

INFORMER

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GBSC THEME

"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"

Matthew 28:19-20

The Baptist Informer's SPOTLIGHT



Mr. David Belton,
North Carolina Disaster Coordinator

On Easter Sunday morning, David Belton visited a church in Raleigh and took a seat in the balcony expecting a hearty sermon, but he received an even better surprise.

He noticed copies of an emergency disaster plan tucked into the backs of pews at First Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., where the Rev. Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. is pastor. In simple terms, the brochure outlined what congregants would need to do in case of a crisis or natural disaster. The finding, he said, encouraged him to work even harder to make sure other churches follow suit.

"It was amazing," he said. "They

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The Art of Public Speaking: Oratorical Contest Winners Named

By E.O Johnson/The Baptist Informer

Dozens of youth from across 62 Associations in North Carolina the state held oratorical sparring for the three-day program held in matches last month during the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest on topics such as "Lord I Thank You," "I Am Not Too Young To Know God," "God's GPS," "The Divine Direction" and "Texting Jesus."

Presented by the General Baptist State Convention Congress of Christian Education, the young orators came from 15 of the



Dr. Frank Byrd, President
of Congress Christian
Education

the Family Life Center at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., where the Rev. Dr. Earl C. Johnson is pastor.

Ruth Johnson, the Oratorical Contest Director, called this year's event an "opportunity for youth to inspire other youth" through the art of public speaking.



Oratorical Contest Directors

"Our gratitude goes to parents who made many sacrifices to have their children participate, as well as the speech coaches who worked

(Continued on page 3)

A Critical Question: "Does It Really Matter?"



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

The end of August each year also marks the end of a fiscal year for the General Baptist State Convention. As the Convention's Treasurer, I look forward to August 31 with both anticipation and anxiety. The final tally of the fiscal year will say something about our work in the previous twelve months. Even in light of the tightening economy, I remain confident that we will end the year well and the forthcoming audit will show that our stewardship of

the funds vested with the Baptist Headquarters were prudently put to their proper place and used according to our mission and mandate.

While there will be much to celebrate regarding our work in missions in the 2010-11 fiscal year, there will also be the annual nagging irritation of realizing just how many of our Missionary Baptist Churches in North Carolina chose to give nothing to missions over the past year.

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GBSC Laymen's League

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Our 144th Year

Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

1867 - 2011

MINISTRY BRIEFS

New Principal

Dr. Yvonne Best Motaung (formerly Lott Carey's Associate for Program Development) was unanimously recommended by the Board of the Baptist Convention of South Africa College to be its next Principal. She begins her new ministry leadership role in September.

Celebration of Life

Funeral services were held on July 16, 2011 for Dr. Beverly Dunston Scott, former President of Lott Carey's Women's Auxiliary (2001-2004), and the spouse of Dr. James A. Scott, Pastor Emeritus of Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey and President of the Lott Carey Convention (1982-1985).

In Sympathy

Funeral services for Mr. Eris Smith were held on Saturday, July 9 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. Mr. Smith was the father of Janifer B. Campbell, first Vice President of the Congress of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Host an International Student

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) is looking for families to host international students from one semester to one year. Host families are eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student. The students, aged 15-18, are from countries such as Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Korea, Mexico and China. They are English-speaking, have their own money, carry accident and health insurance and want to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. is designated by the U.S. Department of State. For more information, please call 1-866-546-1402.

FAITHFUL USHERS: A Study of Commitment, Fellowship, Discipleship

Matthew 25:21

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

David helps us to understand God's Faithfulness (Psalm 36:5).

We find strength to be faithful because God is faithful. Some ushers have fallen in the category of "use to be." They say I "use to be" involved as an usher, or I "use to" do a lot of things in the church, but I don't anymore. I "use to be" faithful, or once upon a time I was faithful. Faithfulness sometime is not enough. God expects us to be faithful all the time. He is seek-



Mr. Charles Dunn
GBSC Ushers
Auxiliary

ing faithful ushers to carry on his work. When God needed someone to fulfill His plan, He looked for a faithful servant (usher). He could trust. Moses bore the title of being "faithful in all of God's house." God trusted Moses. Abraham also was a faithful servant. David said "the Lord preserves the faithful" (Psalm 31:23, 101:6), "My eyes will be upon the faithful in the Lord that they may dwell with me." A faithful usher is committed to worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and ministry. It is every usher's calling to be faithful, even to the point of death so that they will be able to declare, "for I am ready to be offered up, the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished my race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown

of righteousness, which the righteous judge will award me on that day and not to me only, but to all who have longed for His appearing.

- Be on time.
- Be ready for worship when you arrive.
- They are looking for you.
- Be prepared to meet the needs of the congregation.
- Make yourself available. The congregates worship experience depends upon it.
- Share your tasks with others on duty as you cannot do it all alone.
- Make sure you show everyone respect.

God requires all of his servants, ushers included, to be faithful, accountable, and trustworthy. Faithfulness is being steadfast in affection and allegiance to someone. Accountability is giving an answer as to why we do what we do. Trustworthiness is being dependable. God's faithfulness is the foundation for our faith! Because God is so dependable and always does what He says He will do, we can trust Him with our lives.



