the needs of patients across the state of North Carolina" says Loreal. Other ways to get involved with LLS include:

- Donations
- Participate/Volunteer
- Partner/Sponsor
- Advocacy

### Events in NC

Participate with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's North Carolina Chapter and raise awareness and funds by

participating in local events in your area. Funds raised support the work of hundreds of the world's best and brightest researchers in their search for better therapies and cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Some of the events include:

- Caregivers of Childhood Cancer Patient(s) Support Group
- 8th Annual David Humphries Memorial Golf Tournament
- Hockey Fights Cancer
- 4th Annual Keith Stewart Memorial Golf Tournament
- Team In Training
- Light The Night Walk
- Man & Woman of the Year
- School & Youth Programs
- The Leukemia Cup Regatta

Lastly, Massiah informs, "Most people throughout their lifetime will know at least one person who was diagnosed; having our information on hand and knowing that our services are available could really help someone you love." For more information about blood cancers and LLS services, go to [www.lls.org/nc](http://www.lls.org/nc)

by Cornell P. Wright, MPA  
Programs Manager  
Center for Health and Healing, Inc.

(Continued from Page 1)

to be celebrated the last Thursday in November. But it was President Franklin D. Roosevelt who on December 26, 1941 signed a bill passed by the US Congress requiring Thanksgiving Day be observed on the fourth Thursday in November, for the first time making Thanksgiving Day a federal holiday by law.

Imagine that - by

law, we are forced to shut down to give God praise and thanksgiving. For



many of us who are Christian, federal law pales in comparison to God's word to force us to shut down long enough to give God praise and thanksgiving.

It should be a natural urgency in the body of Christ to desire to give our God due thanksgiving for all of God's bountiful blessings. In Psalms 105-107 and 118, the Psalmist urges us with these words "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For his loving kindness is everlasting." He goes on to say in Psalm 119:62 "At

midnight I shall rise to give thanks to Thee because of Thy righteous ordinances". The Apostle Paul said to the Thessalonians "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". There are many scriptural references to giving thanks. These are but a few reminders in this season of THANKSGIVING to give thanks not only for what God has done for us but for who God is and for what He has done through His Son, Jesus, our Christ.

## Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., Voice of 500,000 Baptists

Published the first of each month at Raleigh, N.C.  
Postmaster send addresses & all communications for publications & inquiry to

Baptist Informer, Baptist Headquarters,  
603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601  
919-821-7466 • Fax: 919-831-1526

Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor

Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor

# Seeds of Faith: Striving To Please God

How often do we stop to ask ourselves, "Are we really pleasing God in our day to day living?" More of our time is spent pleasing our spouses, children, jobs, churches and everything else. Is all of that really important? If we do our best to please, satisfy and seek God, all of these things will be added abundantly unto us. One may ask the question, "How can I please God?" Hebrews 11:6 (KJV) tells us "without Faith it is impossible to please God." Faith is the



Rev. O.D. Sykes  
Fourth Vice President, GBSC-NC

necessary ingredient in our Christian life that pleases God. You don't have to have a lot of it. Having Faith, the size of a mustard seed is all you need to move a mountain Matthew 17:20 (KJV). Faith is what you use to believe in what you cannot see. The Senior Seasoned Saints used Faith to say and sing with uplifted voices, "There is a bright side somewhere and "The Lord will make a way somehow."

The Elders used their Faith to obtain a good report. Abel used his Faith to give God a more excellent sacrifice. Enoch's Faith permitted him not to see death and to walk with God out of time into eternity. Abraham's Faith lead him to leave home without a road map and to take his only son, Isaac, to the mountain of sacrifice, as God commanded.

If we expect to please God in everything that we do and say we must have Faith. Yes, we all know that Faith without works is dead, but does it make sense to work without Faith? The Gospel according to Matthew the 6th Chapter (KJV), Jesus says:

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

If we expect to please God we must make sure our priorities are in the right perspective. As your 4th Vice President, I have Faith that our Baptist Family will continue to be Faithful to Missions and Building the Kingdom of God. Always remember my brothers and sisters in Christ: Only What You Do For Christ Will Last. God's Blessings and Mercies upon each of you.

## "ALL THE WAY"

II TIMOTHY 4: 1-8  
"A Witness of the Living Lord"  
John 20:1-31

The Gospel of John does not give a detailed account of the resurrection of Jesus. However, the resurrection is seen most dramatically as it involves two people in John 20. They are Mary Magdalene and Thomas.

At an earlier time in the ministry of Jesus, he had cast seven devils out of Mary of Magdala (Mark 16, Luke 8:2). She never ceased to be grateful, and was a devoted follower of Jesus. She was one of the women who stood at the cross and watched Jesus die (John 19:25). With the other women she had watched



Dr. Ricky L. Banks,  
GBSC Second Vice  
President

them bury Jesus and had spent some time sitting near the garden tomb. (See Mark 15:47; Matt 27:61.)

Early on Sunday morning, just as it was light enough to see to walk, Mary went to the tomb. The other Gospels tell that some other women accompanied her. Although the other women are not mentioned in John's account, Mary did use the plural when she said to Peter and John: "We know not where they have laid him" (v.2).

As they arrived, Mary saw that the large stone had been rolled away and she immediately assumed that someone has stolen Jesus' body. Her first impulse was to tell Peter. Peter and John immediately raced through the streets, out the gate, and down into the garden. Mary could not keep up with the running men, and they were already gone from the tomb when she arrived there. She stood just outside the tomb and began quietly weeping. Her grief was so deep that she did not react very much to the vision of the two angels.

