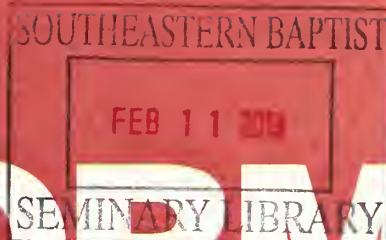


136-1 NC



Volume 136, No. 1



# BAPTIST INFORMER

February 2013

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

## Charlotte is Site for Congress' One Day Session on February 9

The 2013 One Day Session of the Congress of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention will meet on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. is host pastor.

On-site registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. Individuals may register for the session by paying \$10.00.

Churches are asked to support the annual activities of the Congress by paying \$400.00 during the year. The total may be paid on February 14 -OR- \$200.00 in February and \$200.00 by August 31, 2014.

This year's One Day Session will offer 32 classes from which attendees may choose. Additionally, a General Session class has been added as well as "Early Bird" classes for persons who preregister.

A worship service will end the day's activities. The session is scheduled to end at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Frank J. Byrd is in his third year as President of the Congress of Christian Education.

Please see page 9 class offerings and page 16 for registration form. PLEASE REGISTER TODAY!



GBSC President Dr. Howard Parker and First Lady Parker with MLK Banquet Guest Preacher, the Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart of Memphis. (More photos on page 8)

## MLK Banquet held 'In the Spirit of Coretta'

General Baptist State Convention of NC honors Mrs. Coretta Scott King & the Rev. Dr. MLK King Jr.

By Ophelia Johnson

On a history-making evening of firsts, the General Baptist State Convention of NC highlighted the enduring legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a freedom fighter and wife of the Civil Rights icon, along with other trailblazing Baptist women during its 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet.

The Reverend LaVerna Grantham Parker, the First Lady of the GBSC and spouse of President Howard W. Parker, became the first woman to preside over the fundraising gala

held on January 11 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C., drawing an estimated 600 people from across the state.

Additionally, the banquet was hosted, for the first time in its history by a female clergyperson - the Reverend Doctor Sherri Arnold Graham, the first woman Pastor historic Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC.

"We not only celebrate their legacy, but we also celebrate our own Convention," Dr. Arnold Graham said, during the opening remarks.

During his remarks, President Parker addressed the historic significance of the event to honor Mrs. King and others, and also presented the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Presidential Award of Distinction to four GBSC women

## National Baptist women share World Day of Prayer

Baptist women joined hands and came together to study, pray and give

By Dr. Linda Bryan  
Staff Reports

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on November 5, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), comprised of seven Continental Unions representing 235 national Baptist women's organizations from 136 countries, including the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina.

One of the host churches for the World Day of Prayer was the White Rock Baptist Church where the Pastor is Reverend Dr. Reginald Van Stephens.

Under the leadership of Deaconess Vivian Samuels, President of the Missionary Department and WBSC Board member, participants in the program represented particular countries around the world and dressed according to the custom.

Africa was represented by Segridd Davenport, Asia was represented by Mary Thomas, Caribbean was represented by

(continued on page 9)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

P3

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

P8

Highlights of the MLK Banquet and World Day of Prayer

Renew!

TODAY! See Page 10 Baptist Informer Subscription Form

# Shaw University Divinity School



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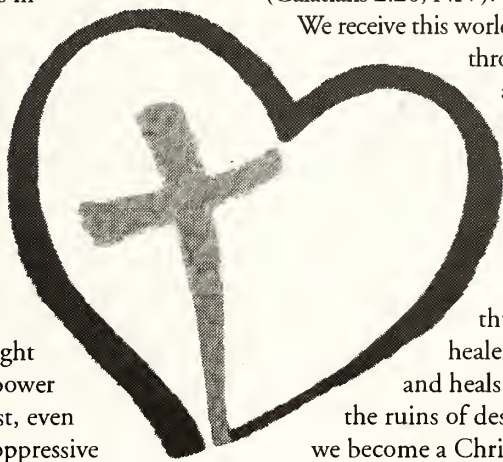
From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

## You are the Light of the World

*"To the [General Baptist Family] of God in [North Carolina], to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2-3, NIV).*

Jesus declared to His disciples in Matthew 5:14: "You are the light of the world." Jesus also promised His disciples they would receive God's power to accomplish what no other power on earth could do (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8). Through them, God's power would provide light to a world that was bound by the darkness of lesser powers. Through them, God's light would enlighten, equip, and empower them to be witnesses of the Christ, even "to the ends of the earth." The oppressive power of Roman imperialism was no match for the promised power the disciples would receive in order to serve as "the light of the world."

The same is true today. My sisters and brothers in the



Lord, YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! This is the promise of the Christ from the Christ to all who trust and follow Jesus our Lord. No wonder the Apostle Paul could exclaim with confidence: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NIV).

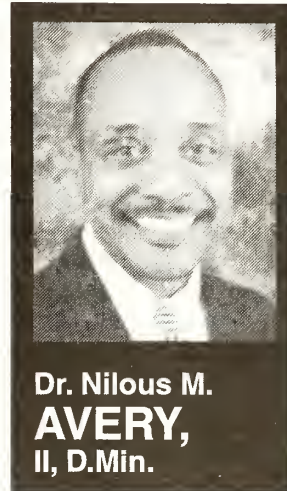
We receive this world-illuminating power from God through an intimate companionship and communion with the once crucified, but now risen Christ! With this power: we overcome weakness because God's power works through human weakness; we are rescued and healed; thus, we become rescuers and healers because God's power rescues and heals those who are handcuffed in the ruins of destructive experiences; we become a Christian community which reaches out to the least, the lost, those who are left out, looked over, and let down because God's power strengthens Christian communities.

The work our convention is "light-shining" work.

Missions is what we do. We do it through your support of the following objectives: 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. We have done this since 1867! Under the leadership and insight of our President Dr. Howard W. Parker, and Executive-Secretary Dr. Haywood T. Gray, we must continue to empower and equip God's people to glorify God and edify others.

Thank you - General Baptists - for shining your light, and the opportunity to serve God and humanity. We need your gifts. We appreciate your support. We cherish your prayers. Please support the kingdom work of your convention with your generous and cheerful gifts of total stewardship. "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen." (1 Corinthians 16:23-23, NIV).

Dr. Avery may be reached at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## Join the North Carolina NAACP on Saturday, February 9, 2013 for the Seventh Annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. This work in many ways parallels that of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, whose ministry was very much a social ministry. We are hopeful, honored and humbled by the resolute support the General Baptist State Convention provides to the NAACP in its missive.

Join North Carolina NAACP on Saturday, February 9, 2013 for the seventh annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street also known as "HK on J" where we will be accompanied by our 140+ HKonJ Coalition Partners representing over one million North Carolina residents. Historically, as people of faith, the Black Church and the NAACP have fought for freedom, justice and equality together. Remember the 1000 churches, mosques and temples 100% voter registration campaign? How about the Mass Voter Registration weekend in August or the radio ads encouraging voters to register and to show up at the polls? During the 2012 historic election, many pastors and churches engaged in voter education, voter registration and souls-to-the-polls activities that led to an upward surge in voter participation this election cycle among African Americans, Latinos and young people.

With this foundation, we can continue to build a

broad statewide constituency, inclusive of all people and advance the progressive agenda that our families and communities need and that generations unborn so desperately deserve. To that end, we have identified 5 key Game Changers that require our immediate and ongoing attention, and they are:

- 1) Economic Sustainability - addressing poverty, full employment and labor rights;
- 2) Educational Equality - for all students and children;
- 3) Healthcare - available for all and ensuring access to Medicare and Medicaid;
- 4) Inequalities in the criminal justice system - addressing disparities for Black, Brown, and poor White people; and
- 5) Voting Rights - protecting, defending and expanding them for all people.

Pastors and their congregations must work more strategically, diligently and unwaveringly to utilize the tools already available to us, particularly, our voices, our influence, our time, our dollars, our talent and the NAACP. We must ensure that the least and the lost among us are not left out or left behind. Through joining forces again—the faith community and the NAACP—we can impact our future! We can bring about substantive change for a better North Carolina. Keep abreast by signing up for text alerts, Text NAACP to 46988. Subscribe to receive NC NAACP Constant Contact messages. E-mail

[info@naacpnc.org](mailto:info@naacpnc.org), provide your e-mail address and in the subject line type "Add me to Constant Contact."

