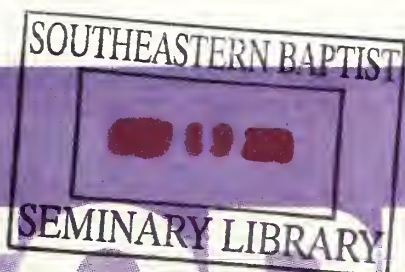


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BAPTIST

INFORMER

Volume 13, No. 5

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

May 2011

GBSC THEME

"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"

Matthew 28:19-20

Governor Perdue Honors Shaw Champions



(Raleigh, NC) - North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue welcomed Shaw University's football, men's basketball and women's basketball teams to the Executive Mansion last month in a celebration of their Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) titles.

"There are little boys and little girls all over North Carolina who are going to see your pictures in the papers tomorrow, they're going to see you on YouTube, on the internet and they're going to dream about being you," said Governor Perdue at the reception. "They're going to be inspired because of the way you live your life. I have to tell you, as the Governor of North Carolina, I'm inspired by you."

(Continued on next page)

TORNADO BRINGS DESTRUCTION TO 'CITY OF OAKS'

-Shaw University Closed for Rest of Semester

Baptist Headquarters Aids in Recovery Efforts to Storm-Ravaged Counties

Baptist Informer Staff and News Reports

The tornado that ripped through the Capital City on Saturday, April 16 brought significant destruction to Southeast Raleigh, the southern end of downtown and neighborhoods across the northeast section of the city, resulting in more than \$115 million in damages.

Shaw University, a historic college complex in Southeast Raleigh, was hard hit with damage to most of the campus buildings, including the Willie E. Gary Student Center. The roof was practically removed during the storm while students were eating in the building's cafeteria. Extensive window damage occurred at both the Women's and Men's dormitories. Fallen trees and debris scattered all across the campus, according to reports.

The University has suspended classes for the rest of the Spring

2011 semester.

"While we exist to educate these young men and women, our



first priority is their safety and well being," said Shaw President Dr. Irma McClaurin. "With this widespread damage, we could not resume operations in time to continue classes over the next two

weeks."

GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer the Rev. Haywood T. Gray, said the organization is working to coordinate efforts across the state to help churches affected by the more two dozen tornados that cut across 32 counties in central and eastern North Carolina, according to the National Weather Service.

During a recent tour of Shaw's campus, he commented, "I was so proud of the response of the administration and the courage of the students. We saw a clear

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expression of the grace of God in the face of great loss.”

According to reports from the Raleigh Inspections Department, 138 houses and eight businesses were destroyed, and another 2,269 homes and commercial establishments were damaged. The federal government has declared 10 counties – Bertie, Bladen, Cumberland, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Oslow, Wake and Wilson – as disaster areas, allowing residents and business owners to apply for feder-

al recovery assistance, including grants for temporary housing and home repairs and low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses.



Governor Perdue Honors, continued from page 1)

“I thank you for your commitment to excellence both on the field and the court, and in the classroom,” she continued. “You’re what makes all of us who are older, like me, understand that America and North Carolina’s future is mighty strong.”

The event honored the 2010 Shaw football team, and the 2010-2011 men’s and women’s basketball teams, all of whom won CIAA

championships this academic year and advanced to NCAA tournament play.

After Shaw President Dr. Irma McClaurin thanked Governor Perdue for the reception, she spoke to the student-athletes in attendance.

“You have gone on to prove that with very little you can do a lot. We don’t have the greatest stadium, we don’t have the greatest set of

resources, but what we have is heart, and what we have is endurance, and what we have is perseverance.”

The football team won the CIAA championship, and advanced to the NCAA Tournament, finishing the year with a school-best 9-3 record.

The men’s basketball team won the CIAA Tournament, and made it to the regional semi-finals in the NCAA Tournament. They finished

the season with a 23-9 record.

The women’s basketball team qualified for the NCAA Tournament with their win of the CIAA Tournament, and advanced as far as the Final Four for the first time in Shaw women’s basketball history. With a 25-12 record, they finished the season ranked 12th in the nation.