The angels disappear from the story, in verse 16, the gloom of death is scattered by the light of a radiant reality. Notice the means Jesus used to quicken Mary's Spirit. Her own name, spoken in the familiar voice, suddenly brought recognition, through tears. After the resurrection this

way of speaking about or to Jesus fell into disuse. From that time forward he was called "LORD." Without any hesitation, Mary ran to deliver the message. In the meantime, Peter and John had gathered the disciples. So Mary found them together.

The original language gives the picture of Mary coming to them announcing as she ran: "I have seen the Lord, I have seen the Lord!" The word for "told" or "announced" is the word from which we get the English word "evangelize." Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just Because He lives.

## Shaw University IHSCR Awarded United Negro College Fund Special Programs \$20, 000 Grant

From Press Reports

Shaw University's Institute for Health, Social, and Community Research (IHSCR) has received a \$20,000 United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation (UNCFSP) grant as part of an initiative in partnership with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to promote increased utilization of NLM

online health resources for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) campuses and their surrounding communities.

In response to the disparities in morbidity and mortality among underserved populations, the UNCFSP/NLM HBCU ACCESS Project was launched in 2002. As the recipient of 2011-2012 UNCFSP/NLM HBCU ACCESS award, Shaw's project focus is community and campus empowerment through awareness and access to online health information.

"Awareness and access are key components to engaging and empowering people with accurate and reliable health-related information to improve

their health and quality of life" said Renee Myatt, ECHI principal investigator. "Shaw University is a community and academic resource and advocate."

The Shaw Empowerment through Consumer Health Information (ECHI) is a collaborative partnership that engages the Shaw University Freshmen Studies Program, Shaw's Natural Sciences & Mathematics Department, the City of Raleigh Information Technology Department, the Southeast Raleigh Assembly and the Central Citizens Advisory Council in a collaborative process aimed at enhancing knowledge and utilization of the NLM online consumer health information

databases.

## Boyd Makes Donation to Shaw

Dr. Thomas J. Boyd recently made a donation to Shaw in the amount of \$1,000 in honor of his mother, Bessie Boyd-Holman. Presenting the check to President Dorothy Cowser Yancy was Rev. Donna Battle, Dean of the Thomas J. Boyd Chapel and Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

### Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of NC

#### Position Description

High level of competence, proven skills in written and verbal communications, ability to multitask and work under pressure. Have good organizational skills, can manage time well, can lead by example, is self motivated and willing to accept responsibility. Have capacity to be a team player and leader, works well with others, have respect for self and others. Willing to give of self for the cause of the Woman's Convention. Must be mission-minded with a record reflecting such. Confidentiality and trustworthiness are essential. Must be flexible and able to work weekends.

**EDUCATION:** Minimum Bachelor's Degree, experienced in office management, bookkeeping, use of technology, including accounting software, excel, publishing, etc. Have some supervisory experience. Have a minimum of 4 years experience as an executive assistant, administrative assistant, bookkeeper and/or office manager.

**DUTIES:** Manage and coordinate logistics associated with the calendar of events throughout the year in a timely manner. Coordinate planning meetings and participate as necessary, schedule appointments, make travel arrangements, communicate and collaborate with officials, pastors, and other leaders in a professional manner, assist with proofreading, report writing and letter writing as needed. Must be available for office management in the absence of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer (EST).

Responsible for developing reporting systems that will provide accurate and up-to-date access to data. Collaborate with EST on updated financial reports on a regular basis such that reports are readily available as needed. Responsible for accurately receipting all income and preparing daily report of income. Must be able to do bank reconciliations, balance sheets, and create various budget reporting formats. Assist with planning and preparation for Executive Committee, Executive Board and various committee meetings and retreats. Other duties deemed necessary by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer (EST). Reports directly to the EST.

Those interested should submit resumes to the Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, WBHFMC-NC, P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.

**DEADLINE:** December 31, 2011.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS Fall 2011 USHERS' WORKSHOP

Will be held from  
9 a.m. – Noon on  
**November 19, 2011**  
At **Gethsemane  
Baptist Church**

719 South Caldwell Street  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

The Rev. Dr. Clary L.

Phelps is pastor

Individual registrations are  
\$10 per adult; \$5 for  
youth. Churches and  
association are asked to  
support the North  
Carolina Baptist Usher's  
Convention with a contri-  
bution of \$400  
each fiscal year.

For details, please contact the  
Baptist Headquarters at  
**(919) 821-7466.**

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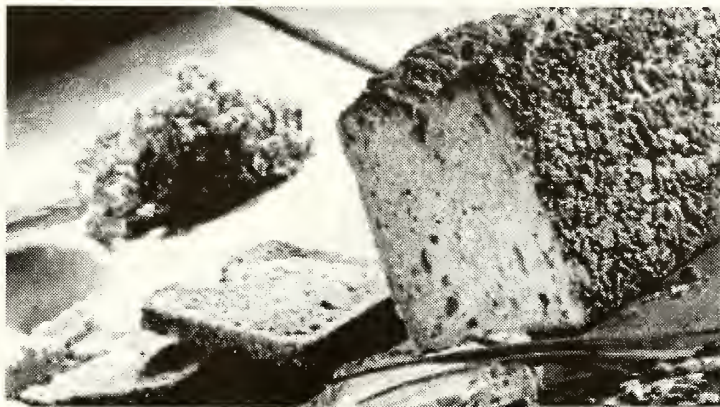
## Religious Leaders Lending Voices to Fight Hunger

My wife and I recently took my 2-year-old son, Emil, to the doctor's office for his standard two-year checkup. To my pleasure, all measurements indicated that his physical development was not only above average but excellent for a child his age. After all was said and done, we left the doctor's office with Emil receiving a clean bill of health.