State NAACP President, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II always says, "WE is the most important word in the social justice vocabulary." NC NAACP looks to you to assist us as we collectively, cooperatively, and collaboratively create measures by which the Game Changers may be addressed and resolved. Join the movement! Connect your church with the North Carolina NAACP State Conference. Call Reverend Dr. Cardes H. Brown, Jr., Religious Affairs Chair at (336) 273-5579 or Reverend Kojo Nantambu, Director of the Religious and Educational Advocacy Project at (704) 599-8904. Also, begin making plans now to join HKonJ7 or Historic Thousands on Jones Street People's Assembly Coalition, Saturday, February 9, 2013. For additional information, contact Rev. Curtis E. Gatewood, HKonJ Coordinator at 1.866.NC NAACP or e-mail [curtisgatewood@naacpnc.org](mailto:curtisgatewood@naacpnc.org). Visit the HKonJ website, [www.hkonj.com](http://www.hkonj.com), and remember, Forward Together ... Not One Step Back!

Amina Josey Turner, Executive Director, NC NAACP, can be reached at Post Office Box 335, Durham, NC 27702; 1-866-NC-NAACP; 919-682-4700 V; 919-682-4711 F; [www.naacpnc.org/hkonj.com](http://www.naacpnc.org/hkonj.com).

## LAYMEN OUTLOOK

# Love: The Most Important Thing in Life

**W**e recently discussed three basic strands of the Great Commission that have to be addressed if we are to become 'Great Commission Christians.' The first strand is evangelism and having passion for the lost. However, there is an even more important element: Love.

The Bible discusses three kinds of love in particular:

God's love for man, man's love for God, and man's love for man. Love is the law of Christ. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another" (John 13:34) Jesus attached enormous significance to the law of love. He made love the most important thing—the over-arching guiding principle. He rested the full

weight of His teaching, life, and ministry on love.

Under the supreme authority of the law of love we should strive to make our first thought of, discussion about, or encounter with another person be guided by this notion: By the command of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit I choose to love this person as an act of my will. Love is what we are to do, but what is love?

Love is the thread of continuity woven into the fabric of every authentic Christian life. Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps from rubbing each the wrong way. In human relations, love stands alone as the over-arching principle, idea, and concept that holds life together. Relationships create responsibilities. Time

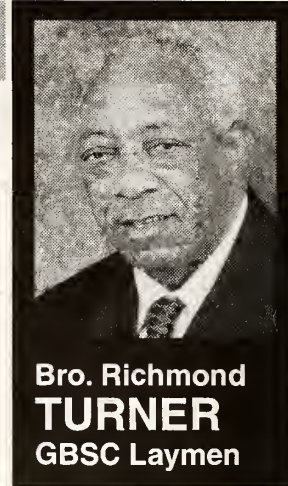
is everything to a relationship.

Bible love is "agape love," and it is a decision to love as a matter of duty, principle, or propriety. Agape love is a chain: God loves us. We love Him and then we "agape" love our neighbor. Agape love is not an emotion, but a commitment to love others because God first loved us.

The law of love can only be satisfied by filling ourselves up with the love of Christ that we not only have love enough for ourselves, but love left over to give away. Love is our best hope for healthy relationships. Love helps us to fill in each other's gaps. It empowers and motivates us to restore broken relationships. Love for one another is how we demonstrate to Jesus that we love Him.

Love is the most important thing. As a reminder; this is the month of love: **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!**

Reach Bro. Turner at [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com)



**Bro. Richmond TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen



## • • • • LAYMEN CALENDAR • • • •

North Carolina State Laymen's League of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

2013 Calendar of Events

Spiritual Men in Solidarity with the Savior by "Preaching...Reaching...Teaching"

March 09, 2013 – Study Commission – Mills Chapel MBC Black Mountain, N.C., Western Region

April 5, 2013 – 2nd Annual Marshall, Morgan Banquet

April 6, 2013 – Annual One Day Session

May 2013 – Open Date – Scouting Camporee Pending

June 8, 2013 – Study Commission – Providence MBC Edenton, N.C., Eastern Region

July 12-13, 2013 – Men and Boys Retreat – TBA

"2013 Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention Events"

April 18 - 20, 2013 – Spring Missions Conference, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

June 22 - 27, 2013 – Annual Youth Conference, Location TBA

August 12 -16, 2013 – Annual Session, Washington, DC

"National Baptist Convention"

September 2 - 6, 2013 – National Baptist Laymen's League, Charlotte, N.C.

September 14, 2013 – Study Commission – Savannah MBC Fayetteville, N.C., Piedmont Region

October 4 -6, 2013, Walter Cade Jr., Regional Workshop, South Carolina

December 14, 2013 – Study Commission – Greater New Hope MBC, Oxford, N.C., Central Region

The North Carolina Baptist Ushers Convention  
**ONE DAY SESSION**  
Saturday, February 23, 2013

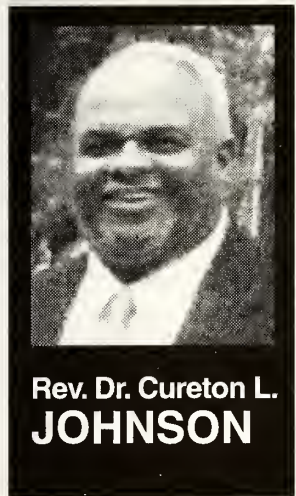


Saint Stephen Baptist Church  
5000 Noble Street  
Winston-Salem, NC  
Dr. James E. Cook, Host Pastor

# The African Presence in the Ancient World

There are scholars who believe that Africans came to the Americas before Christopher Columbus. What was their role in ancient Europe?

Richard Poe, a best-selling author and researcher, has explored this topic in the works of many historians', archeologists', and Egyptologists' in his 554-page book, *Black Spark, White Fire: Did African Explorers Civilize Ancient Europe?*



Poe refers to Herodotus, the famous fifth century (BC) Greek scholar, as a primary source. Herodotus wrote of a black African military leader who explored parts of Europe while the area was uncivilized around 1900 BC. This was around the time that Joseph would have been

sold into slavery in Egypt according to the Bible's Old Testament book of Genesis.

During this period of time, an Egyptian pharaoh named Sesostris evidently led an army up through Turkey into the Caucasus—a range of mountains be-

tween Europe and Asia—from which the Caucasian people were named. Sesostris then marched westward across southern Russia, and fought his way down through Romania and Bulgaria until he reached Thrace (eastern Greece). His march through Europe may have initiated the Bronze Age in portions of eastern and central Europe.

In addition, Cornell University scholar Martin Bernal believes that highly civilized Africans once colonized primitive Europe, a land still seething with headhunters and cannibals. Was Sesostris the Conqueror black? There is good reason to believe that he was. The most conventional Egyptologists acknowledge that the Twelfth Dynasty—the royal family from which Sesostris sprang—was one of the blackest to ever rule Egypt. They vanquished Egypt's foes, filled its treasure houses with plunder, reared great temples and pyramids, and caused the desert to bloom with grand new irrigation projects. This dynasty ranks among the greatest according to Egyptologist Frank Yureo.

Let us take time during February's Black History

Month and throughout the year to share African and African-American history with our congregations. Pastors and church leaders may be the key to preserving our history, traditions, legacy and greatness with coming generations.

If no us, then who?

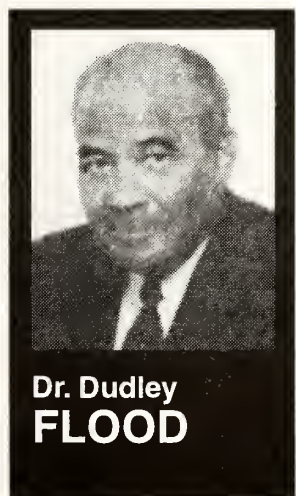
*Dr. Johnson is an author and Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC. (Note: Black Spark, White Fire: Did African Explorers Civilize Ancient Europe? by Richard Poe, 1999.*



## Black History Month

# Every Child Deserves the Opportunity to Succeed

In a pluralistic society such as ours, the predominant culture becomes that of the majority group. Persons who are of a minority group are subjected to a socialization process that is designed to perpetuate the values and standards of behavior of the majority group. The most vulnerable persons in this socialization process are the young. Because they have had such limited alternate experiences, they may lack the basis for weighing information and making wise



choices between values and practices. This process can produce a tendency in individuals to view those who are "different" as being deficient. If a young person begins to think of himself or herself in that way, their progress toward success may be impeded by aiming too low or setting lower goals.

Some common barriers to success in our youth include: INSECURITY, FEAR OF FAILURE, LACK OF POSITIVE SELF-IDENTITY, and LOW SELF ESTEEM. Each carries enough importance to merit a brief discussion on what we might do in an attempt to lessen its impact on our youth.