A Missional Message for Mothers’ Day

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Lott Carey Foreign Mission
Convention



People celebrate Mothers’ Day in many countries around the world. We recognize Mothers’ Day in the United States the second Sunday in May. Regardless the particular approach to observing the day, many people choose this opportunity to express gratitude for mothers and to recognize their investments and sacrifices in the lives of their children, grandchildren, and others. Most people in the church in which I was raised

wore flowers to honor their mothers (red if she was alive and white if she was deceased). Even daughters and sons who are normally less than thoughtful toward their mothers often make a special effort to honor their mothers on Mothers’ Day.

My experience of Mothers’ Day has been permanently altered by Lott Carey’s missional engagement to be helpful to women who are forced into commercial sex work. One particular story stands out. A mother in Ethiopia told about having to put her children to bed at night, leave the house to work in the sex trade overnight, and return in the morning to awaken her children and send them to school. She did not want to be a commercial sex worker. The economic realities of her country, however, prevented most girls from attending school which meant that they had no job skills. Since their livelihoods are dependent upon fathers or husbands, they are left in jeopardy

should the man who provides resources dies or leaves. Then, many women have to use the only asset that is valued in these male dominating societies—their bodies. In many parts of the world (including the United States) women cannot acquire employment that enables them to provide for themselves and their children. Consequently, some of them have to turn to commercial sex work. Regrettably, many preachers, teachers, and Christians heartlessly refer to commercial sex workers, or prostitutes, in demeaning ways when they want to talk about “sinners.” Little girls do not dream of becoming prostitutes when they become adults. Most women who are commercial sex workers do so because of economic necessity, under threat of violence, as a result of psychological manipulation, or because they are enslaved.

One missionary call to Christians today is to work on behalf of women and children who

are sexually exploited. More than we will ever know are forced into prostitution. A pastor recently told me of cases where middle school aged girls were being forced into sex acts at school by boys who threatened them with bodily harm if they did not succumb. Consequently, girls who would be walking down the street or riding the bus or attending church were victims of sexual exploitation and forced into commercial sex work. We must work to prevent women and children from sexual exploitation and commercial sex work; to protect those who need rescue; and to prosecute those who benefit from and pay for the sexual exploitation. As we remember our mothers and thank God for godly women who have nurtured, and continue to nurture, us; may we hear the cries of women and children who are sexually exploited. “Come over and help us.”

The Graying of America's Churches

Unless current social trends change, churches will face an even bigger drop-off in coming years, experts say
Press Reports



Anyone who has sat in a back pew peering over rows of gray heads can attest: American churches are aging. Sociologists of religion have tracked a decades-long decline in membership among mainline Protestants, but a national survey of congregations conducted for Hartford Seminary's Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership shows that aging congregations may be an even bigger problem.

The survey, called Faith Communities Today 2008: A First Look, shows that mainline Protestant churches are losing members, but evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian congregations

are experiencing dips or stagnation as well.

A look at the age groups is particularly sobering. In 60 percent of mainline denominations, one-quarter of the members are 65 or older. By comparison, in 24 percent of evangelical churches, one-quarter of members are 65 or older. And in 36 percent of Roman Catholic churches, one quarter of members are 65 or older.

"Seeing that laid out graphically was like, 'Wow!'" says David Roozen, the principal investigator for the FACT2008 report and director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. "One-fourth of congregations will lose half their

members in 20 years."

The FACT2008 survey analyzed questionnaires from 2,527 randomly sampled U.S. congregations. The congregation's senior clergy leader completed the questionnaires.

Mark Chaves, a sociologist of religion at Duke University, confirms the trend. His National Congregations Study shows that on average, adults who attend church weekly are older than adults in the general population.

The problem for congregations is particularly acute because social movements appear to be exacerbating the trend. Today's young adults marry later and are more likely to remain childless, two factors that are associated with lower rates of religious participation.

"It's very clear no indicator of any traditional religious belief or practice is going up," says Chaves.

Still, overall church attendance remained steady in the 1990s, and

Chaves isn't sounding any death knells for American religion.

"There's a softening of religious participation," he says. "I'm not ready to say we're in a time of outright decline."

Roozen, however, points out that graying congregations are beset with challenges. The older the church's membership, the more likely that church is to have falling numbers, weaker finances, anemic youth programming and a sense of spiritual fatigue.

Add to that another concern: Aging congregations often have less clarity of purpose. The less a church feels it is distinctive, the weaker its spiritual vitality and vice versa, according to the FACT2008 findings.