This trip to the doctor's office had me thinking—what a privilege it is to have access to nutritious food, doctors, and medicine to ensure the good health and well-being of our children. In the United States we often take such “everyday” privileges for granted, but on a recent trip to Zambia I quickly realized that for many people around the world, these privileges are not normal at all.

Zambia was the first of three stops on a visit to Africa I took with reli-

gious leaders and several Bread for the World colleagues last month. We wanted to learn more about the work being done in Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania to address maternal and child nutrition issues in developing countries. Simply put, without addressing malnutrition, we don't have any hope of ending hunger.



Talking about the nutritional needs of mothers and children is a great way to put a face on the importance of poverty-focused development assistance.

For example, I learned that 45 percent of Zambian children under 5 suffer from stunted growth because they have limited access to nutritious food and medicines. Almost 21 percent are severely stunted, according to the World Health Organization's standards. These statistics are startling. In addition, HIV-positive mothers who give birth to HIV-negative children

are often confronted with an impossible dilemma when it comes to feeding their children. Because baby formula often depends on access to clean and safe drinking water—which can be hard to find—the only viable option for these mothers is to breastfeed them, knowing there is a 30 percent chance their babies will contract HIV. They have no other alternative. What a decision to have to make!

Maternal and child nutrition in the time between pregnancy and age 2 (approximately 1,000 days) are crucial for human development. Here in the United States, mothers and children who are not properly nourished in the first 1,000 days face greater mortality rates at birth. Children have decreased mental capacity, leading to lower test scores, a smaller vocabulary, and poorer overall health through their lifetimes. Programs such as WIC and SNAP help ensure that mothers and children receive adequate nutrition; we believe they must be protected.

In developing countries, children suffer permanent cognitive and physical delays when mothers and children do not receive proper nutrition during this critical period. Children who are properly nourished resist disease better throughout their lives, stay in

school longer, and earn more income. We believe our efforts to end hunger overseas must also include a focus on nutrition.

Bread for the World supports efforts to end malnutrition. But we can't do it alone. We need religious leaders and organizations to become invested and engaged in this conversation. We are working to develop a community of faith leaders who will advocate for nutrition—which brings me back to Africa. In addition to Zambia, we toured nutritious food factories, villages, and hospitals across Malawi and Tanzania, with the goal of seeing firsthand the importance of maternal and child nutrition. Now it's your turn. Let's keep these conversations going in our community and help change history for hungry people around the world.

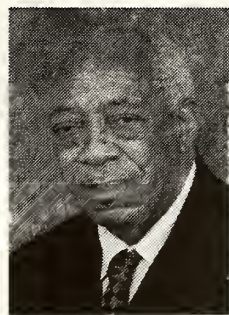
Rev. Derrick Boykin serves as associate for African American leadership outreach at Bread for the World.

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

## “Models of Christ: The Quest for Spiritual Men”

As indicated at the end of our last discussion, concerning the Laymen's Sub-Theme: “Spiritual Men in solidarity with the Savior,” we want to emphasize the principles of character and commitment in spiritual Men.

To understand Dietrich Bonhoeffer's description of the church as an “articulated organism,” we have to understand that human beings make up the body of the living Lord. So the “Body” must be in line with “head,” which is Jesus the Christ. The character of spiritual Men shows the world what Christ looks like. Why is this important? Spiritual men



Bro. Richmond Turner  
GBSC Laymen

must model Christ. Recently, the Laymen again ministered to the inmates of the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, N.C. An estimated 50-75 men were at each of these gatherings, but only six to eight saints from various locations in the state were there to minister. That is incredulous since the General Baptist State Convention boasts a membership of approximately 500,000. These statistics might indicate a lack of solidarity with our Savior among professed Christian

men. All around us are multitudes very much alive physically but dead spiritually. Far too many of our church members are alive yet dead. We make every provision for our material and natural needs but not mindful of our deeper need of the soul for the true bread life from heaven, the Gospel. It takes Spiritual men to carry the Gospel.

What is the character of Spiritual Men? What is Character? Character is an evaluation of a particular individual's moral qualities. In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul mentions three characteristics of effective spiritual men: Power, Love, and Self-discipline. These are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Another principle for Spiritual

men to live by is commitment. In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul advised Timothy “be strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus and the things you heard me say, in the presence of many witnesses entrust reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Disciples need to be equipped to pass on their faith. Our work is not done until new believers are able to make disciples of others. Too many of our churches are dying on the vine, because old warriors are passing from the scene and there are no new warriors to replace them. This has to be gross disobedience to Christ's command. Let us become committed to entrust the Gospel to our converts.



Audrey Battle, *President*

# UNITY – UNITY – UNITY

## CSI: A Call to Spiritual Integrity in Unity and Cohesiveness Psalm 133:1

A new attitude is centered around our –theme: If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain.