Dr. Ricky L. Banks,
GBSC Second Vice
President

"LET US GO AND TELL"

Endowed With The Spirit -- Acts 2:1-6

Have you ever thrown a rock onto the smooth surface of a small pond? The rock, of course, makes a splash in the water where it drops. Far more than just one splash, however, the rock sets in motion a series of concentric, circular waves that move out from the point

of contact with the water to the extreme banks of the small pond. More than making just a ripple, a rock of sufficient size can change the whole surface of the pond.

This is somewhat descriptive of what happened to the Christian move-

(Continued on page 4)

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Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor

Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor



Prep Division Winners

long hours with this year's contestants," she said. "We also acknowledge our pastors who led their congregations to support the young people from their churches, and most of all, our young people."

Winners included:

Preparatory Division (6th through 8th grades): Sarah McMillian of Laurel Hill, N.C., First Place; Alexi Daniels of Gastonia, N.C., Second Place; Asia Privette of Spring Hope,

N.C. and Mitchell Bailey of Charlotte, N.C., Third Place (tied). Junior Division (9th through 11th grades): Kristina V. Stevenson of Raleigh, N.C., First Place; Marcia Parker of Durham, N.C., Second Place;

Aliyah Allison of Newton, N.C., Third Place.

Senior Division (Rising Seniors):



Junior Division



Senior Division

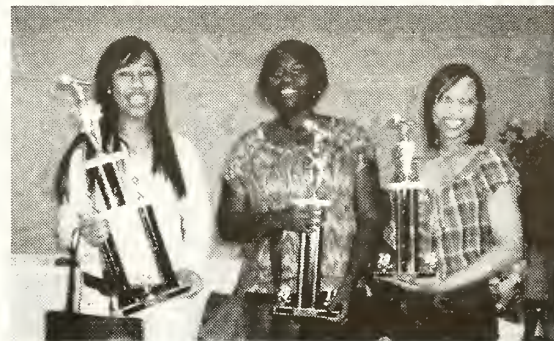
Hanha Hobson, of Fayetteville, N.C. First Place; Olivia L. Gibson, Raleigh, N.C. Second Place; Asante Hazziez, of Charlotte, N.C. Third Place.

Winners received trophies and checks ranging from \$50 to \$500, depending on the age division in the contest which is named for the Reverend James F. Wertz, an educator who taught in Wagram, N.C. He initiated the contest to prepare children for public speaking and eventually, it became associated with the General Baptist State Convention. Today, it has four levels – church, association, state and national.

The contestants represent associations, not churches in the state. Each association is allowed one representative for each category. The speech has to be memorized

and contestants must speak on official topics presented for their division. The goal, Ms. Johnson said, is to continue to increase the number of youth participating in the oratorical contest.

"A speech contest should be



Senior Division Winners

designed to inspire today's youth to motivate and inform their audiences through the art of public speaking," said Ms. Johnson. "That is what I know and believe the James F. Wertz Contest does."

Spotlight continued from page 1)

had a disaster plan and would know where to go and what to do if something happened in that building. It was all spelled out."

Belton hopes to find similar disaster plans in churches all over the state of North Carolina.

In November 2010, the General Baptist State Convention appointed him to work with GBSC-NC to set up disaster management programs that will create speedy responses to communities in crisis. As the North Carolina Disaster Coordinator, he'll work closely with the Rev. Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, GBSC-NC, to create programs and divide the state into "disaster zones" for speedy crisis responses.

At this point, volunteers in churches are needed, he said, and training will be available in disaster man-

agement for floods, tornados, hurricanes and other disasters. "All churches should have a disaster plan," said Belton, who worked as a national liaison with the American Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"During times of emergency, people go to people they trust and know and they usually go to churches. They trust the church, so let's start here and let's get organized. We can make a difference in someone living."

Belton, who also works as Regional Director for the Office of the Governor of North Carolina Beverly Perdue in Charlotte, N.C., presented a program on disaster management in May during the GBSC-NC Mid-Year Session in New Bern, N.C.

Disaster planning, many church leaders said, couldn't come at a bet-

ter time. The annual hurricane season runs June 1 through November 1. Additionally, the late April 2011 storms that hit seven southern states are proving to be among the deadliest in U.S. history. More than 300 people died in the storms, many are missing, thousands have been injured, and more than a million people were impacted, according to figures released from Lott Carey Foreign Missions in Washington, D.C.

More than a dozen counties in North Carolina were damaged by the April storms. In Raleigh, the tornado damaged neighborhoods across the northeast section of the city, including St. Augustine's College and Shaw University, which cancelled the remainder of its spring class schedule.

Belton hopes the GBSC-NC plan will enable and empower churches,

in and around disaster areas, to gather volunteers who'll be trained through the help of the American Red Cross, which offers free disaster classes.

"For example, if churches in the GBSC have trained volunteers, they will be able to give assistance to locals and others outside the disaster areas, even in situations when cell phones lines are down," Belton said during a recent phone interview.

Many years ago, church nurses were equipped to do disaster training, but today, they are no longer equipped to do that and we are more vulnerable. We don't have to wait on anyone to save us. We can save ourselves, but we must think through issues strategically."