"Congregations that say they have a strong sense of identity and mission have a much higher level of vitality," says Roozen.

All of this leads Roozen to wonder about the future of U.S. churches.

"Are we in a temporary blip, or is this the beginning of a slow but steady erosion of religious identity and practice in the U.S.?"

HELPFUL CONTACTS

General Baptist State Conv. of NC:
919-821-7466 or 1-800-639-4272

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

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

NC Division of Emergency
Management www.ncem.org

NC Cooperative Extension
www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster

State Dept. of Health/Human Services
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm

Youth Bible Camp 2011 Coming in June

The Women's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention will present Youth Bible Camp 2011 on June 19-24 at the Haw River State Park, 339 Conference Center Dr. in Brown Summit, N.C.

The fee is \$250 and includes a room, food and t-shirt.

There are only 60 slots available.

Campers are taken on a first come basis until slots are filled. The deposit is \$20 per camper and registration ends June 15.

For more information, please call

(919) 833-4823.

The Woman's Convention is Alive and Well

By President Audrey Baitle



The Lord has kept us through the storms and through the rain and it is well. We are leaning and depending on Him who is able to keep us, protect us, guide us, forgive us, love us, redeem us, encourage us, advising us to go on...Don't Give Up!

What Kind of Christian Are You?

Are you a thoroughfare Christian, through which beautiful blessings flow?

Can others see our Savior in you no matter where you go?

Or, are you a hindrance to the redemptive work of God, our Lord, a menacing mighty dog, who plugs up the healing foundation of a merciful, Loving God?

In the body of Christ, there should be no cliques and divisions within the body. God's values and principles should always guide our

actions as Christians. God is holding all of us responsible for our attitudes and our actions. We must be totally committed, as we traverse the ups and downs in our lives. Remember, Love is the bond that holds people together. That's why love is patient, full of kindness, protecting others, trusting others, hopeful and persevering. Love is not envious, boastful, proud, rude, self seeking, easily angered, or unforgiving.

The word of God can bring about change and make us into godly representatives. The word that is faithfully preached, taught, and lived is transforming and life changing. Do you want to see change in your communities? Let the change begin with us.

What a terrible awakening it will be for those who are going on in this life thinking all is well, and

then in that day when they stand before the Lord of Glory - hear these words - "I never knew you." (Matthew 7:21-23). Words cannot describe the anguish of soul as that sentence is passed, and added to it will be "Depart from me - ye that worketh iniquity." Ladies and gentlemen, take notice, that it does not say a few but many will hear Him say these words in that day. Are you one of those that sit in a church pew thinking all is well, yet if God should say "Cut him/her off" you would drop from that pew into hell - Are you sure? Are you responsible for the leading of others? They are looking to you to guide them. If you know not the Savior, you are one of those that God spoke of - "the blind leading the blind!"

What proof do you have? Are you going to heaven or hell? It's time to awaken and think. God said "Examine yourself." God requires that we prove ourselves. Let us not forget many are on the broad way that leads to destruction, but only for a short time and only a few find the narrow way. God says you must be born again. What does this mean? II Corinthians 5:17 states "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new". Are you walking in the light? God is Light!

Time is but a short space: eternity is immeasurable. Heaven will never cease to exist; neither will hell. If you are one of His; prove it; live it up for Him. Lift Him up daily. Stand up for Him and live holy lives. God hates lukewarm.

His desire is to have determined men and women who are grounded in the truth; Christians that are standing firm upon the living word and not carried about by every wind of doctrine - but those who are established upon the rock - Jesus Christ.

It is important that we consider the life of the bee. The bee can be a model for us; encouraging us to keep on, don't give up.

One step won't take you very far; you have to keep on walking. One word won't tell people who you are; you have to keep on talking. One inch won't make you very tall; you have to keep on growing. One single deed won't do it at all; you have got to keep on working.

To God be the glory for all His goodness and His extended Grace and Mercy.