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Ruler and Savior of us all. We are grateful and thankful to you for your support, your participation, your prayers, your concern and for all you endeavor to do for the advancement of our convention. We are thankful that we are allowed to work successfully in a world today that is indeed vastly different than that of former times. As families go, so goes the nation. When the family declines, that is when men and women can no longer maintain a bond of love and trust. Society declines and in its wake arises as ever increasing lack of self-destructive behavior.

Thank you for accepting the

change in our class format during the Annual Session in July. We were able to deal with the social needs of our society. We believe that man:

- needs to be redeemed
- needs to be set apart from worldly issues
- needs to be saved from himself
- Our session was divinely guided and well focused. We have been called to a higher level of witnessing and service.

We are thankful in times like these, times of bailouts & fallouts yet we are believers of the faithfulness of our Lord who is able to:

- keep us
- protect us
- sustain us
- provide for us
- and will deliver us

We need a new revelation of the Holiness of God to shock us into the awareness of the sinfulness of sin. We need to cry “Woe is me” Woe is our land, if we fail to recognize that a holy and just God will bring every sinful soul into judgment. The urgency is NOW because we are destined to make a difference.

Will we turn away as many have done, or will we say with Isaiah “Here am send me”. With the help of the almighty God we will lift high the standard of His righteousness and our spiritual integrity.

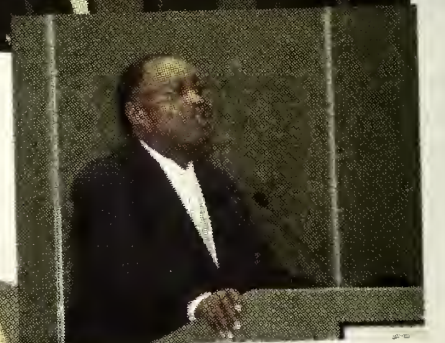
We will dedicate our spiritual, mental, and moral powers to the glorification of God. As we attempt to move forward with the guidance of the Holy Spirit there will be challenges confronting us. There will be unique roles we must perform. As a unified construction team, we will

endeavor to reconstruct our mission as missionaries to reach the masses. We need “Christ in every home” in times like these. It is our determination to accept the Call to Spiritual Integrity in unity and cohesiveness with renewed hope and spiritual tenacity to do kingdom building.

We pray for unity, cohesiveness, togetherness and effectiveness as we launch into this new year. We pray that we will be stimulated and encouraged to repent and forgive. May our spirits be lifted and the gifts within us be stirred to the realization that we have been called to a Higher Level of Witnesses.

**UNITY- UNITY – UNITY**

### IMAGES of the 2011 One-Day Session in Sheraton Hotel in Durham, N.C.



to keep us secure," said Kristin Rogers, administrative associate and minister to children and families at the downtown Oklahoma City church.

"While this served us well for 98 percent of the people who entered, we did frequently have to clear the building of people who wandered in and stayed. This is an old building with many nooks and crannies in which to hide."

In time, the congregation realized the policy created a security risk.

"Our biggest struggle lay in the fact that we purposefully invite the working poor and homeless into our building to find resources, and we did not want to discourage them from getting much-needed help," Rogers said. "Yet

the staff would meet a stranger in the bathroom bathing, or someone passing through a hall that should be empty, and feel very ill at ease."

The church assembled a security team that included police officers, firefighters and other first-responders to emergency situations. The group surveyed the situation and quickly recognized a problem.

"Every person in that group felt our church was too open during the week," Rogers said. "Still, the ministerial staff resisted locking the building."

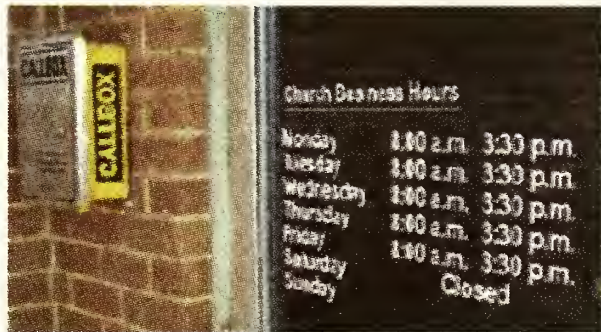
The strongest opposition to changing the church's open-door policy came from the church secretary who typically arrives first at the building each weekday morning, she noted.

"She felt she could handle the situation and didn't like the impression it gave people who had to request being let in," Rogers recalled.

However, the Oklahoma City church finally changed its policy after robbers entered North Pointe Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, killed 29-year-old Pastor Clint Dobson and beat

his 67-year-old ministry assistant, Judy Elliot.

"This man had been a seminary friend (at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary) of some of our ministers," Rogers said. "It hit too close to home. We made the decision to lock the outside doors during business hours and use security cameras to buzz people in. The system is new, but we have successfully adapted. And the staff feels



safer working in the building."

#### A weekday welcome center

South Main Baptist Church in the midtown area of Houston balances the need for security with the desire to welcome everyone by keeping only one entrance to the church facility open Monday through Friday but making that point of entry a hospitable place.

"We direct everyone to the entrance at the main welcome center," explained Bill Pugh, facilities and properties manager at South Main Baptist.

The church employs security staff to provide for the security of weekday workers, as well as worshippers on Sunday and Wednesday. One security officer is on duty on weekdays, two on Wednesday evening and three each Sunday.

"They are the first to show up to open the building and are the last to leave and lock up," Pugh said.

Typically, a security officer is stationed at the welcome center on weekdays.