Insecurity is based on an uncertainty about whether we will be supported by significant others in our times

of challenge. Ideally, the family should play this role, but if it fails to do so, some person of agency must fill this need so that a young person may feel secure.

Fear of failure may stem from one having heard repeated comments about his or her incapability coupled with the lack of affirmation of his or her attributes. In the greater society, competition is stressed to the point that one can be very good at something and still view themselves as a failure because someone else is better at that particular thing. Youth must be taught to set realistic goals and to measure accomplishments in terms of their progress toward those goals.

Self-esteem is increased by the feeling that one has made a positive contribution to the betterment of the human condition. Since youth have not lived long enough to have made any truly major accomplishments, they often draw their self-image from their family. It is critical that the family will reinforce their desirable traits and that positive conversations become a part of their daily experiences.

Taken together, activities that contribute to the security of youth, reduce their fear of failure, and enhance their self-esteem may constitute our best strategy for nurturing our youth in a manner that will improve their chance for success. We must become more sensitive to the influences that mold the thinking and behavioral patterns of young people. It is equally important that we teach and practice an appreciation for establishing equal status relations. If we provide the practice field, society will provide the proving ground on which this philosophy can become a reality.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, and is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at floodspeaker@bell-south.net.*



# The Difference in Our Preaching is Imagination

Until recent years imagination was in the shadows of preaching conversations. In a sense it functioned as a stepchild and in many instances an orphan in the house of traditional homiletics. Very seldom and on rare occasions its name was mentioned. Not surprising, it received little attention surfacing as an after-thought or footnote.

In preaching, literature preachers and homileticians focused on the technical process of sermon preparation (interpretative strategies, explanation, argumentation, illustration, application and all of the core elements of a strong delivery). Arguably, two attributing factors caused imagination to be relegated to a place of caution and concern in the field of traditional preaching.

First, the more traditional house of homiletics held concerns because imagination seems to run counter to the principle of argument and persuasion through deductive and logical reason principles. Second, imagination carries negative connotations of falsehood and fantasy or even fairy tale. Predictably, this issue is especially a concern in the area of traditional hermeneutics (interpretation) owing to a fear of the preacher imagining something that is not true or in conflict with what the biblical author intended.

On the other hand, such cautions and fears concerning the use of imagination was never an issue of concern in the black preaching tradition. In fact, it was the use of the vivid, rich and fertile imagination that characterized black preaching and elevated it to a place of distinction. Black preaching historian, Henry Mitchell notes that imaginative "details help the hearer to be caught up in the experience being narrated and, as a result, to understand better and to be moved to a change." For Mitchell, "Black preaching, at its best is rich in the imaginative supply of these details and in their dramatic use in telling the Gospel story."

Believe it or not every preacher, whether traditional expositors or more contemporary approaches, during the process of crafting a sermon and delivery uses in some way his or her imagination. "It is, in short, the cognitive faculty of forming and projecting images." The question is not "will I use my imagination but how will I use my imagination" in my preaching. The brain is made up of two distinct halves, right and left



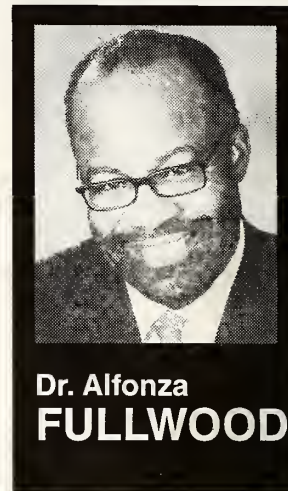
according to scientists. They argue that the right side is the house of theatrics, art forms and drama.

The left side is the house of mathematics and reasoning, giving attention to facts, figures and conclusions. A good sermon requires not only explanation, argumentation illustration and application but, analogies, anecdotes, depictions, images and drama, all in the service and under the conviction of preaching Christ—heaven's "pet child"—"Mary's baby." Too much left brain makes preaching flat, boring and far from engaging. Too much right brain makes preaching pointless, without a verdict—"all hat and no cattle." Worst still, it is reduced to colorful and flowery words of showmanship intended to persuade, delight

and move similar to Graeco-Roman rhetoric without the force of truth. Like a chef preparing a sumptuous dish, taste depends on the right amount of prescribed ingredients. A good sermon requires left and right brain action. Therefore, imagination is a function of the brain in the same way logic and rationality are functions. And, every preacher should walk a tight rope to achieve that delicate balance.

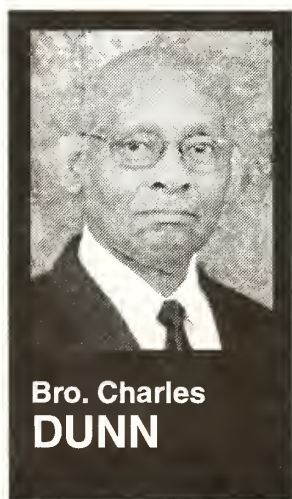
Finally, it is necessary to offer a word of caution concerning the use of imagination in our preaching: Do not allow your imagination to run away or run wild with you. Imagination is a means not the end. It does not dictate or drive the text but rather it follows the dictate of the text. Thus, imagination should never assume a power of its own because it is subservient, never master. A sermon heavy on imagination and light on substantive biblical content is like the hovering of low dark clouds that bring no rain. Remember, imagination does not create truth but rather serves it, presenting and projecting fresh and vivid images in the service of preaching Christ and the cross.

*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at RHBC@att.net.*



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

## Responsibilities of the Offices of Church Ushers



**Bro. Charles DUNN**

The President and Officers of the Ushers in the local Baptist church are the leaders, planners, guides, inspirers, informers, and the coordinators of successful and effective ushering in the church. It is therefore incumbent for the ushers who lead and plan to know their duties and work.

The Duties of the President

The President of the Ushers holds a very responsible position, it includes: Organizing, Deputizing, Visualizing and Supervising.

The President presides at all meetings. If he/she is absent then the Vice-President should take charge. It is the President who meets with the Pastor to receive the orders of the day prior to worship service. He/She then communicates the necessary information to the

ushers. The President should lead the ushers to perform their duties before and after the worship service. The President is the secret of ushering success. He/She should be close co-workers with the Pastor. He/She should plan time to:

- Organize training session for the ushers
- Plan and present a Calendar of Activities
- Plan the days' work for the ushers
- Assign ushers to their positions of service
- Secure all needed materials before the service begins
- Check the physical comfort of the sanctuary before and after service

Presidents should get acquainted with and participate in their district and /or association convention, as well as the ushers convention.

Officers of the Local Ushers:

- President
- Vice-President
- Recording Secretary
- Assistant Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Correspondent Secretary

The North Carolina Baptist Ushers Convention seeks to provide creative ways of accomplishing the task of training ushers for service. Some of the annual goals of the auxiliary are:

To promote the objectives of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

To present workshops on the local and state level.

To encourage all General Baptist Churches, Associations, and Unions to support the convention by paying annual assessments.

To encourage ushers in all General Baptist Churches to use "A Ministry of Service, A Ministry of Joy" as the official handbook.

To encourage all General Baptist Churches, Associations, and Unions to send representatives to the sessions of the convention.

To engage more youth participation in the convention.

To assist members of the convention in establishing first aid procedures and committees.

To encourage ushers to cultivate positive working relationships with the Pastors.

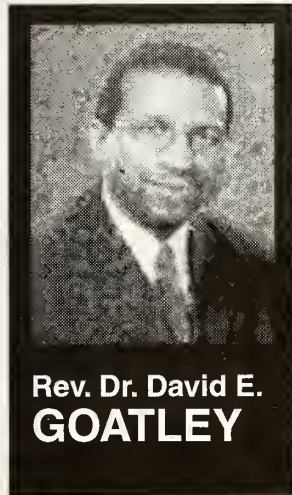
*Reach Bro. Dunn at justicem@bellsouth.net.*

# Haiti – Three Years After the Earthquake

*Editor's Note: A catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake, with an epicenter approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, hit on January 12, 2010. Relief efforts to restore the country remain.*

Dear Lott Carey Partner:

A devastating earthquake “rocked the world” of Haitians on 12 January 2010. Three years have passed, and most of the world doesn't pay much attention to Haiti anymore. Too many promises have not kept. Too much money has not been spent (or it has been spent in ways that do not benefit the Haitian survivors). Life continues to be a grind for too many Haitians.