-E.O. Johnson

HOME SAFETY/DISASTER KIT FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Important telephone numbers and copies of critical documents (birth certificates, prescriptions, marriage license, etc.)
At least three gallons of water per person in household, Canned food, manual can opener, First aid supplies, Medications
New batteries, radio and a flashlight, Protective clothing and rain wear
Written instructions on how to turn off utilities (stove, gas, electricity)
For information about disaster planning or volunteering,
please contact David Belton at dacbelton@msn.com

Some, of course, will remark that they chose to send their contributions directly to the objectives and bypass the Baptist Headquarters. While this is their right, it will often prove questionable because our objectives continue to call upon the Baptist Headquarters for additional financial support. Others will suggest that they are so involved in "local" missions that they have chosen not to support the objectives of the Convention. However, in many instances, these Churches will confuse local benevolence with global missions. They are not one in the same. Still others will make the claim that they simply forgot to give. Yet how can a congregation with the word "missionary" in its name simply forget about giving to missions.

These and similar statements are often presented to me as explanations of why our Churches fail in supporting the objectives of the Convention. However, they are not explanations; they are excuses. Excuses may do well to eradicate our failings in minor matters, but they are not acceptable in matters as large as the Kingdom and our response to the directives of Christ.

While researching the number of Churches contributing to missions across the last few years, I was surprised at the results. In the fiscal year ending August 2007, 936 Churches and Associations gave to missions. Twelve months later in August 2008, the number had fallen to 807. In August 2009,

the number had fallen again to 731. In the fiscal year that ended in August 2010, the number of Churches and Associations contributing was on the rise: it was up to 875. Through June of this 2011 fiscal year, we had received support from 873 Churches and Associations. Although we will likely exceed last fiscal year's number of contributors (and that's a good thing indeed!), the question is why? Why do some Churches give at some times and choose not to give at others? Why does missions make the Church budget in some fiscal years and doesn't in others? Why?

I am not sure that I know the answer to that question, but I think that I have a glimpse of the solution: Our Missionary Baptist Churches in North Carolina must become committed to the idea of missions and faithful in our support. Can you imagine one of our Missionary Baptist Churches just skipping the Pastor's Anniversary or Women's Day or Vacation Bible School one year? What if Sunday school met on three Sundays in January and only two in February?

What if the Church van only picked up worshippers on Sunday morning and did not return those worshippers home? It comes down to the simple need to set priorities and be committed to fulfilling the priorities that one has set.

Therefore, we must engage the question, "Does it really matter?" The Convention's fiscal year will

close whether my Church gives or not. The objectives will receive some support whether my Association gives or not. The "Does it really matter?" question is both powerful and profound. The clear answer is "Yes! Yes, it does matter."

It matters to students at Shaw University --- many of whom come from disadvantaged situations and for whom the pathway to college has been a steep climb. Ask them if your giving matters and the answer will be "Yes, ma'am; yes, sir." It matters to the persons pursuing theological education at Shaw University Divinity School --- many of whom are juggling jobs and family and churches while obeying the still, small voice that has lead them to enroll. Ask them if your dependable support of missions matters and the answer will be "Hallelujah, yes!" It matters to the young person at Central Children's Home --- many of whom have not had a sense of calm in their home life in a very long time before finding it on the pastoral campus in Oxford. Ask them if your reliable contributions matter and the answer will be a cool "Yeah, man!" It matters to the people all around the world --- many of whom depend on the hand of Lott Carey to provide basic living and spiritual needs. Ask them if they're giving to missions on a committed, regular and dependable basis and the answer will be loud and resounding:

"Decisamente" in Italy, "Wi" in Haiti, "Yah truss mi" in Jamaica, or "Wei" in Kenya.

Ask Jesus if it really matters. Ask the Lord if giving beyond your local Church setting matters. Ask the Master if our being Missionary in deed matters more than being Missionary in just name. Ask Him and you may hear His voice in your hearts: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

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

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

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

("Let Us Go and Tell", continued from page 2)

ment on the day of Pentecost. Jesus had told the disciples that they should stay in the city "until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Again, we read that Jesus gave the disciples the order not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5).

Still again, Jesus told the apos-

tles, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). In other words, Jesus promised that something was going to take place in Jerusalem as a point of contact that would produce reverberations throughout the surrounding area, first Judea, then Samaria, and ultimately the uttermost parts of the earth.

Luke continued by setting forth

two specific dimensions of the Pentecost experience. The believers present heard something, and they saw something. The media language of today would say that the Pentecost event had both audio and video qualities. The sound was "like the rush of a mighty wind" (Acts 2:2). The sight at Pentecost evidently was beyond description. Luke wrote, "There appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them" (Acts 2:3). We should note that Luke did

not say that the people actually saw fire. It looked like tongues of fire.

Pentecost also sounded a strong worldwide or universal note. God's truth in Jesus Christ was not to be kept hidden in some secluded corner of the world but was to be noised abroad so that eventually all people might know of God's love through Jesus Christ. This is a good time to recall the universal note that was set forth clearly on the day of Pentecost. Let us Go and Tell.