"We have a lot of people off the street who walk in, looking for assis-

tance," Pugh explained. Anyone is welcome within the confines of the entryway, but access is limited beyond that point.

Typically, a security guard greets anyone who enters the church seeking assistance. He records the specific needs of the individual and then calls the appropriate minister on duty who comes to the welcome center to provide help.

In the unlikely event a person enters the church when a security officer is away from the welcome center, that individuals could follow signs to the church office and have access to the waiting area. However, the office area where ministerial assistants work is locked until the office manager grants access to visitors.

Similarly, First Baptist Church in El Paso, Texas, makes only one entrance accessible to the public during weekday office hours. Anyone seeking entry must use the intercom mounted there to request admission, and a security camera mounted at that entrance enables office personnel to monitor the door.

People who stop by the church asking for help are allowed into the foyer where a minister greets them, records information about them and seeks to provide for needs or make appropriate referrals.

Ministers normally restrict access to the rest of the facility, particularly to ensure the safety of children in an onsite daycare program, Pastor David Lowrie noted.

Twice a month, First Baptist Church sponsors a three-hour outreach ministry to ex-offenders from a local halfway house. Volunteers work with the men to help them secure state identification cards, as well as allowing them to select clothing for job interviews from a benevolence closet.

"On those mornings, we have additional men on hand to provide those services, as well as maintain a sense of security," Lowrie said.

#### Parking lot patrol

Whenever the church building is open after daylight—for committee meetings, Bible studies or other functions—paid personnel patrol the parking lots to grant, or occasionally deny, access to the building.

"We benefit from having security people in the parking lots who know the neighborhood, know the people here and are capable of exercising good judgment," Lowrie said.

Even though First Baptist Church is located within two miles of the international bridge to Juarez—the scene of violent killings related to drug cartels—the church has no special security policies directly related to it, he said.

The church has no armed security personnel on its campus. However, Lowrie noted, the congregation includes quite a few local and federal law enforcement personnel and Border Patrol agents, and it draws military personnel from Fort Bliss.

"So, if anything ever did happen during a service here, it would be interesting to see how many would be rushing in to respond, as opposed to rushing out," he said.

#### Backpack policy

One safeguard South Main Baptist in Houston has implemented and found effective deals with backpacks in the building, Pugh noted.

"Particularly with the homeless, many of them carry their possessions in a backpack," he noted. As a safety precaution, no backpacks are allowed beyond the welcome center on weekdays or beyond any entrance when worshippers gather.

Anyone carrying a backpack is required to check it in and then is given the numbered stub to a two-part claim ticket—"like valet parking uses," Pugh explained. Before the visitor exits the facility, he or she can present the ticket and reclaim the backpack.

*Ken Camp is managing editor of the Baptist Standard.*

## COMMITTED USHERS: You Can Depend On Us

Adam and Eve had been placed in the Garden of Eden. They were given instructions on their conduct, behavior and expectations in the garden. They had the best of every-



Mr. Charles Dunn  
GBSC Ushers Auxiliary

thing. The refrigerator was always full, and the bills were paid. They did not have to stand in line. When Adam was lone-

ly, God made him a mate. Despite God's commitment and investment in their lives they chose to believe the enticing lies of a serpent and did what God told them not to do. How discouraging it must have been to invest in an individual and then, they let you down.

Ushers, God is depending on us, as doorkeepers in his house, to be stead-

fast and unmovable always abounding in this ministry of hospitality and helps. We are serving on our usher ministries, at our churches, for our congregation, with our pastor and for our God. On this awesome and integrated team, we cannot fall short. We cannot run and hide from usher stewardship, usher responsibilities and, usher proto-

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from page 7, Committed Ushers)

cols. God is depending on you and a fruit of your commitment is dependability.

The usher is to be dependable because God is dependable. God is also loyal, reliable and his faithfulness is great. He will do exactly what his word proclaims. The dependable usher will model their service after the exemplary example that God presents. Because God is dependable the usher will adopt the same attitude and discipline that will yield the same result. You can depend on God, but usher can God depend on you. With this new attitude of dependability, it is the sole desire of the usher to let their light shine so that others might see the usher, the God and the servant in them. The dependable usher has a style and work ethic that will set him or her apart from other ushers.

And finally ushers when you are dependable, no one will have to call you out. In Genesis, chapter 3, Adam and Eve are running from the creator himself which is an impossible task. God was counting on them to follow his instructions and to trust him. And ushers just like Adam and Eve, we have a responsibility not only to God but to those whom we serve at our various congregations on Sunday morning. Our job is real and we must give our best every time we take the floor. We cannot afford to take a day off to mistreat anyone or to give poor service. We have to keep on convincing the Master that you can depend on me. God needs your help. God needs your love. He has given you everything to succeed, to shine and to bring him glory.

## Mobile Blessings: Is God Calling You to Missions?

Dates: December 1 -9, 2011



Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D.  
Lott Carey

We continue to work to keep the people of Haiti on the minds of the world and in the hearts of God's people. One way of doing so is to create opportunities for people who feel called

to do so, to participate in short-term missions assignments. The following opportunities still have opportunities for service, and we as you to share them in your circles of influence.

### Men's Only Short-Term Missions Assignment

Missionary men will share in construction projects and a men's conference in partnership with Hosean International a service-based ministry, has been receiving teams and coordinating outreaches in Haiti since 1981.