**Rev. Dr. David E. GOATLEY**

The Lott Carey way, however, is to light a candle rather than curse the darkness. On the third anniversary of the event that “rocked the world” of our Haitian siblings, I wanted to share with you some examples of how you have made an impact. People's lives are better because of our Lott Carey investments.

For example:

Lott Carey serves as the administrator and coordinator of the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration ([www.aabmc.org](http://www.aabmc.org)) which is a partnership with the National Baptist Convention, USA; National Baptist Convention of America; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; Progressive National Baptist Convention; and Lott Carey that pledged and paid a \$1 million grant in 2010 to Habitat for Humanity International to provide housing for families in Haiti.



The AABMC investment with Habitat provided more than 1600 transitional shelters; invested in 500 hundred permanent houses; provided sanitation solutions for the houses; distributed emergency kits for repairs; and employed 700 people construction related work.

Beyond the collaboration work of the AABMC, your investments have enabled Lott Carey to do the following:

The first year of the work of AABMC was funded by the denominational partners. Lott Carey has funded and staffed the AABMC program for the second year.

- Provided cash grants to families.
- Provided grocery grants to families.
- Provided food service for a hospital treating earthquake victims through buying food from

Haitian farmers and contracting Haitian caterers to prepare the food.

Trained pastors, spouses, and community leaders to minister to people suffering from trauma.

Funded youth camps for young people impacted by the earthquake.

Funded medical distribution and water treatment solutions to combat cholera.

Lott Carey churches are funding and Lott Carey is raising additional funding for a new 56 home planned community - the Lambi Sustainable Village.

Lott Carey churches have funded individual housing replacement construction.

A Lott Carey church is

financing a community center.

Lott Carey churches are providing scholarship support for orphans.

Lott Carey churches have provided nursing uniforms.

Lott Carey churches have made and sent “pillowcase dresses” for girls.

Lott Carey has deployed short-term medical missions teams.

Lott Carey has deployed short-term evangelistic and children's ministry teams.

Lott Carey has deployed construction teams (we sent 63 men in November and December and hope to send 37 more during 2 - 9 March 2013 to reach our goal of 100 Men on Mission).

Lott Carey is deploying a short-term pastoral team in late January.

Lott Carey is seeking to develop a large scale sustainable energy program.

Lott Carey is working to invest in sustainable agricultural production.

Lott Carey continues to provide monthly support to a network of churches seeking to make and mature disciples for Jesus in Haiti

These are examples of our ongoing investment in Haiti for which we seek your continued prayer, participation, and financial support. You can visit some of your work through the following Lott Carey Herald Magazines found on our web site ([www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org)).

2010 Summer Lott Carey Herald.pdf - Helping Haiti Rise Again I

2011 Summer Lott Carey Herald.pdf - Helping Haiti Rise Again II

2012 August/Annual Session Herald pdf - Faith, Hope, and Love in Haiti

Lott Carey's initial investments in Haiti began in 1916. By God's grace and with your help, we plan to stay engaged.

*Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott Carey can be reached at [degoatley@aol.com](mailto:degoatley@aol.com).*



# 'In the Spirit of Coretta'

## General Baptist State Convention of NC honors Mrs. Coretta Scott King & the Rev. Dr. MLK King Jr.

(continued from page 1)

whose works over the years exemplified "strength, faith and courage."

Recipients were Mrs. Carolyn Edwards, the spouse of former President C. R. Edwards; Dr. Shirley Bullock, the spouse of former President Dr. Charles T. Bullock; Mrs. C. Brenda Jones, the spouse of former President Dr. Clifford Jones; and Mrs. Lillie H. Lewis, the spouse of former President W.B. Lewis.

The Reverend Dr. Gina Stewart, Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, TN, to deliver the sermon, which was titled, "A Transformed Non-Conformist." In her sermon, she explored the works of Joanna, the little-known Biblical wife of Kuza and a devoted follower and supporter of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

"Joanna is the wife of a senior royal official a member of the aristocracy, but she dares to share in the life of a peasant from the backwoods named Jesus," she said. "She risked a lot, even her life, but believers have a mandate to live differently and have a higher conviction."

In her sermon, she also encouraged believers to model Joanna's "courageous decision" and also abandon neutrality in their service. This non-traditional model, she said, was taken by such people as Mrs. King, Dr. King, along with dozens of others from Nelson Mandela in South Africa to President Barack Obama, the newly inaugurated 44th President of the United States.

"It takes courage to follow Jesus," she said, drawing applause from the audience.

Others on the program included the Rev. Dr. Linda Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.; Mrs. Ni'Cole W. Lynch, spouse of the First Vice President Dr. Leonzo Lynch; Mrs. Shelva W. Banks, the spouse of Second Vice President

Dr. Ricky Banks; Mrs. Faye V. Terry, the spouse of the third Vice President; Mrs. Kristy D. Sykes, the spouse of the Fourth Vice President Rev. O.D. Sykes.



**THE WORD IN SONG** - The Loving Sisters of Roxboro, N.C. performed musical selections for the 600 banquet guest. Pictured is (from left) Freda Edward, Alecia Pettiford and Evangelist Pamela Croom.



**SISTERS OF FAITH & FREEDOM** - Recipients of the 2013 MLK, Jr. Presidential Award of Distinction were former First Ladies of the GBSC. They were (from left) Mrs. Carolyn Edwards, Dr. Shirley Bullock and Mrs. C. Brenda Jones. The fourth honoree, Mrs. Lillie H. Lewis, was not present for the banquet that attracted about 600 guests from across the state.



**PRESIDER** - The First Lady of the General Baptist State Convention-NC, the Rev. LaVerna G. Parker (in white) greeted dozens of guests and presided over the annual gala held on January 11 in Greensboro, N.C.



**HONOREE** - Mrs. C. Brenda Jones, First Lady of Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte (holding plaque) fellowshiped with guests and church members.



**KEYNOTE PREACHER**- Reverend Dr. Gina M. Stewart of Memphis, Tenn. delivered an eloquent and erudite sermon titled, "A Transformed Non-Conformist," for the MLK Banquet. She is pictured with the Rev. LaMont Johnson, Pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Rockingham, N.C.

## Women gather for World Day of Prayer

(continued from page 1)

Theresa McGhee, Europe was represented by Diane Lamb, Latin America was represented by Gail Thorton, North America was represented by Wilma Howard, South West Pacific was represented by Merion Beatha. Bible Study was presented by Rev. Thelma Battle, Associate Minister and Rev. Dr. Irene Perry, Assistant to Pastor Stephens.

The Mission of the World Day of Prayer is to encourage and celebrate unity in Christ among Baptist women around the world and work towards peace and reconciliation, justice and development through prayer, witness and service.

The Woman's Convention welcomed the opportunity to participate in this beautifully planned World Day of Prayer event.



**Prayer Warriors** - Participants included Dr. Irene Perry, Mrs. Vivian Sanders and Dr. Linda Bryan (pictured on far left). Many of the ladies (pictured on right) also dressed in festive attire representing Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Caribbean, North America and the South Pacific.



# Charlotte Site for Congress One Day Session on February 9



(continued from page 1)

## GBSC Congress of Christian Education 2013 Classes February 9, 2013 Friendship Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