Passion: All That's Needed to Jump-start A Cause

By Kristen Youngblood/Bread for the World

Have you ever felt strongly about a cause, but thought it was completely outside of your comfort zone? Have you ever wanted to make a difference yet didn't know where to begin? Perhaps your passion is a good place to start. Take 2012 Miss Black Illinois USA contestant Tanya Auguste, for example. Auguste chose Bread for the World as her pageant platform for increasing awareness in the African-American community about domestic and global hunger and poverty. Her goal in raising awareness is to incite more people to act and—eventually—to find a solution.

We need a solution to hunger. One in seven American households currently suffers from food insecurity, according to the most recent data on hunger released by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA). Around the world, the number of hungry people has dropped below 1 billion, but still remains unacceptably high. In fact, a September 2010 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicates that 925 million people suffered from chronic hunger in 2010. The report also reveals that two-thirds of the world's undernourished people live in just seven countries—Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

During Bread for the World's National Gathering 2011 in Washington, DC, last month, Christian activists came from around the country to learn how to talk to their lawmakers about changing the politics that render people hungry. Because of her faith and interest in this cause, Auguste chose to attend the Gathering to learn more about what she could do to end hunger both at home and abroad from leaders of developing countries, U.S. government officials and fellow activists. She gained so much more than a learning experience. She made friends

with Christian advocates who share her mission and achieved a closer spiritual connection with God. She also realized that she is not just ending hunger—she's doing God's



work. She felt like this was what she was called to do. Her candidacy for Miss Black Illinois USA simply opened the door for her to get the word out.

Auguste attended Bread for the World's Capitol Hill Lobby Day while in DC. During Lobby Day, activists were first prepped for

advocacy then sent to meet with their senators and representatives as Congress considers budget cuts. The proposed debt ceiling and extreme cuts to non-defense discretionary spending will impact hungry and poor people, as programs that support them stand to be eliminated or drastically altered. Bread for the World urges lawmakers to negotiate a responsible budget that includes cuts in spending as well as increases in revenues, helping to reduce the deficit while also protecting programs for hungry and poor people. Lobby Day gave Auguste and other activists an opportunity to remind Congress that hungry and poor people did not create the deficit, so cuts to programs that support them are both unwarranted and will not help to reduce it. She went from viewing her representatives as authority figures to realizing that they actually work for her.

Through Bread for the World, Auguste is continuing to learn about and educate her community on hunger and poverty issues. Now it's your turn. How will you make a difference today?

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 editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of the GBSC.

Garden Reflections of God's Grace and Faithfulness

By Lida H. Moore / Guest Columnist for The Baptist Informer Reprinted by permission of The Good News, New York

Summertime gives us the opportunity to appreciate the colors, textures, fragrances, and fruits of our gardens and reminds us of God's faithfulness in all things. As I survey my own garden, I rejoice



at His grace and mercy to allow me to relish in the fruits of my labor and to see the beautiful flowers and lush greenery of His creation. But we must be inten-

tional about slowing down and taking the time to reflect and contemplate the beauty of the landscape God has given us to enjoy, as well as to learn from the development of it.

Gardening is an activity that forces us to slow down, be patient, and be diligent about taking care of what we have planted. In Galatians 5:22, Paul reminds us that "the

fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," and gardening helps me remember the importance of developing these attributes to be successful in many endeavors in life. As a new gardener, I'm so excited to visit a nursery to see all the possibilities for my own garden but I must exercise self-control and recognize that it will take lots of time, work, and resources



for me to develop an array of plants, shrubs, and flowers that will flourish in my garden. Last fall, my husband and I cleared an area in the front of our house to plant new shrubs, flowers, and a small tree. We were careful in our nursery selections and hopeful we would see wonderful results outside our front door in a

(Continued on page 11)

Historic Black Church In

Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church, which will celebrate its 145th Church Anniversary on September 25, 2011, has installed its first female pastor.

The local newspaper, The Fuquay-Varina Independent, headlined it this way, "A woman steps up to lead them: Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church chooses a Pastor."

A spirit of rejoicing, celebration, and inspiration accompanied the installation service for Rev. Latonya L. Agard as pastor of the



Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church located at 1228 Wilbon Road, Fuquay-Varina, NC on June 26, 2011. The church was filled with area church pastors, ministers, community well-wishers, and members. Also, sharing in this occasion were many of Pastor Agard's family members from out of state. The occasion was a highlight for Bazzel Creek MBC members, who have been excited by the spiritual enthusiasm that Rev. Agard brings to ministry.

Rev. James L. Pugh, pastor of Saint Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Spring Hope, NC, presided for the occasion.