### Medical Service Short-Term Missions Assignment

Medical professionals are invited to serve with a Mobile Medical clinic at Siloe. The clinic is in need of medical teams to participate in 'mobile clinics' to the villages in the mountain region of Grand Goave. Significant time will be spent seeing patients and addressing both emergency treatment, and providing ongoing care. Medical personnel such as: Doctors, nurses, dentists, technicians, EMTs, and more are needed.

Dates: February 8 - 15, 2012; May 9 - 16, 2012

If you hear God calling you to serve in Haiti to be a blessing, please contact Kathi L. Reid, Program Manager, at [kreid@lottcarey.org](mailto:kreid@lottcarey.org). Remember our sisters and brothers who continue to struggle, and see other short-term missions assignments on our home page at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org).

### PULPIT VACANCY

#### NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1604 White Plains Church Road  
Clarkton, NC 28433  
(Lisbon Community)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a pastor. Our Worship Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a licensed and ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian as evidenced by ones character and dedication
- Ability to effectively preach and teach GOD's Word (HOLY BIBLE)
- Willing to follow Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Practices
- Public relation and administrative skills
- Ability and desire to work with all age groups and auxiliaries of the church
- Educational training above high school level
- Married and living with spouse (preferred)

**REQUEST:** A resume, copy of ministerial license, ordination certificate and three (3) character references

Please send resume and inquiries to:

Pastor Search Committee Chairperson  
c/o Sis. Floretta Jones  
146 Henry Jones Road  
Council, NC 28434  
or  
email to: [florettajones61@yahoo.com](mailto:florettajones61@yahoo.com)

### First Baptist Church of Kelford

Kelford NC  
Pastoral Vacancy

#### Qualifications:

- A born again Christian
- A licensed/ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrine, Policies, Procedures and Practices
- Able to provide a vision of spiritually growth for the Church
- Preferred age between 35 and 60 and married
- Have excellent leadership, administrative and communication skill
- Willing to teach and train members effective and be involved in the community
- Be concerned about the spiritually growth of all members
- Two to five years of Pastoral experience
- Be attending or completed some Seminary Training
- Willing to become affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.
- Willing to attend Conference/Convention
- Willing to complete a Criminal/Credit background check

Please submit a copy of certification of license/ordination, resume of experience, and two letters of reference to:

First Baptist Church of Kelford  
Pastor Search Committee  
POB 145  
Kelford NC 27847  
Deadline: December 31, 2011

# Why Prison Ministry?

By The Rev. Linda B. Gill  
Guest columnist/*The Baptist Informer*



When we consider the victims of crime, the children of inmates, the offenders and their families, it is obvious that the church must respond in a genuine way by developing effective and multi-faceted prison ministries.

Most of us think prison ministry means going into a facility and "preaching" a message, perhaps with a choir singing a few selections. This is an important part of the ministry; however, prison ministry in its totality includes much more. A variety of methods can and should be used:

"Letter writing, hospice care, discipleship training classes, aftercare/re-entry assistance, family visitation, transportation, mentoring children of the incarcerated, community sponsorships, one-on-one visitations, special fellowship services, and the support of full-time chaplains. All of these must be considered and implemented to provide a comprehensive prison ministry based on a Christian worldview.

A Christian worldview is viewing problems and issues through God's Word. A persuasive scripture that supports the Christian worldview in prison ministry is Romans 12:17-21. Written by the Apostle Paul when he was in prison, it offers godly advice on how to deal with evil in a loving and forgiving way. Doing good to those who are described as an enemy is not the normal response, but it is the Christian response, and is to

be translated into the reality of a prison ministry that responds in a loving and forgiving way to those who are behind bars.

Recently, the Rev. Dr. Michael R. Smith, Sr., who serves as Chaplaincy Program Manager for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D.C., presented a series of training sessions to the Wake Missionary Baptist Association, which serves 50 churches in Wake County. He is also the founder of Cross of Christ Discipleship Ministries and the purpose of the training was to "provide a basic overall biblical perspective in reaching and restoring lives impacted by crime and incarceration."



After completing the four-part training, I recognized the compelling need for churches to become even more involved in prison ministry. In light

of this, the Wake Association recently administered a survey to churches in the association to gather factual and anecdotal information on what was being done to address the problems of crime and incarceration in our communities. The results of the surveys were used to determine what resources were needed to assist those churches as they worked to reach even broader aspects of prison ministry.

In summary, churches must become strategic in developing prison ministries. Deliberate planning and tangible involvement of the spiritual community assures that we will be a winning team and make a difference in the lives of an untold number of individuals. Why? We want our "Preaching to teach and Reach." When? Now is the time.

- Rev. Gill is a retired North Carolina educator and Coordinator of the Prison Ministry, Wake Baptist Association.

## Second New Light Missionary Baptist Church

Title: Pastor

Location: Saint Pauls, North Carolina

Contact: Second New Light Missionary Baptist Church, Pulpit Search Committee; Deacon Arthur Whitted

Salary: Negotiable; Part-time/Fulltime

Description: The Second New Light Missionary Baptist Church, located in Bladen County at 3225 Purdie-Hall Road, Saint Pauls, NC 28384, has a pastoral vacancy. The church was founded in 1885, and established in 1907. It is growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are the church by the side of the road where the people are friendly, the preaching plain, the teaching sound, and we are reaching out to serve the needs of humanity. The church is seeking pastoral leadership that meets the following qualifications.