### General Session Class: Transformational Discipleship

**Course Description:** Transformational Discipleship is a study of how people grow and how disciples answer the call of Jesus.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Division I:<br/>Ministerial Division</b>    | <b>1. PREACHING TO THE POST-MODERN - DR. ALFONZO W. FULLWOOD</b><br>Preachers will learn how to change their preaching style without compromising the substance, taking advantage of new opportunities provided by the postmodern cultural shift.   |
|  | <b>2. TEN REASONS YOUR CHURCH MAY NOT BE GROWING - DR. LEONZO LYNCH</b><br>Growth should exist in the church, but often times it does not occur the way we think from both a spiritual and numerical perspective. The course will examine ten dynamics that maybe interfering with the progress the church desires to experience. |
|  | <b>3. WAY MEN HATE GOING TO CHURCH - DR. RICKY L. BANKS</b><br>This course will use material from the book <i>Why Men Hate Going to Church</i> by David Murrow. The student will learn some of the dynamics of how to reach men and how to draw them into the church.   |
| <b>Division II:<br/>Leadership Development</b> | <b>1. CREATING A COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE PASTOR AND STAFF - REV. JOHN SPANN</b><br>This course will help pastors and lay leadership understand the components of a pastor's compensation package for a local church.  |
|  | <b>2. CHURCH LEADERSHIP: A MODULE FOR TRAINING LEADERS - REV. LORRAINE JACKSON</b><br>This course will offer the church a leadership module for training the churches leadership in order to carryout effective ministry within the local church  |
|  | <b>3. HANDLING CHURCH FINANCES - REV. JOHN SPANN</b><br>The course will trace the dollars flowing into the church and what internal controls should be in place to make sure the church is compliant.   |
|  | <b>4. HOW TO START A CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MINISTRY - DR. RICHARD THOMAS</b><br>The course will help churches examine a biblical model for ministry and how lay persons can establish a ministry of counseling within the local church.  |
|  | <b>5. ESSENTIAL CHURCH - REV. PERRY IRBY</b><br>Using practical tolls for assessing your church's current reality and for implementing the principles of an essential church in your setting  |
| <b>Division III:<br/>Sunday School</b>         | <b>1. CONNECT 3: TAKING YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TO THE NEXT LEVEL - BRO. FRED BAKER</b><br>It challenges small groups and Sunday School classes to become intentional about connecting with other people on three levels. You will be able to identify, discover, and decide on how to move your Sunday school class forward.          |
|  | <b>2. 21ST CENTURY SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT - MIN. VELMA MCCLLOUD</b><br>This course will help Superintendents with the work of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century Sunday School.   |
|  | <b>3. TEACHER TRAINER - SIS. CYNTHIA WILLIAMS</b><br>Teachers will learn and discover the fundamentals of teaching Sunday School.   |
| <b>Division IV:<br/>Evangelism and Mission</b> | <b>1. WAYS TO OUTREACH TO YOUR COMMUNITY - REV. CLIFF FREEMAN</b><br>The church is called to do mission outreach to the local community. The student will learn how to evaluate the community of the church and discover ways to do effective outreach  |
|  | <b>2. ONE-ON-ONE EVANGELISM - SIS. ESTELLA FEASTER</b><br>This course will cover how to witness and conduct personal evangelism in your personal everyday life.   |

#### Division V: Biblical and General Studies

**1. SIX SECRETS TO A LASTING LOVE - DR. DENNIS & REV. CHAROLLETTE LEACH**  
This course is an overview of six secrets to recapturing your dream marriage: Forgiving Love, Serving Love, Persevering Love, Guarding Love, Celebrating & Renewing Love.

**2. DEVELOPING A SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY - REV. PAXTON HUGHES**  
This course is designed to minister to senior adults, it will cover the basics of establishing a Senior Adult Ministry within the local church

**3. OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF JAMES - DR. THOMAS MURRAY**  
The book of James helps to understand the faith that is required in Jesus Christ to help correct Christian behavior in order that righteous Christian fruit is displayed.

**4. BLENDING GENERATIONS - REV. DARYL GIBSON**  
This course will focus on how generations are able to coexist within the church, the seniors, adults, young adults, and youth learning how to grow together in Christ.

**5. SEXUALITY IN THE BLACK CHURCH - REV. ANTHONETTE WRIGHT**  
Course will define sexuality; discuss sexual behaviors, relationships, communication, beliefs and values and how the church plays a role in the development of human sexuality

**6. HOW THE BIBLE ORIGINATED - DR. NILOUS M. AVERY, II**  
This course will cover the fundamentals of how Bible originated and how it was developed into the form we have today.

#### Biblical and General Studies (cont'd)

#### Division VI: Teacher Training & Development

**1. INTERACTIVE AND CREATIVE TEACHING - SIS. JANIFER CAMPBELL**  
This course will help teachers approach teaching with a fresh creative approach within their subject matters.

**2. TEACHING BIBLICAL CONCEPTS TO CHILDREN - SIS. JEAN WILLIAMS**  
Teachers of children will learn basic biblical concepts that apply to children.

**3. MASTERING THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS - SIS. PORTIA BRANDON**  
This is course will be based on the book *Real Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman. It will help Christian educators evaluate the discipleship process in the local church.

#### Division VII: Youth Ministry & Young Adult

**1. THE PARENT ADVENTURE - SIS. C. TRUMILLA MCDOWELL**  
The workshop will help parents and churches connect their children to God.

**2. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 101 - SIS. PAT LEACH**  
This course will help Children's workers evaluate Children's Ministry within the local setting in order to reenergize the ministry for effectiveness. Examining ways to implement and design Children's Ministry.

**3. ORATORICAL CONTEST - SIS. RUTH JOHNSON**  
This course is specifically for all Oratorical Directors; it will prepare your church and association to plan for the oratorical contest leading up to the State Youth Oratorical Conference in June.

**4. YOUNG ADULT- REV. MATTHEW D. ROUSE, III**  
This course will introduce Young Adults and leaders of Young Adult Ministry to a study curriculum to for the local church Text book: "Radical Together Unleashing to People of God for the People of God." By David Platt

#### Division VIII: Music Ministry and the Arts

**1. FLAGS & BILLOWS- SIS. LETITIA MYLES**  
This course will help participants enhance the praise dance ministry by incorporating Flags, Streamers, and Billows into the dance ministry of the church.

**2. PRAISE DANCE MINISTRY - SIS. NINA NEWTON & SIS. KEITA DAVIS**  
This course will cover praise dance ministry within the local church

#### Youth Division

- 1. DO YOU HAVE THE HOLY GHOST? - MIN. DELORES REDMON**
- 2. HOW TO HANDLE THE BEING BULLIED - REV. RICK HOUSTON**
- 3. STORYTELLING FOR CHILDREN - REV. BRENDA RICHARDSON**
- 4. PUPPET MINISTRY - REV. ANTONIO SCOTT**

See Registration Form and information (continued on page 16)

## BAPTIST INFORMER

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# • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

## ACADEMIC HONORS



The Reverend James S. Utley, Pastor of Malabys Crossroads Baptist Church in Knightdale, N.C. was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio during Commencement exercises held in December.

Others receiving the Doctor of Ministry degree in December from United were the Reverend Sherri Lynn Arnold Graham, Senior Pastor, Oberlin Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C. and the Reverend Reginald Angelo Barnes, Sr., Pastor Guildfield Missionary Baptist Church, New Bern, N.C. All three Pastors were named Taylor Scholars.



The Reverend Coker A. Stewart was installed as Moderator of the Yaddin and Davie Association on September 30, 2012. Rev. Stewart is Pastor of Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Mocksville, N.C.

## NEW PASTORS

The Reverend Amos T. Quick was recently named Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in High Point, N.C.

The Reverend Kenneth D. Cooper was recently named Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

The Reverend Quinn Rodgers was recently named Pastor of Chapel Hill Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

## RETIREMENTS

The Reverend Dr. Paul W. Drummond recently retired from First Mayfield Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. after 14 years in the pastorate.

The Reverend Lawrence Curtis recently retired from First Emmanuel Baptist Church in High Point, N.C. after 36 years.

*NOTE: If you have a news item, please contact the Baptist Informer staff via email at [informereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informereditor@yahoo.com).*

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# American Heart Month

Nearly 1 in every 4 deaths in the United States is attributed to heart disease and it is the leading cause of death in both men and women.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and affects people of all ages and backgrounds. Every year a little less than 1 million Americans suffer a heart attack. Over 66% of those cases are a first heart attack and over 33% of those cases happen to people that have already had a heart attack.

| Race of Ethnic Group               | % of Deaths |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| African Americans                  | 24.5        |
| American Indians or Alaska Natives | 18.0        |
| Asians or Pacific Islanders        | 23.2        |
| Hispanics                          | 20.8        |
| Whites                             | 25.1        |
| All                                | 25.0        |

## Who Is At Risk?

• People, who are at risk for heart disease and related complications, include those persons dealing with:

- High Blood Pressure
- High Cholesterol (LDL)
- Smoking Habits
- Obesity/Overweight Issues
- Poor Diet
- Physical Inactivity
- Excessive Alcohol Use

## What Can Be Done?

Protecting your heart is an essential part of living a healthier and more sustained life. Some of the suggestions from the American Heart Association and CDC include:

- Not smoking
- Physical activity

• Consuming healthier foods and beverages, while lowering salt/sugar contents (as directed and monitored by your local physician)

- Lowering blood pressure
- Lowering cholesterol
- Following medical advice/taking medications properly

## Getting Involved

The month of February is set aside to observe American Heart Month, which puts emphasis on heart and blood vessel issues/diseases. On February 1, 2013, the American Heart Association will observe their 10th National Wear Red Day, where people are asked to wear red to show their support for the awareness of heart disease. Mrs. Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Director of Community and Multi-Cultural Initiatives with the American Heart Association Triangle Metro, Mid-Atlantic Affiliate based in Raleigh, says that, "Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to have 'Wear Red Sundays' on any Sunday during the month of February to help promote awareness and increase knowledge of heart health issues. Participants are encouraged to take pictures and videos and send them to our office so that we can share them on our Facebook page." Mrs. Fuller Cooper also suggested that health ministries and groups use February as a reminder to plan health and wellness activities for the rest of the year.