We are thankful for your continuous support. You have been there as a strong pillar financially, spiritually, and morally. The Lord has been mighty good to all of us. He has instilled in us some basic principles that have enabled us to continue the journey. Three of those principles are:

Fret Not - because God loves you. (1 John 4:16)

Faint Not - because God holds you. (Psalm 139:10)

Fear Not - because God keeps you. (Psalm 121:5)

Massive Clean Up Underway

Tornado Relief Funds Needed
Baptist Informer Staff Reports



The General Baptist State Convention has delivered \$50,000.00 to Shaw University in Raleigh to help jump start the cleanup on campus and to initiate

needed repairs and protections across the campus. These funds were appropriated from state missions in order to respond immediately to the needs at Shaw.

The Baptist Headquarters is also accepting contributions from churches, associations and individuals across the state to further assist with recovery from the tornadoes across North Carolina.

"The only way I know to describe things at this moment is 'overwhelming,'" Reverend Gray said during a recent interview. "Every day we hear new reports

about additional areas of the state that have been affected. It's a lot to manage and a lot to take in."

He added that that the GBSC has contacts in nine areas around the state that are doing the initial fact finding and assessments. This phase should be completed soon so that when church contributions will be delivered so "specific targets of help will already have been determined and flow of recovery funds can begin."

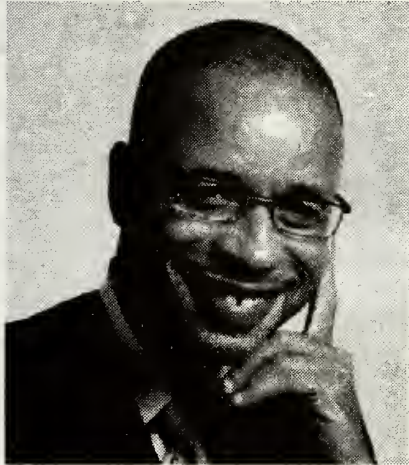
Although it is located only one block from the Shaw University campus, Baptist Headquarters sus-

tained no damage from the tornado.

To contribute, send your contribution (made payable to GBSC) to 603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. Credit card contributions will also be accepted via phone to 919-821-7466. Churches and Associations may also bring their contributions to the upcoming Mid Year Session on May 3-4 in New Bern, N.C. For details, contact the GBSC at (919) 821-7466 or (800) 639-4272.

Christian Activists 'Changing the Politics of Hunger'

By Bishop Don Williams



Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas

As Christians, many of us regularly help people in need by volunteering at food banks and donating to charities. While these efforts are

important, we can do a lot more to protect and support government assistance programs that provide vital resources to hungry and poor people. But where do you begin?

Bread for the World will host its biennial National Gathering 2011 in Washington, DC, June 11-14, to engage Christians like you in advocacy. My friend and colleague Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas, of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, TN, is one of this year's featured speakers. I sat down with him a few weeks ago to talk about why he thinks this event is important.

Why do you think Christian advocacy is important—especially with regard to hungry and poor people?

Rev. Dr. Thomas: The seemingly ever-expanding gap between the rich and the poor demands a response from Christians and all people of goodwill. Jesus said, "As you feed the poor and clothe the naked, as you have done it to the least of these, so have you done it unto me." As we speak on behalf of the poor and hungry, we speak on behalf of Jesus, and everything that

we do for the poor and hungry, we do it for Jesus.

What compelled you to participate in Bread for the World's National Gathering 2011?

Rev. Dr. Thomas: [The Gathering] is a wonderful conference with like-minded people who have a passion to extend the grace of food to those who are underfed and hungry. It is the right cause and the right movement that makes the world a more humane place. I chose to participate because participation makes me more humane.

How does this year's theme, "Changing the Politics of Hunger," relate to some of your teachings about hope and mission?

Rev. Dr. Thomas: It is not that there is not enough in the world to feed the world. It is the politics of distribution that explains why some have and some have not. It is the responsibility of Christians who serve a God who made the world to speak and stand against the world's politics of distribution and ensure that everyone has food to eat.

There will be no shortage of dialogue like this at National Gathering 2011. Other confirmed

speakers include New York Times food columnist Mark Bittman, Rev. Gabriel Salguero, president and founder of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, Ched Myers of Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, and 2010 World Food Prize laureate David Beckmann.

As Christians, we have the ability to put our faith into action and become advocates for people in need. You can start this June by attending the National Gathering, where you'll join hundreds of Christian activists from across the country and the world, meet prominent figures in the fight to end hunger and poverty, and leave prepared for advocacy. This event is going to be packed with useful seminars, informative panels, and great company. I encourage you and your friends to visit www.bread.org/event/gathering-2011 for more information.

Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and bishop of ecumenical and political affairs at United Way of the Cross Church of Christ, in Danville, VA.

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January 2011

“One Day Session”

Photographer Linda Bryan



Gifted youth musicians



Alice Green, Music Director



Praise team and Rev. LeMay, Musician



Youth choir



Ushers looking good



Young adults in high gear

Visit the General Baptist State Convention on Facebook
for Regular Updates on Happenings Around the
State, Event Photos, and More!

<http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC>



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Raeford, N.C. ended its year-long Centennial Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, April 16 with a multi-cultural presentation of preaching, music, dance and dedication.

The Reverend Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr., senior pastor of Lewis Chapel, delivered the early morning worship message. Pastor Kim In Soo of Bethel Baptist Church, Dae Gu Convention, Seoul, South

Korea, was the guest preacher during the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. Following the service, members and guests held a Feast of States/Nations Luncheon. Other highlights included a Pre-Homecoming Celebration on Saturday, April 16 featuring a Community Worship Service with the Korean Presbyterian Church, Korean Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Fayetteville Korean Baptist Church, Korean

Little Angel Dance Studio and the Korean School of Fayetteville. After the service, Lewis Chapel members and guests attended the dedication and grand opening of the picnic pavilion for the John D. Fuller, Sr. Recreational/Athletic Complex located at 6627 Old Bunce Road in Fayetteville, N.C. Also featured was a piano and clarinet duet, a Korean fan dance, youth praise dancing and music from the Lewis Chapel youth

orchestra.

Lewis Chapel, which has a membership of 4,000, used the theme - "Celebrating A Century of Service To God In The Presence of His Grace" (Psalm 145:4) for its centennial. During the year, various ministries held events, including a banquet and a Black History Month dramatization, "God Has Brought Us Through," which was under the direction of the Reverend Perry Irby.

NEW PASTOR

The Reverend Leroy Tyson, Jr. was installed as the pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Hamlet, North Carolina in January 2011.

East Carolina University
Tomorrow starts here.



**Are you an African American male?
Have you had prostate cancer surgery?**

The Center for Health Disparities Research at East Carolina University is conducting a research study entitled Prostate Cancer Recovery Enhancement for African American Men and Their Intimate Partners (PROCARE).

In collaboration with
Duke University Medical Center

Benefits of Participating

- Your participation in this study can help us better understand how to meet the needs of African American prostate cancer survivors, who often experience poorer outcomes compared to other groups.
- You will receive coping-skills training for management of symptoms related to prostate cancer treatment, or you will receive prostate cancer education about symptoms and medical treatment options.
- Compensation
You will receive up to \$150 for your participation.

Do we need to drive to weekly sessions?

No. You and your partner can participate in the study without leaving home. Coping-skills training or prostate cancer education is delivered over the telephone. Speakerphones will be provided at no charge to each couple.

For more information, please contact:

Lisa C. Campbell, PhD
1-888-442-8202 (toll free)
PROCARE@ecu.edu

10-165



A Special Invitation from

**Community of Hope
Baptist Church**
2945 Miami Blvd Suite 114
Durham, North Carolina
Communityofhopebc.org

The Installation Service
Of
The Reverend Anthonette Wright, M.Div.

Sunday, June 12, 2011
5:00pm
Host Church:
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
2200 South Alston Avenue
Durham, NC 27707

Service Rendered by:
Mount Peace Baptist Church
Dr. J. Vincent Terry, Sr., Pastor
3rd Vice President, GBSC
Guest Preacher

Researchers study return on short-term missions

By Terry Goodrich, From Press Reports

WACO, Texas (ABP) -- Research has revealed students who participate in short-term mission trips tend to have lower levels of materialism, greater appreciation for other cultures and a better understanding of missions as a lifestyle, says a Baylor University professor studying whether short-term mission trips are good stewardship.

The number of United States Christians taking part in trips lasting a year or less has grown from 540 in 1965 to more than 1.5 million annually, with an estimated \$2 billion per year spent on the effort. That investment of time and money has sparked debate whether the money might better be spent giving directly to a country's Christian partners for spreading the gospel and offering medical aid, construction assistance or other help. Some long-term missionaries complain that culturally insensitive short-term mission participants do more harm than good by damaging relationships that had taken years to build.