- ❖ Qualified applicants with experience as a senior or assistant pastor
- ❖ At least an associated degree in religion with an accredited program
- ❖ Preferably a Master of Divinity Degree
- ❖ Licensed and ordained Baptist Minister
- ❖ Excellent vision and faith into the future and play an active role in the community
- ❖ Spirit-filled and God-Fearing with compassion
- ❖ Willingness to work with all ministries of the church
- ❖ Great communication skills
- ❖ Involved in Local, State, and National Baptist Associations
- ❖ Provide for spiritual growth for all age groups within the church body
- ❖ Greatest interests in winning souls to Christ

All interested and qualified persons should submit your resume between November first, 2011 and November thirty, 2011 to:

Second New Light Missionary Baptist Church  
C/o Pastoral Search Committee; Deacon Arthur Whitted  
3225 Purdie- Hall Road  
Saint Pauls, North Carolina, 28384

## Pastoral Vacancy

**First Baptist Missionary Church of Powellsville, Incorporated**  
**Located in Bertie County (Northeastern North Carolina)**  
**Awaits God's Chosen Leader**  
**For a small flock with a potential for growth**

### Requirements

- Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination; believes/abides by the Missionary Baptist Doctrines, policies, and Church Covenant, have at least five years of pastoral experience
- Strong administrative skills
- Strong communication skills (ability to deal with people with tact and discretion)
- Willing to become affiliate of the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.
- Bachelor's Degree in Theology from an accredited college or university
- Visits the sick and shut-in (hospitalized, homes, and nursing homes)
- Willing to support all church program including Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting, etc.
- Effective in working with all groups in the church and expected to teach, preach and counsel in word and deed to all age groups in the church
- Willing to submit to a criminal check and credit report
- Implement policies fairly, consistently, respect individuals needs and abilities

**The ending date to receive applications is December 31, 2011.**  
**Please forward all correspondence to:**

Search Committee  
First Baptist Missionary Church of Powellsville, Incorporated  
c/o Deacon James L. Peele  
Post Office Box 433  
Powellsville, North Carolina 27967

# "HOLY T-N-T: Empowerment for the Faithful"

*"To all in (the General Baptist Family) who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7, NIV). I continually pause to thank God for all of you, "because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Rom. 1:8b).*

With hearts full of gratitude and minds made up to go on in the Lord, we embrace the past, enhance the present, and envision the future as God gets all glory and honor. We must endeavor to continue in our Lord's mandate to be willing witnesses, warriors, and workers locally, regionally, nationally, and "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b).



Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II  
Vice President-at-Large-  
GBSC-NC

Our convention stands on the threshold of abundant blessings through the power, presence, and provision of our awesome God. Our mountaintop view of promised-land possessions must not result in a stagnant spirituality and laid-back living. God has promised empowerment for those who are faithful. General Baptists, we can and we must experience and express the power that is ours in Jesus the Christ.

As we pray continually for the struggles of humanity throughout our world, our nation, and right here at home in our state and local communities. We must never forget we are called to be Christian soldiers, kingdom builders, and committed servants in the construction of Christian disciples in the home, church, community, country, and the world at large.

Our mission is to "go, teach, baptize, and teach." Our ongoing challenge is "Preaching...Teaching...Reaching" (Matthew 28:19-20). This divine

mandate from our Lord enables believers worldwide to become equipped for Christian warfare.

The detonating power that is ours in God through Jesus the Christ is inspiring, transforming, and life changing. We are more than conquerors because:

- We are the weapons God uses for warfare against injustice, inequity, and inequality.
- We are the weapons God uses for warfare against racism, sexism, and ageism.
- We are the weapons God uses for warfare against oppression, aggression, and depression.
- We are the weapons God uses for warfare against disruption, destruction, and corruption.
- We are the weapons God uses for warfare against sin, suffering, and satanic struggles.
- We are weapons God uses to address and overcome economic recession, social disparity, church conflict, limited resources, hateful attitudes, political confusion, hopeless-

ness, and helplessness.

The power, presence, and provision of God, the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit serve as our trinitrotoluene, our TNT! Your financial contributions to GBSC and continual prayers will serve as tangible and visible kingdom building TNT.

Therefore, my beloved, empower churches, ministries, missions, and outreach groups with Holy TNT! Become God's weapons of warfare, and ensure the detonation of kingdom building throughout the world as our Lord's power becomes tangible and visible in our lives and our total support.

Our opportunity to be witnesses of God's transforming power globally and locally is manifested through our convention. We are in position to impact the world as God's weapons of Christian warfare. Accept the challenge today, lift your prayers up, and send your financial support in to GBSC headquarters today.

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### Laymen Visit Correctional Center

The GBSC Laymen's League Prison Ministry Team recently visited Butner Federal Correctional Center. The message was given by the Rev. Archer M. Wilkins of Creedmoor N.C. and his text was taken from the book of James, chapter 1: "You Can Make it Through Life." Laymen attended included the Rev. Archer Wilkins, President Richmond Turner, Anthony Hagans, Craig White, Theodore David and Roger Battle, Jr. Aaron Wilson at

Lifeway Christian Book Store in Gastonia, N.C. donated Bibles for the inmates. Submitted by the Rev. Artie F Kilgore, GBSC Laymen's Prison Ministry Coordinator.