For more information about participating in "Wear Red Sundays" contact Mrs. Charmaine Fuller Cooper via email at [Charmaine.FullerCooper@heart.org](mailto:Charmaine.FullerCooper@heart.org).

For more information about American Heart Month and heart disease, please contact the American Heart Association online at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) or contact your local health provider. For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

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## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

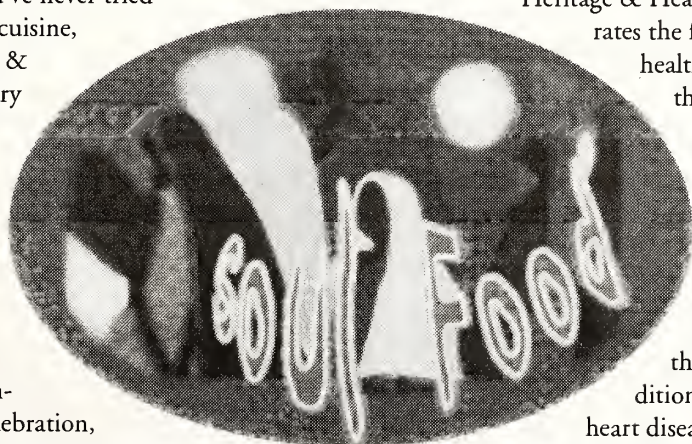
*Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a nonprofit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For information visit the website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.*



# Claim Your Health By Claiming Your History

## PRESS REPORTS

**B**OSTON - If you've never tried African heritage cuisine, African Heritage & Health Week on February 1-7, 2013 is the perfect time to discover why its savory flavors and naturally healthy features make African Heritage cuisine the next big food trend. Oldways, the food and nutrition education nonprofit organizing the celebration, challenges everyone, everywhere to enjoy at least one dish at home or at a restaurant inspired by the cuisine of African-American ancestors and Oldways' African Heritage Diet Pyramid.



Coinciding with Black History Month, African Heritage & Health Week commemorates the foods, flavors and healthy cooking techniques that were

core to the well being of African ancestors from Africa, South America, the Caribbean, and the American South. Scientific studies show that many chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity, now prevalent in African American communities, appear in populations as traditional diets are left behind. Black History Month is the perfect time to commemorate and explore the healthy culinary side

of history.

"Part of history is, of course, the foods that have sustained a culture," said Sara Baer-Sinnott, president of Oldways. "We are seeing a rise in the popularity of the vibrant flavors and delicious foods that offer a key to better health in the African community. African Heritage & Health Week is an opportunity to raise awareness and elevate this cuisine, which is far from the unhealthy soul food some might think of. What better time to dedicate a week to African Heritage and Health than during Black History Month."

To help diners explore, Oldways has created a new "African Heritage Dine Around" section on its website that offers dining destinations across the nation, from pop-up shops to fine dining restaurants.

*For more information on participating in African Heritage & Health Week, please visit <http://www.oldwayspt.org/african-heritage-dine-around-town>.*

# God is love ... in its purest form

**A**s a resident of Johnston County, NC, I try to give back starting within my own community. My friends and colleagues know this, so I am privileged to contribute my talents and times to various causes. One of those causes is the newly-formed Reach Out Johnston County (ROJC), a charitable organization dedicated to linking county-based non-profits with the resources they need to strengthen the programs they've developed to help local residents.

From a food pantry to an organization targeted to children facing terminal illness, Reach Out Johnston

County has been created to serve their needs. ROJC has developed a plan of work, starting with the creation of an active board of directors. Coming from all walks of life, the Board has rolled up its sleeves to create free, educational programs in partnership with Johnston Community College's Small Business Center, offer consultation to other nonprofits, and promote the relevance of non-profits and their benevolent works. ROJC's goals for 2013 include using funds from a recently earned grant to provide a train-the-trainer program on building a volunteer base, and continuing its mission of support.

The grant will enable the organization to partner with the NCSU Cooperation Extension in Johnston County to develop an extensive training for nonprofits to learn how to enhance, train, and retain its volunteer base. Sherry Harris, founder and President of ROJC, noted that volunteers are tremendous advocates for nonprofits. They not only devote their time in day-to-day operations but also promote goodwill about the organization they serve within the community. Their skills and willingness to help are valuable resources.

Harris says Philippians 2:24 sums up the drive behind the organization's work: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

"We are all committed to the interests of others,

which is our motivation. And to that end, we want to help broaden the reach of the County's native of non-profits, which serve basic needs that many of us take for granted," said Harris, a native of Wake Forest who grew up watching her parents demonstrate humanitarian efforts.

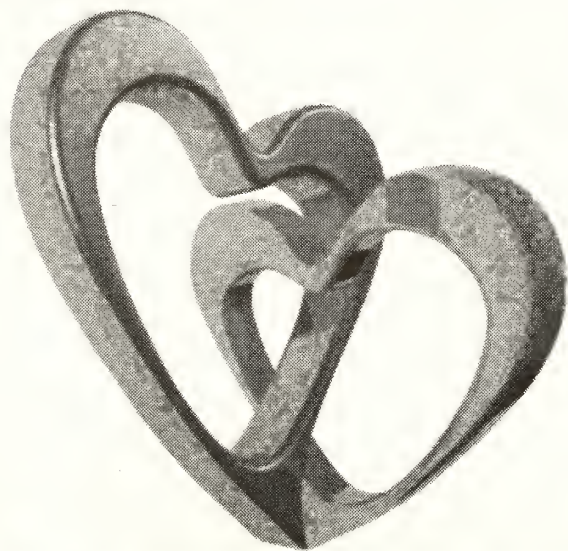
His reference to Philippians 2 speaks to the humility of Christ. The book reads, "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves..."

That's love in its purest form.

Reach Mrs. Roberts at [crystalkimpsonroberts@gmail.com](mailto:crystalkimpsonroberts@gmail.com)

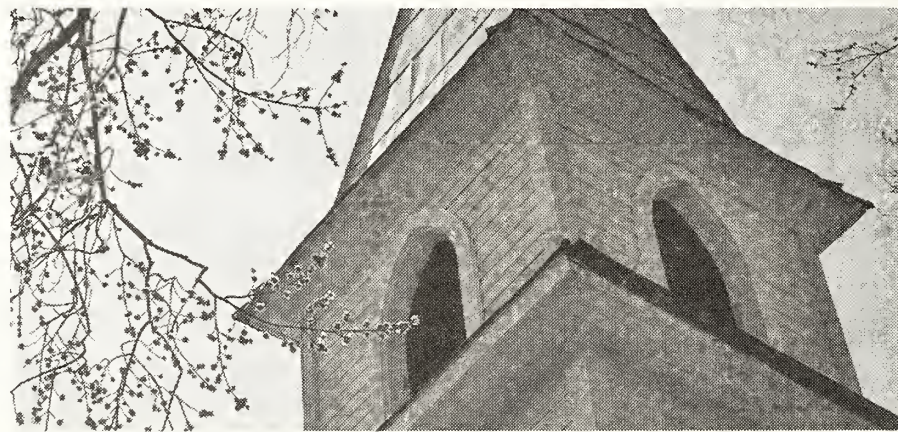


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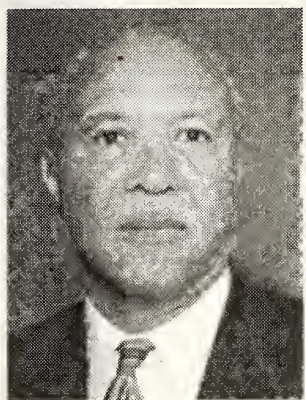
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## UNIVERSITY ... NEWS ...

### CIAA Hall of Fame



Shaw University Dean of Students and former Athletic Director Alfonza Carter was today named to the 2013 Class of the John B. McLendon, Jr. CIAA Hall of Fame. The announcement was made by the CIAA in conjunction with the CIAA Executive Committee.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as one of the CIAA's 2013 Hall of Fame inductees," said Carter. "Many others have worked and played tirelessly in this great association, so to be officially acknowledged and listed among men and women who excelled and brought victory, pride and respect to the CIAA is personally quite humbling."

Alfonza "Al" Carter, who earned his bachelor's degree in 1973 from North Carolina A&T State University, has served at Shaw University in a variety of roles including Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Athletic Director, Head Men's Basketball Coach, Head Women's Basketball Coach and Interim Dean of Enrollment Management.