Rev. James S. Utley, pastor of Malaby's Crossroads MBC, Knightdale, NC, presented the Installation Message; Rev. Dr. Wesley Elam, Moderator of the New Hope Association and pastor of North East Baptist Church, Durham, NC, presented the Charge to the church. Other clergy who participated on the program were: Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary Treasurer WBHFM Convention of NC and associate minister at Christian Faith Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC; Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Moderator of the Wake Baptist Association and pastor of Oak City Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC; Rev. Kadia Edwards, youth minister of Mount Level Missionary Baptist

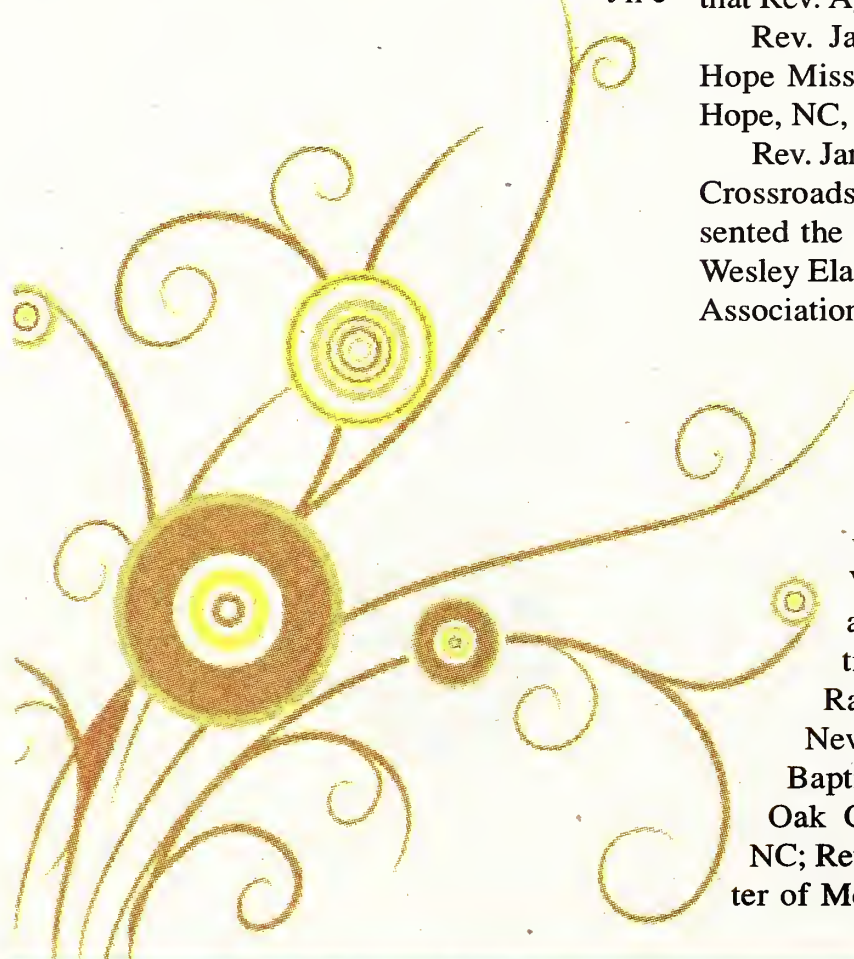
Church, Durham, NC; Rev. Dr. S. Manfre Isom, pastor of First Baptist Church, Selma, NC; Rev. James E. Clanton, 3rd District Moderator of the New Hope Asso

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ciation and pastor of First Baptist Church New Hill, NC; Rev. David C. Hutchins pastor of Bailey United Methodist Charge Bailey, NC and many other ministers from area churches.

Pastor Agard accepted the call to serve the Bazzel Creek MBC family in March 2011. The members of the church were enthusiastic about Rev. Agard's sermons and teaching and agreed that she had been sent by God to be their pastor.

Bazzel Creek had been without a pastor for almost a year. The church knew what it wanted in a pastor, but more importantly God knew what the congregation needed. She is a born again Christian, knowledgeable, a strong leader, and God sent. The Reverend Latonya L. Agard is the eldest of four children born to Lindsey and Ethel McCall. She was reared and educated in Montgomery, Alabama, where she began her Christian journey at New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. There she received Christ as a teenager and began to grow in the areas of Christian Education and public speaking. During this stage Reverend Agard fell in love with Biblical stories, preaching, and worship. Her spiritual growth was nurtured by loving, dedicated parents and her small family-oriented community church. After graduating from the Sidney Lanier Academic Motivational Program, Reverend Agard attended the University of Alabama where she acquired the Bachelor of Science



Installs First Female Pastor

degree in Chemistry (1997) and the Master of Arts degree in English (2000). In 2008, she completed her Master of Divinity Degree in theology (Magna Cum Laude) from

provided great opportunity to educate and minister to churches seeking ways to serve the local community in a more effective manner.

for Christian ministry is for believers to grow in their relationship with Christ so that they are empowered, equipped, and encouraged to call others into a life-giving re-

God be the glory for the great things He has done”

Duke University Divinity School.