### ICON PASSES INTO HISTORY

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)** – The Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, an icon of the civil rights movement with the Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., died Oct. 5. He was 89. Among the general public Shuttlesworth was the least well known of the three co-founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, but few

advanced its agenda of non-violent resistance at greater risk. By his own count Shuttlesworth was bombed twice, beaten into unconsciousness and jailed more than 35 times. Born March 18, 1922, in Montgomery County, Ala., Shuttlesworth moved to Birmingham at age 3, where he lived with his mother and stepfather. He studied for the ministry at Selma University and by 1949 was preaching at Selma's First Baptist Church for \$10 a week.



Fred Shuttlesworth

In 1953 he took over as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham. He became an activist in the city, calling for the hiring of African-American police officers and joining voter registration efforts of the NAACP. He became known as chief nemesis of Bull Connor, Birmingham's racist police chief whose use of police dogs and fire hoses on the Freedom Riders in 1962 helped build public support for the civil rights movement and inspired other similar campaigns.

## HELPFUL CONTACTS

General Baptist  
State Conv. of NC:  
919-821-7466

FEMA (federal aid):  
1-800-621-3362

NC Hotline (state aid):  
1-888-835-9966

NC Division of Emergency  
Management [www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org)

NC Cooperative Extension  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster)

State Dept. of  
Health/Human Services  
[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm)

# “Strong Families: Praying and Staying Together”

## 32nd Annual Family Missions Conference Held in Oxford

The 32nd Annual Family Missions Conference was held at the Oak Grove Baptist Church in Oxford, NC, where the Reverend Ray A. Allsberry serves as Pastor. We were warmly received and treated royally by the disciples of Oak Grove who welcomed us with hospitality beyond words. We were greeted by Pastor Allsberry; Mrs. Bernice Wiggins, President of the Oak Grove Senior missionary Circle, and Mrs. Juanello Hargrove, President of the Granville County Missionary Union.

The Reverend Kelly Andrews, pastor of Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church in Tarboro, N.C., was the guest speaker. Using images and language that crossed generations, he was well received by youth, young adults and seniors at the Family Missions Conference. Under the leadership of Mrs. Darlene Esters, Chair of the Christian Family Life Enrichment Committee and Reverend Wayne Hines, Co-Chair, 22 families were presented the Christian Family Life Enrichment Certificates for their commitment and faithfulness in completion of the Family Study Guide during the month of August.

### SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Have Bible study together at

home, allowing all family members to participate according to their capabilities and skills.

- Attend Sunday school and church together.
- Visit the Central Children's Home together. Youth may become pen pals with some of the students their ages. A child from the Central Children's Home could be invited to your home to spend a weekend.
- Invite new families of the community to attend church with you.
- Become members of your local church's missionary department and of your Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.
- Attend mission study institutes which are sponsored in your area and invite others to attend with you.
- Give items that your church can share with the needy.
- Remember the elderly and shut-in of the community by visiting, sending birthday cards, doing errands or small chores. Consider other ways your family can help these people.
- Study together the cultures of other countries, such as the people's dress, food, and family style. Young children could make scrapbooks regarding the same.
- Remember hospitalized persons from your community by sending cards or flowers, telephoning (if possible) or giving love offerings.

- Send love offerings for mission to your Woman's Baptist State Convention.
- You may discover African or other students needing assistance at Shaw. Should you desire to give a contribu-

tion, send it through the office to the Woman's Convention.

- Plan family outings.

- Handout - Family Missions Conference, 2011



Pictured (from left) are Convention officers who attended the conference: Min. Genetta Williams, Asst. Youth Supervisor; Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow, 2st Vice President; Dr. Linda Bryan, Exec. Sec. Treasurer; President Audrey Battle, Rev. Linda Inman, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Ellender LeMay, 3rd Vice President, Mrs. Lena Johnson, 4th Vice President and Dr. Shirley Bullock, Former President. (Photo taken by Dannie Daniel)

### Congratulations to the following families and individuals:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alfreda R. Vann        | Carolyn R. Whitted      |
| Carolyn Taylor         | Christine Habersham     |
| Dr. Audrey Battle      | Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie |
| Gloria Crudup          | Janie Harrison          |
| Khalil Gay             | LeMay Family            |
| Lenora LeMay           | Mary Alston             |
| Mrs. Addie C. Draughan | Mrs. Sallie Fuller      |
| Patricia Vann          | Patty Y. Foster         |
| Rev. Margie Duncan     | Samone R. Vann          |
| Shearlya R. Taylor     | Vivian Bullock          |
| Vivian Samuel          | William C. Eley family  |

## THE WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF N.C.

### ANNOUNCES

The 59TH ANNUAL ONE DAY SESSION

On

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012

**SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER**

4700 Emperor Blvd, Durham, NC 27703 (Exit 282, Page Road)

The 59th Annual One-Day Session will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center, 4700 Emperor Blvd. in Durham. A special invitation is extended to our youth and young adults. Come expecting to be blessed through music, teaching, preaching and fellowship.

For details, please call the WBHFMC at (919) 833-4823.



## Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet

Will be held

**Friday, JANUARY 6, 2012**

**SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER**

**4700 Emperor Blvd, Durham, NC 27703**

**(Exit 282, Page Road)**

**Stay Tuned for ticket information!**

**Call Baptist Headquarters – (919) 821-7466**

## Subscriptions Available NOW

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For details, please call Baptist Headquarters,  
located at 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C., at (919) 821-7466.

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INFORMER

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## MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

The General Baptist State Convention supporting  
Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School,  
Central Children's Home of North Carolina,  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
and State Missions since 1867.

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Wake Forest NC 27587-2553