During his tenure as Athletic Director, the men's basketball program advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight, the women's basketball program reached the Final Four, the men's tennis team won seven straight CIAA tennis championships, and countless student-athletes matriculated and received their degrees.

A total of six individuals and one team comprise the 2013 induction class. They will be enshrined on Friday, March 1, 2013 at the Charlotte Convention Center at 11:00 a.m.

### Divinity Paper

Travis Judkins, at student in the Shaw University School of Divinity, has been selected to present his paper titled "Ecumenic Pluralism as Transforming Catalyst in the 21st Century," at The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life Conference hosted by the Regent University Center for Renewal Studies. The conference takes place March 1-2, 2013 at Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA. Judkins is currently completing his Master of Divinity degree.

# Baptism: How young is too young?

*Experts say that baptism ages are dropping in churches that practice believer's baptism, but caution against setting arbitrary age limits on conversion.*

Wire Reports

Something just clicked for Charity Roberson when she knew it was time for her to be baptized. Roberson, now the pastor at Sharon Baptist Church in Smithfield, N.C., was 9 at the time.

Some of the memories are vivid. "I clearly remember leaving church one Sunday and looking up at my mom and saying, 'When do I get to go down front?'" she said. Other memories are more hazy. "I think later that afternoon I had a long conversation with my dad," she said. She recalls a meeting with her pastor, but not the conversation so much.

Fuzzy memories around baptism form a core argument against allowing child conversions in many churches — but not for Roberson, who baptized her 5-year-old nephew, Caleb, in 2011.

She may not have understood the theological complexities and depth of conversion at 9, but Roberson at the time knew her decision was Christ-centered. "I had always known that Jesus loved me and I always knew I belonged to him, so this was just a logical next step to take."

Trend: younger converts

That's problematic for many in Baptist and other Protestant churches where believer's baptism is the goal. And children's ministry and other experts are reporting anecdotal evidence that the practice of baptizing younger children — kindergarten age and even younger — is on the rise and has been for years for reasons ranging from boosting church membership to peer pressure.

The tricky part is what to do about it, and those same experts caution against fixing hard age limits. Instead they promote counseling designed to discern a child's true motive in seeking conversion.

In many cases the trend is fueled by a church culture that overvalues growth, said John Starke, an editor for The Gospel Coalition and lead pastor of All Souls Church, a non-denominational congregation in Manhattan.

Pressure to grow

"The error in evangelical churches, post World War II, is to make it as easy as possible to become baptized and affiliate with church culture," he said.

Civil religion has also played a part in congregations and denominations that equate "being a good American" with having a strong faith, he said.

But Starke is not opposed to the practice, and penned a blog in 2011 arguing that the New Testament is silent on probationary periods or putting potential converts through extensive tests.

The proper safeguards will appear in those congregations who feel responsible for their members and where membership is viewed as a reflection of gospel values, Starke said.

Avoiding rigidity

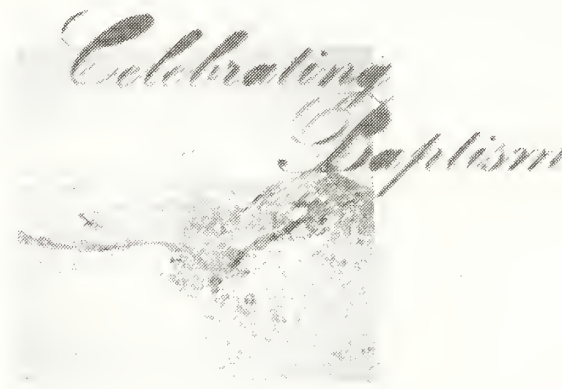
"You are going to have a greater caution of how quickly you baptize someone or how quickly you bring someone in."

Starke recently baptized a 10-year-old, but only after speaking with the child's parents and Sunday school teachers — and with the child.

The key is not to be rigid, he added.

"In Scripture the pressure is more ... to baptize those who profess — and then if necessary respond to false profession — rather than holding someone back."

Yet, ministers must be thorough in determining whether a child has come forward with spiritually healthy motivations, said Janice Haywood, adjunct



professor of Campbell University Divinity School and director of its preschool and children's ministry certification program.

Children easily influenced

Developmental issues must also be taken into account, said Haywood, the author of an instructional booklet titled *Children and Conversion: How to Talk with a Child About Salvation*.

The younger the children, the stronger their desire to want to please authority — such as parents and ministers — and also to impress or emulate other children, she said. If a popular child goes down the aisle "then the next few Sundays others will follow," Haywood said. "They want to be part of the crowd."

They are also more susceptible to fear and pressure from adults. "There are some people who have manipulated children for their own numbers and anxieties, and parents in particular who don't ever want their children to be lost," Haywood said.

Key is counseling

But Haywood said it's a bad idea to set arbitrary age limits on conversion. "I don't believe there is an age," she said. "I believe there is a time."

That time is when a child can express in his or her own words what a life of discipleship really means. "If you can't give up what you want for what your little brother or sister wants, how can you give up your way for God's way?" Haywood said.

Jeff Brumley is assistant editor of Associated Baptist Press.

**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.

# It's good to have a tune-up now and then

Most of us are pretty bad when it comes to taking care of our mechanical machines and ourselves. We avoid the doctor's office like the plague, or at least until we get the plague. We tell ourselves we will exercise tomorrow, but tomorrow never comes. And we

put off fixing our cars until a little sputter becomes a big splat.

If we could just convince ourselves to do regular maintenance, we would be more likely to keep both our mechanical and our physical equipment in shape.

The same is true for our spiritual maintenance. We need an occasional tune-up beyond the daily care. You know. We need to check the wires, make sure the filters are in good condition,

replace any worn belts with strong new ones and see that our spiritual fluids are at proper operating levels.

That's the kind of renewal we experienced at the recent W.A.K.E. Women's Retreat. Best friends, mothers, daughters, sisters, and strangers met in Virginia Beach to work on the parts of us that could use a little refreshing as well as our parts that needed a special touch from the ultimate master mechanic.

With the theme "In Pursuit of my Destiny" and scripture reference Hebrews 12:1c, women were encouraged to run with perseverance the race set out for

us. And, indeed, there was running at the retreat, all in the midst of praise.

The days began with early morning workouts that proved to be one of the best places to make new friends. There's something about screaming together while digging into the floor for that tenth push-up that can make people forget about inhibitions. And if you weren't laughing at that point, you would find the strength to do so, just like the woman beside me who appeared to have taken her last gasp when she whispered, "man down." Then suddenly, she found enormous energy as the final workout of the day was announced — the Wobble dance. She popped up and led us all in a bouncy version of "Wobble baby, wobble baby . . ."

The workshops allowed each of us to choose that part of our internal equipment we wanted to tune up. There were those that focused on The Race of Faith such as "Enduring suffering and finding strength", and "Believing in God while married to an unbeliever." Other sessions were on "Identifying my spiritual gift" as well as "From Financial weight to financial management" and "Taking back my health."

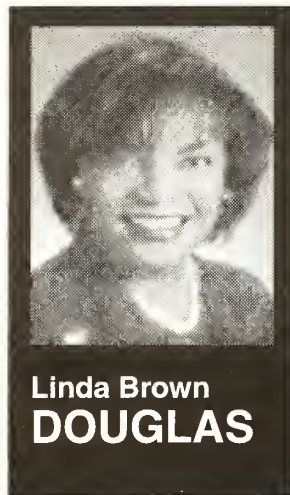
In addition, the large group gatherings with messages, praise dancers, mimes and music refueled our tanks with the good gas that so many of us think we can't afford to take in these days. That kind of gas is equivalent to the time we dedicate to our own tune-up. If we take the time to

## Spiritual Fitness



take care of ourselves, just like the cars, our spiritual engines will be able to run a little smoother during the long haul and over the road bumps. Thanks to Wake Chapel Church first lady Cheryl Wilkins and her planning team, we can not only run longer, but also stronger.

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a regular family issues contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach her at Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*



**Linda Brown  
DOUGLAS**

### WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION Position Announcement

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer is the principal administrative officer of the Woman's Convention with responsibility for oversight of day to day operation, program planning and development, budget management, and staff supervision.

**Qualifications:** Must be a Christian and a member of a Missionary Baptist Church. Applicant must possess a college degree, preferably an advanced graduate degree in the area of Christian Education, Missions, Administration or other related field; must have adequate knowledge and broad experience in Christian missions and an understanding of Christian stewardship, Baptist polity and doctrine.