Dennis Horton, associate professor of religion at Baylor says the answer to whether volunteers missions "is worth it" is a qualified "yes."

Two-thirds of short-term trips last two weeks or less, with a host of purposes ranging from evangelism to digging wells or teaching English-as-a-Second-Language classes. On the surface, Horton said, the trips seem a win-win-win situation -- for those who send participants, for team members who make the trips and for host countries.

"It is very much worthwhile. But I'm qualifying that by saying I

think a lot of churches and groups need more follow-up to help mission team members incorporate what they've learned on their trips into their daily lives," Horton said. "Long-term involvement, whether global or local, is where you see transformation taking place."

About 600 students and 48 short-term mission trip leaders participated in the study conducted by Horton and four Baylor University undergraduate research assistants—Claire Aufhammer, Matt Berry from Idalou,; Daniel Camp and Amy Rozzi.

For long-term effects on those who go on short-term mission trips, some studies show little difference between those who have participated short-term trips and Christians who have not, Horton said. Patterns are similar in terms of giving, materialism and believing one's culture is superior to others.

What makes a difference, according to virtually all studies, is pre-trip training, on-site mentoring and follow-up after the trip, he explained.

"We appreciate the zeal" of students, he said. "They want to be on the streets evangelizing. They say, 'We need to get out there and share the gospel.' But the missionaries are saying 'Wait a minute.' In many countries, the most effective way to reach others is through friendships built over time rather than quick presentations of the gospel that can endanger the work -- and lives -- of long-term missionaries and local Christians.

"The study shows that many short-term mission trip leaders are doing a much better job training their team members about cultural

issues and connecting with host countries. They're doing a lot of things right and learning from past



Every year, more than 1.5 million Christians participate in a short-term mission trip.

mistakes."

Recent guidebooks are aimed at helping trip leaders aid team members move from mission trips to a lifestyle of missions, Horton said.

"The desire is to ensure that short-term mission experiences become more than spiritual tourism in which participants travel to an exotic place, take a myriad of photos and return to their relatively isolated home environments, as well as their pre-trip behavior and routines," he said.

But researchers found post-trip follow-up by team leaders, usually from churches, schools or mission agencies, falls short.

Because students may be scattered after the trips, it can be difficult to do much follow-up other than online or through periodic reunions, Horton said. Churches, campus ministries and Christian colleges that offer coursework can play a huge role.

In their study, Horton and his research assistants surveyed stu-

dents with different amounts of short-term missions experience (and some without any) about their levels of materialism, ethnocentrism and their interest in long-term involvement in missions or ministry.

For some, the trips reinforced a calling to vocational missions. For those who were ambivalent, the trips clarified how or whether they would be involved in vocational mission work.

Many people make a commitment at Christian youth camps to become missionaries,

Horton said, but "some find out a little bit more and say: 'Oh, that isn't for me. I can do this for a few weeks, but I like my technology, my comforts.' It wasn't that they didn't still have an interest or wanted to work with local missions. But as far as vocational missions, they need to have a definite call and realize this is how God can best use them."

Some opt against career mission work when they see its challenges.

"In some countries, there are immediate responses to the gospel, with hundreds of people becoming Christians, but in other countries, you could work for years and have only one or two convert to Christianity," Horton said. "Students hoping to see instant results on a two-week trip may become discouraged in these areas where people need more time before responding in a positive way to the gospel."



Dennis Horton

J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Set for Raleigh

Martin Street Baptist Church to Host Event in June

Staff Reports



Mrs. Ruth Johnson is Director of the J.F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Inquiries may be emailed to rccake@ec.rr.com

**The 2011 J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest of the
GBSC Congress of Christian Education
will be held on June 27-29 at Martin Street Baptist
Church (1001 E. Martin Street, Raleigh),
where the Rev. Dr. Earl C. Johnson is pastor.**

The contest is conducted in four stages:

- First, the contest begins at the local Church. One representative for each category is selected from the local Church.
- Second, the contestants compete on the District (or Association) level.
- Third, the winning contestants on the District (Association) level compete at the state level.
- Fourth, the winner from the Senior Division at the state level competition goes on to represent North Carolina at the National Baptist

Convention Congress of Christian Education the following year.