Reverend Agard's professional career as an educator began at the University of Alabama, where she taught Composition and British Literature. In 1999, she received the Excellence in Teaching by a Master's Student Award in the field of British literature. She also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama, before she and her family relocated to Knightdale in the year 2000. After settling in Knightdale, Reverend Agard continued her teaching career at Barton College as an Associate Professor of English. In addition to teaching Composition and First Year Seminar, she focused her talents on encouraging African American college students, facilitating a weekly Bible Study, advising first-year students, and serving as the advisor for the Gospel Choir. In 2005, before leaving the College to pursue fulltime study at Duke University Divinity School, Reverend Agard was recognized as a Jefferson Pilot Faculty Member of the Year, for excellence in teaching, community service, and faculty development. Most recently, Reverend Agard served as the Case Manager for the Faith Support Circle Program for Homeless Families. In this position, she worked to help homeless families in Wake County transition to independent living by coordinating services with local churches and community agencies. Her work to recruit, train, and support churches in this process

Shortly after moving to Knightdale, Reverend Agard joined Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church. She immediately began serving there in various capacities, including youth ministry, Christian Education, and drama ministry. She accepted her call to ministry in 2003, was licensed in 2005, and received her ordination by the Wake Missionary Baptist Association in 2008. Her service in the Body of Christ continued at Malaby's Crossroads MBC as an Associate Minister serving as the Director of Christian Education, VBS Director, member of the Praise Team, and Youth Ministry Leader. Under the leadership of pastor James S. Utley, Reverend Agard strengthened her gifts and passion for preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

During 2008–2009, God opened the door for Reverend Agard to serve as the pastor of Congregational Care for the Bailey United Methodist Charge in Bailey, North Carolina. In this position, Reverend Agard was afforded the opportunity to minister in a cross-racial capacity in the areas of preaching, teaching, worship leadership, and pastoral care. This ministry was crucial to her development as a disciple, preacher, and teacher of the gospel, which calls us to live beyond the barriers and labels of our contemporary society.

As pastor of Bazzel Creek MBC, her desire is to inspire others to hope in Christ for their soul salvation and strength to overcome the demands of daily life. Her vision

relationship with our Lord.

Reverend Agard is married to Sean D. Agard, a New York native, who works as a Business Analyst for Rex Hospital. Mr. Agard has been a compassionate, loving supporter of his wife during her growth in pastoral ministry and continues to encourage her to reach higher and deeper for the cause of Christ. To this union, God has blessed the Agards with one beautiful daughter, Leah Marie Agard. She excels as a student, dancer, and volunteer at Knightdale High School, Malaby's Crossroads MBC, and the greater Raleigh community.

As we go forward with Reverend Agard as our pastor, we will take hold of a new vision that will build on the church's rich legacy of worship and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church Winston Salem, NC

Position: Church Business Administrator Supervisor: Senior Pastor

Position Description: The Church Business Administrator (CBA) provides administrative leadership to sustain and expand efficient fiscal, human resource, property and office operations for a growing congregation and its ancillary operations. The position demands a strong strategic leadership orientation. The Administrator will work closely with the church staff, Board of Deacons, Treasurer and the Financial Advisory Team as well as the leaders of ministries and auxiliaries. The Administrator will pursue professional development opportunities to stay abreast of information and technology relevant to the position. The Administrator will support the vision and leadership of the senior pastor so that the congregation can fulfill her mission.

A Summary of Responsibilities:

Financial Administration

- Facilitate the development of new or revised fiscal policies and procedures.
- Ensure that the financial operations of the church are in accordance with both church policies and procedures and standard accounting principles and procedures.
- Maintain vendor relationships.
- Oversee payroll, payroll tax reporting and all appropriate federal and state tax filings.
- Facilitate the annual budget and audit processes in collaboration with appropriate church staff and officers.
- Manage information technology functions.

Human Resource Administration

- Supervise the hiring and termination of staff who directly report to CBA.
- Assist in the development and implementation of sound HR policies and procedures.
- Communicate and administer employee benefit packages.
- Provide input and complete employee appraisals as required.
- Ensure compliance in all applicable areas of responsibility.

Property Administration

- Supervise custodians and church contractors.
- Regularly review and recommend updates to church's leasing policies.
- Review and recommend updates to the insurance needs of the church.
- Oversee the management and maintenance of church property and equipment.
- Develop and administer church safety and security procedures.

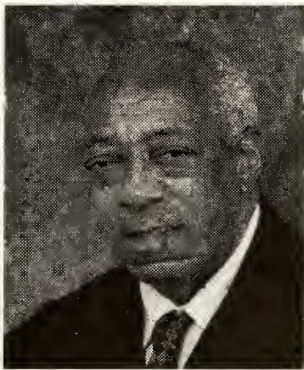
Office Administration

- Manage daily operations of the church office staff. Participate in staff meetings and staff development workshops.
- Review purchases and spending trends to identify opportunities for better stewardship.
- Lead/Coordinate staff and lay leaders in the development, revision and implementation of appropriate policies and procedures as directed by the senior pastor.
- Perform other duties as requested

Education and Experience : A Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in business or a related field required; a minimum of three years of management and leadership experience preferred; experience working or volunteering in large church (or nonprofit) setting and theological study at an accredited seminary preferred.

Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, candidates must be able to perform each duty exceptionally well. The ideal candidate will have the ability to manage a consensus decision making process; have strong time management, multi-tasking and organizational skills; demonstrate proven problem solving ability and perform well with moderate supervision; possess strong verbal, written and computer skills. A successful candidate must grant the church permission to conduct a criminal and financial background check as well as a pre-employment drug screen.