Contestants who come to the state level competition are representatives of their associations, not their home Churches. Therefore, all contestants competing on the state level must be affiliated with an association. Each Association is allowed one representative for each category: Preparatory, Junior, Senior Divisions.

The late Dr. James F. Wertz served as the first Director of Religious Education for the State Sunday School Convention. The oratorical contest named in his honor is open to all young people in grades 6 through 12 in the year that the Contest is conducted. (For example, a contestant must be entering the sixth grade as of July 1, 2011. Seniors who have graduated from high school as of July 1, 2011 are not eligible.)

Hotel accommodations during the 2011 Oratorical Contest are available at the Clarion State Capital Hotel, 320 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. Special GBSC rates are \$75 (plus tax) for doubles and singles. The deadline for reservations is June 10. The hotel number is (919) 832-0501.

For more information about the contest, contact GBSC at (919) 821-7466 or email GBSCgray@bellsouth.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



LAYMEN WORKSHOP PLANNED

The 15th Annual Walter Cade Jr. Workshop, presented by the National Baptist Laymen, will be held September 23-25 at the Best Western Hotel I High Point, N.C.

A workshop package will include two nights lodging, registration and five "Southern" meals for \$160 per person for a double occupancy and \$225 for singles. Additional meals will be available for children at half-price.

For details about the workshop and/or the Souvenir Journal, contact Michael E. Bodie, housing chairman at (336) 886-3397 or James Simon, advertising chairman at (336) 884-0169. Early registrations are encouraged since participants will be coming from various states. Online registrations are available at www.templememorial.com.

May 2011

- 3rd - 4th GBSC Mid-Year Session, New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern, N.C.
- 6th Shaw University Board of Trustees Meeting, President's Conference Room, Estey Hall, Shaw University, Raleigh
- 6th Shaw University Baccalaureate Worship Service, Boyd Chapel, Shaw University, Raleigh
- 7th Shaw University Commencement Exercises, Dorton Arena
- 21st WBH&FMC Eastern Regional Summit, Place TBA

June 2011

- 4th WBH&FMC Young Adult Retreat, Place TBA
- 11th GBSC Laymen's Study Commission, Eastern Region -- Place to be determined
- 12th - 17th WBH&FMC Leadership Training Conference, Place TBA
- 12th - July 1st WBH&FMC Youth Bible Camp, Place TBA
- 20th - 24th National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 25th WBH&FMC Missions Prayer Day, County Unions
- 27th - 29th GBSC Congress Oratorical Contest, Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh

July 2011

- 8th - 9th GBSC Laymen's Mens' and Boys' Retreat, Place to be determined
- 24th - 28th WBH&FMC 127th Annual Session, Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh



more images of the January 2011

“One Day Session”

In Memoriam

DR. G. A. JONES, SR. (1930- 2011)

With sympathy and prayers, the Baptist Informer announces the death of the Reverend Dr. G. A. Jones, Sr. Funeral services were held on Saturday, April 9 at Springfield Baptist Church on Auburn-Knightdale Road in Raleigh. He made his heavenly transition on April 5, 2011.

Dr. Jones was born on December 24, 1930, a son of Reverend John Audie Banks Jones and Mary Spicer Jones of Tarboro, NC. The 15th of 17 children, he was educated in the Edgecombe County Schools and studied on to receive his Bachelors of Arts degree from St. Augustine's College, his Bachelors of Divinity and Masters of Divinity degrees from Shaw Divinity School, and his Doctor of Ministry from Trinity

Seminary. He also held an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from the Neotern College of Theology. He was also matriculated into the N.C.C.U. School of Law.

He served as the Pastor of Malabys Crossroads Baptist Church for 35 years and Juniper Level Baptist Church for 37 years. He also as Pastor for New Providence Baptist Church, Lee's Crossroad Baptist Church, Sycamore Baptist Church in Greenville, NC and St. Luke Baptist Church in Wilson, NC. After retirement, Dr. Jones founded the Capital New Shiloh Baptist Church and Capital New Shiloh Christian Mission where he counseled those in need, with his devoted and faithful wife at his side.

He spent more than 60 years traveling preaching God's Word and singing his songs of joy. He served as Secretary, Clerk, and Moderator of the Wake Association, member of the Executive and Ministerial Board, Assistant and Recording

Secretary of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Inc. He was Third Vice President of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Inc, and was President of the Wake Missionary Baptist Association Union.