LAYMEN'S OUTLOOK



Mr. Richmond Turner,
GBSC Laymen's League

world (Acts 1:8). Paul advised Timothy to proclaim the gospel of Christ in the presence of many witnesses and to entrust the gospel to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).

Therefore, our objective is to exhort the men of the Church to be obedient to the Great Commission by putting men into position for effective action. Our method is to divide the State into a regional format. The State consists of 4 regions: West; Piedmont; Central; and East. Each region is expected to host one of the Quarterly Study Commission Sessions' conducted by the N.C. Laymen's League.

Regional councils are to be organized and made up of at least 2 members from each affiliated Association of the GBSC., with the purpose of sharing administrative responsibilities, communica-

tion efforts, encourage membership, organizing Men's Ministries and support of the N.C. Laymen's League both physically and financially.

The purpose of the Study Commission is to provide training for council members, encourage leadership, conduct workshops with emphasis on discipleship,

and encourage family ministries for the building up of the body of Christ. A vice-president of the GBSC's Laymen's Auxiliary will be assigned for contact/coordination of each region. Moderators will be asked to provide persons from their association for membership on the council.

Continuing our discussion of the Laymen's Outlook (2010-2014), we want to further discuss our objective: Deploying Men with Christ: A Call for Radical Discipleship.

Deploy means to spread out to form an extended line, instead of a column, to bring men into a position for effective action, make good use of. Christ has commanded us to witness to all the

The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association recently 06/30/2011 elected **Pastor James L. Smith as Moderator** for 2011-2015 tenure. Pastor Smith has served as Senior Pastor at Palmer Frove Baptist Church for more than 31 years.

- 1st Vice Dante Murphy
- 2nd Vice Rev. M. L. Littlejohn
- 3rd Vice Rev. Chad Woods
- 4th Vice Rev. Roger Fuller



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The N.C. State Laymen's League Study Commission will meet on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Providence Missionary Baptist Church, 1120 East Rockingham, N.C. Host pastor is the Reverend LaMont L. Johnson, Sr. and Moderator is the Reverend Jesse L. Timmons, Pee Dee Association.

All participants are encouraged to bring toiletry items (toothpaste, deodorant, house slippers) for the senior residents at Rockingham Manor Assisted Living Facility. For more information, please contact Clifton E. Bell, Jr., third vice president, GBSC Laymen's League.

MEN ON THE MOVE: Laymen Meet in High Point

The 15th Annual Walter Cade Jr. Workshop, presented by the National Baptist Laymen, will be held September 23-25 at the Best Western Hotel in 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. The Walter Cade Jr. Saturday Banquet will be held at the Show Place – High Point's premiere Furniture and Convention Center. Walter Cade Jr. Saturday's Banquet Site @ Show Place – High Point's Premiere Furniture and Convention Center.

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. Host pastor is the Rev. Dr. T. Ashby Banister III, Temple Memorial Baptist Church, High Point, N.C. Online registrations are available at www.templememorial.com

Religious Leaders Seek 'Circle of Protection' around Programs for Needy

Press Reports

Washington, DC, - National Christian leaders recently asked the President Barack Obama and senior White House Staff to protect funding for programs for hungry and poor people in the ongoing budget debate and in any deal concerning the default crisis.

All agreed that we can get our fiscal house in order without doing so on the backs of those who are most vulnerable. The shared concern was to cut the deficit in a way that protects the safety net, protects the vulnerable,

and maintains our investments in the future.

"We applaud the president for acknowledging that any budget deal must protect programs vital for hungry and poor people," said Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. "The best way to reduce federal deficits is to negotiate a responsible budget that includes cuts in spending as well as increases in revenues."

Christian leaders at today's meeting included representatives from the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Council of Churches, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bread for the World, Sojourners, the Alliance to End Hunger, the Salvation Army, the National African American Clergy Network, the National Baptist Convention of America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

They are part of the "Circle of Protection," a nonpartisan move-

ment that insists budgets are moral documents and that poor and vulnerable people should be protected—not targeted—in efforts to reduce long-term deficits. White House staff in the meeting included Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, Director of Domestic Policy Council Melody Barnes and Director of the Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Joshua DuBois.

Leaders have been urging policy makers to recognize that a commitment to protect vulnerable people is a moral—not partisan—concern. They will continue to talk with policy makers as well as educate other Christians and voters about the moral issues at stake in the budget.

"As Christian leaders, we are committed to fiscal responsibility and shared sacrifice. We are also committed to resist budget cuts that undermine the lives, dignity, and rights of poor and vulnerable people," the leaders wrote in a joint statement. "Therefore, we join with others to form a circle of

protection around programs that meet the essential needs of hungry and poor people at home and abroad."

The Circle of Protection statement has been signed by more than 60 heads of Christian denominations and religious organizations, and endorsed by 45 heads of development agencies as well as leaders of other faiths. The Circle of Protection movement has worked to uphold the bipartisan consensus that has long prevailed in deficit-reduction agreements—that programs serving poor and hungry people should be protected and exempted from any automatic cuts.