Dr. Jones also loved to farm and he farmed until 2003 harvesting tobacco and growing vegetables. He was also an entrepreneur, owning a dry cleaning business and building his own home at the young age of 21.

Those left to cherish his precious memories include his devoted wife of 60 years, Mrs. Maggie Alberta Knight Jones; six children: Dr. George A. Jones Jr. (Ida), Brenda A. Jones, (Tony), Benjamin A. Jones, (Monica), Gwendolyn A. Jones, Bethena Jones Butler, (Dail) & Katrena Jones Kilpatrick, (Michael); one brother, John Jones; nine grandchildren: Rev. Jeremy A. Jones, (Stephanie), Sirena C. Jones, (Walter), Letitia Jones Hines (Dwayne), Shontay Jones, Ben Jones, Jr., Mikala Kilpatrick, Michael Kilpatrick, Ilene Jones,

Miranda Butler; seven great grandchildren; and a host of extended family members, nieces, nephews and friends.

Thompson Funeral

Funeral services for Mrs. Catherine Shaw Thompson, a missionary to Haiti with Lott Carey Convention in the 1940s, were held on Thursday, May 5 at First Baptist Church on Moore Street in Fayetteville. She was one of the last two living missionaries sent abroad from the US. (Lott Carey has been a supporting agency that invests in indigenous leadership and communities around the world rather than a sending agency that deploys US citizens to preside over programs and projects for more than a quarter century.) She was deeply involved with the Lott Carey School in St. Marc, Haiti. We rejoice in her life and pray for her family who grieves her death.

Brower Leads Institutional Advancement at Shaw

Press Reports



Anita K. Brower,
Certified Fund Raising
Professional (CFRE)

Anita K. Brower, Certified Fund Raising Professional (CFRE), has been named Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Shaw University.

In her new position, Brower will oversee Shaw's Alumni Relations Department, Annual Giving and Advancement Services, Major Gifts, Planned Giving, Strategic Communications and Marketing, Sponsored Programs and Foundation Relations.

In her new position, Brower will oversee Shaw's Alumni Relations Department, Annual Giving and Advancement Services, Major Gifts, Planned Giving, Strategic Communications

and Marketing, Sponsored Programs and Foundation Relations.

"Ms. Brower's appointment adds significant value to the senior leadership team I am building for Shaw University," said Dr. Irma McClaurin, Shaw's President. "This is a key component of our strategic preparation for raising the significant resources required to underwrite the future success of our University."

"Ms. Brower was selected by the campus community and from a field of highly qualified candidates," said Dr. McClaurin. "The University directly benefits from her expertise in planning, conceptualizing and implementing

complex advancement operations and fundraising practices."

Brower comes to Shaw from Howard University in Washington, DC. Before that, she was at Trinity College, also in Washington. In her 17 years of experience, she has raised over \$26,000,000 in private support.

She is also a former President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Washington, D.C. Metro Area Chapter. Ms. Brower is a graduate of Trinity College, Washington, D.C. She received her CFRE in 2001.

The INSTALLATION SERVICES

Of the

REVEREND DR. FREDDIE BARNES

as the Pastor of

JACKSON CHAPEL FIRST MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Wilson, North Carolina



A gift from God to the people of God. Jeremiah 9:15

JUNE 15-19, 2011

Belton Creek Missionary Baptist Church

Belton Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, North Carolina, is currently accepting resumes for the position of Pastor.

Belton Creek is affiliated with the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association. Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:

- Born again Christian, committed to doctrine and position
- Ordained Pastor with pastoral experience
- Willingness to work with all ministries of the church
- Good reputation
- Must be married and manages household well
- Demonstrates leadership skills and enhances spirituality
- Qualified and gifted to preach and teach the word of God with clarity and understanding.
- Support and attend trainings and workshops with the Association and General Baptist State Convention (GBCS)

Please mail resume and letters of reference to:
Belton Creek Baptist Church,
P.O. Box 22, Oxford, North Carolina, 27565.
Attn: Deacon William Cozart, Chairperson

Apply on or before August 31, 2011

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**BAPTIST
INFORMER**



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

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

Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor
Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor

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 • 800-639-4272 • Fax: 919-831-1526

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