The Circle of Protection leaders have met with both Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress, and they have requested meetings with House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell

GBSC Calendar

September 2011

- 5th-9th National Baptist Convention USA Annual Session, Orlando Convention Center, Orlando, Florida
- 10th GBSC Laymen's Men's Retreat, Piedmont Region -- Place to be determined
- 23rd - 25th National Baptist Convention USA Walter Cade Southeast Regional Workshop, Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, High Point
- 24th WBH&FMC Family Missions Conference, Place TBA

October 2011

- 21st Shaw University Fall Convocation, Progress Energy Center, Raleigh
- 24th - 26th GBSC 144th Annual Session, Place TBA

November 2011

- 5th WBH&FMC Youth Evangelism Conference, place TBA
- 11th GBSC Ushers Officers Retreat, Place TBA
- 12th GBSC Ushers Fall Workshop, Place TBA

December 2011

- 3rd GBSC Ushers Executive Board Meeting, Mount Peace Baptist Church, Raleigh
- 10th GBSC Laymen's Study Commission Central Region, Place TBA

(Garden Reflections, continued from page 2)

few months. Also, an experienced gardener friend gave me cuttings from her extensive garden to add to our new garden.

It was so exciting to watch the development of these plants and shrubs right after we planted them and into the winter and then spring. It was a little disappointing, though, to see many of their leaves fall off and their brilliant colors fade to brown as the cold winter ensued. But when spring came, I was so thrilled to see all the buds and beautiful leaves burst forth. Each branch and leaf that I saw growing on our small tree would bring out squeals of joy and praises to the Lord for blessing our efforts. And then there was also disappointment as I dug up some plants that did not survive through the winter. But I was reminded that God's grace



sustains us even when we have struggles in life. He always provides glimmers of hope, as I have been able to see in the new shoots of my plants – which are the beginnings of them flourishing.

As I sit on my porch and admire my garden, I experience joy and excitement as I see my small plants slowly shoot up into a beautiful, blooming, and blossoming vista. As my garden develops, I fall in love with its beauty and presence in my landscape. My garden reminds me to focus on "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things" (Philippians 4:8 NIV). But most of all, my garden reflects God's faithfulness through all the seasons of life.

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:

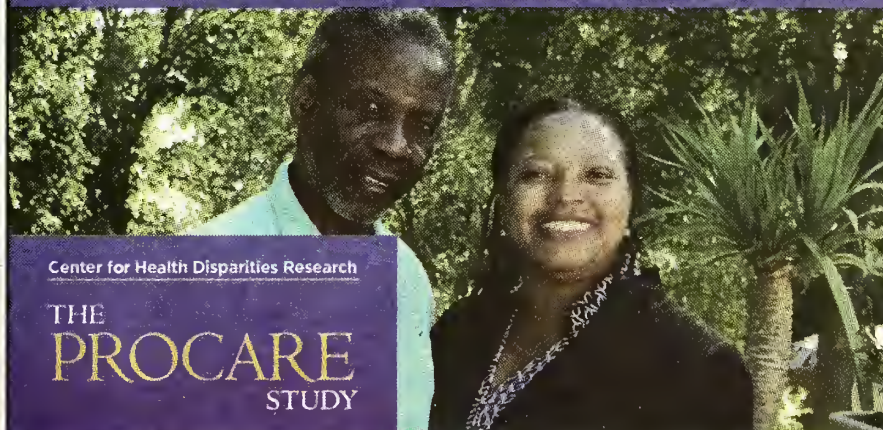
- Born again Christian, committed to Baptist doctrines and policies.
- Ordained Pastor with pastoral experience
- Willingness to work with all ministries of the church
- Good reputation
- Must be married and manages household well
- Demonstrates leadership skills and enhance spiritual growth
- Qualified and gifted to preach and teach the word of God and counsel with clarity and understanding.
- Support and attend trainings and workshops with the United Shiloh Association and General Baptist State Convention (GBSC)

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

East Carolina University

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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



Annual Lott Carey Convention Opens Aug. 15th

Some 2,000 missional Christians are expected to gather in Memphis, Tennessee for the 114th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. Lott Carey - a global Christian missional community - hosts its Annual Session to inform and inspire people to invest in Christian missions around the world.

The Lott Carey movement was founded in 1897 by African-American Baptists who were committed to a substantial foreign mission thrust – especially on the African continent. It bears the name of the Rev. Lott Carey, who was one of the first American and Baptist missionaries to West Africa. Born enslaved in 1780 in Charles City County, Virginia, Lott Carey purchased his freedom in 1813. He led a pioneering missionary team to Liberia in 1821 that engaged in evangelism, education, and health care. Rev. Carey became a well-respected and gifted governmental leader as well as missionary until his death in 1828. He was also the organizing pastor for the first Baptist church in Liberia – the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia.

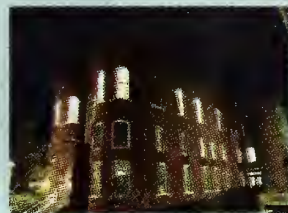
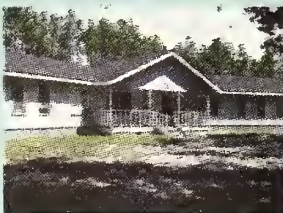
For details about the Convention, contact www.lottcarey.org or call (202) 543-3200.

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