Applicant must have strong administrative operational experience, including managing funds, understanding financial accountability, budget management and reporting. Applicant must have supervisory experience, good people skills, be efficient in oral and written communication and must be technically savvy in the use of various software required for budget management and program management and development.

Applicant must be able to relate to the needs of the Convention, its programs and the local churches. Must be able to travel and serve flexible hours as needed. Applicant must have at least four years of experience in an executive or administrative capacity.

Resumes must be postmarked no later than March 15 and forwarded to the following address:

Woman's Baptist State Convention  
Search Committee  
P.O. Box 1818  
Raleigh, NC 27602

## • • • WBSC BRIEFS • • •

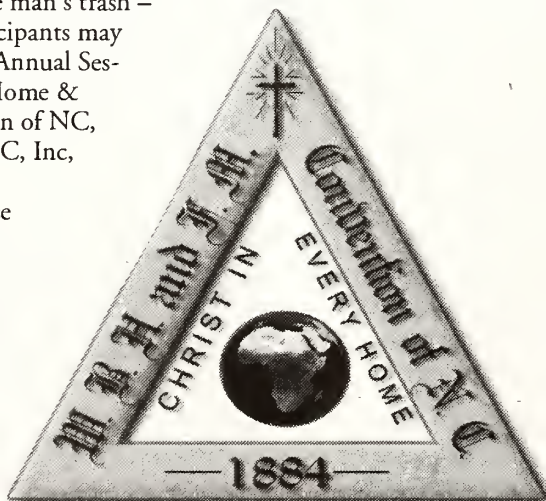
### Leaders Assembly

The Statewide Leaders' Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at Saint Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte. For more information, please contact the WBH&FMC-NC Headquarters at (919) 833-4823.

### Recycle Your Blues

The 2013 Youth Department Missions Project is a blue jeans drive — "One man's trash — Another man's treasure." Participants may bring gently used jeans to the Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of NC, an auxiliary of the GBSC of NC, Inc.

For more information, please contact Minister Genetta Williams, Youth Supervisor at wbcys1216@gmail.com or call WBSC Headquarters at (919) 833-4823.



# Fussy babies spend more time in front of the TV

Press Reports

**M**oms, especially those who are obese, are more likely to use TV to entertain and soothe infants who are more fussy and active, according to researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The finding adds to the growing body of knowledge that may help explain the escalating rate of obesity and inactivity in U.S. children, and has led to behavioral and educational strategies that may help mothers combat these effects.

The study, led by nutritionist Margaret E. Bentley, is the first to examine the interplay of maternal and infant risk factors that lead to TV watching in infants. The research appears in the Jan. 7 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*. The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health.

"In the past, studies have focused on maternal factors for obesity and TV watching, but this is the first time anyone has looked at infant factors and the interaction between maternal and infant characteristics in shaping TV behavior across infancy," said Amanda L. Thompson, a biological anthropologist in the College of Arts and Sciences and first author of the study. "And that's important," she added, "because mom and infant behaviors are inextricably linked."

Bentley's team looked at 217 first-time, low-income black mothers and babies from central North Carolina who were part of a five-year study looking at obesity risk in infants. The researchers followed the mothers and babies in their homes at 3, 6, 9, 12 and 18 months of age, looking at TV exposure, sociodemographic and infant temperament data. They asked how often the TV was on, if a TV was in the baby's

bedroom, and whether the TV was on during meal times. Researchers also interviewed the mothers about how they perceived their children's mood, activity levels and fussiness.

The researchers found that mothers who were obese, who watched a lot of TV and whose child was fussy were most likely to put their infants in front of the TV. By 12 months, nearly 40 percent of the infants were exposed to more than 3 hours of TV daily – a third of their waking hours. Households where infants were perceived as active and whose mothers did

not have a high school diploma were more likely to feed their infants in front of the TV.

"Feeding infants in front of the TV can limit a mom's responsiveness in terms of examining infant cues, such as when an infant is telling mom he is no longer hungry," said Bentley, principal investigator and a professor of nutrition in UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health. "This work has helped us design intervention strategies that will help teach moms how to soothe their babies, without overfeeding them or putting them in front of a TV."



Shaw University Divinity School

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Shaw University Divinity School  
 Alexander/Pegues Minister's Conference  
 March 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Opening Conference Preacher: Bishop Walter Scott Thomas

Conference Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles Booth

Conference Lecturer: Rev. Dr. John Kinney

Register Now!

Early Bird Registration - \$100

After February 29<sup>th</sup> - \$135 On-Site

All Seminary & College Students \$50 (On-Site Only)

(Must show a valid student ID or proof of registration)



(continued from page 1 and 9)

## Congress Pre-Registration Deadline is February 5 Early Registration Encouraged to Avoid Long Lines

Pre-registration for the 2013 Congress of Christian Education One Day Session will be accepted at the Baptist Headquarters through February 5, 2013. The Congress leadership strongly urges Churches and individuals to pre-register for this Session.

For persons who are pre-registered, the Congress is offering "Early Bird" classes from 8:30-9:20 a.m. The "Early Bird" classes are:

- "Church Leadership: A Module for Training Leaders"
- "Ten Reasons Your Church May Not Be Growing"
- "Connect 3: Taking Your Sunday School to the Next Level"

There are several ways to meet the February 5, 2013 pre-registration deadline and enjoy the "Early Bird" classes.

1. BY MAIL: Complete a registration form and mail it to Baptist Headquarters along with a check for the appropriate fees.

2. BY FAX: Complete a registration form and fax it to Baptist Headquarters and mail your check to Baptist Headquarters with the appropriate fees. (If your check does not arrive by February 5, you will not be pre-registered even if we have the form.)

3. BY CREDIT CARD: Complete a registration form and e-mail or fax it to Baptist Headquarters and follow-up with a phone call with your credit card information.

4. IN PERSON: Complete a registration form and drop it off with your fees at the Baptist Headquarters (Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) Headquarters is located at 603 S. Wilmington St. in Raleigh.

Not sure who will attend from your Church yet? No problem. You may pre-register without names and the number of persons you registered will have materials waiting upon arrival. However, if you bring more persons, they will not be pre-registered. Also, if you bring fewer persons, there is no refund of pre-registration monies.

General Baptist State Convention - 603 South Wilmington Street - Raleigh, NC 27601

## Congress of Christian Education REPRESENTATION FORM



**2013 ONE DAY SESSION**

Saturday, February 09, 2013

Session to be held at

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Host Pastor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Church Membership:

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION A: FEES

(Please make your check payable to GBSC and mail to Baptist Headquarters or bring to One Day Session in Charlotte.)

|                       |   |       |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Annual Assessment     | (\$200.00 per session; \$400.00 per year) | _____ |
| Adult Registrations   | (\$10.00 per adult attending)             | _____ |
| Youth Registrations   | (\$5.00 per youth attending)              | _____ |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b> |   | _____ |

### SECTION B: MESSENGERS

(Use the back of this sheet to list additional messengers.)

| NAME    | E-MAIL ADDRESS OF MESSENGER |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1 _____ | _____                       |
| 2 _____ | _____                       |
| 3 _____ | _____                       |
| 4 _____ | _____                       |
| 5 _____ | _____                       |

Churches are asked to contribute a total of \$400.00 per year to support the work of the GBSC Congress of Christian Education. Churches may pay this amount in one lump sum or in installments. Each person attending pays a registration fee of \$10.00 (\$5.00 for youth).

**Pre-registration accepted until February 5, 2013.**

If we have questions about your representation or information on this form, we may need to contact your Church. Please give the name of a contact person who can be reached by phone during normal business hours (9:00 to 5:00, Monday-Friday)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# BAPTIST INFORMER



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



## 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 1967.

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Volume 136, No. 2

# BAPTIST INFORMER

March 2013

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

## Easter Blessings from the President's Desk

**E**aster is a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after His crucifixion at Calvary as described in the New Testament. Easter is the culmination of the Passion of Christ, preceded by Lent, a forty day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week, and it contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday in the Catholic Church), commemorating Maundy and the Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Easter is followed by a 50-day period called the Easter Season, ending with Pentecost Sunday.



Easter, which is referred to as Easter Day, Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday, is linked to the Jewish Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. In many languages, the words for "Easter" and "Passover" are etymologically related or homonymous. Easter customs vary across the Christian world, but attending sunrise services, and decorating Easter eggs, a symbol of the empty tomb, are common motifs.

May you continue to take comfort in knowing, our Savior lives, Christ the Lord is Risen! From the General Baptist State Convention Family, we wish you a blessed Easter.

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., President GBSC

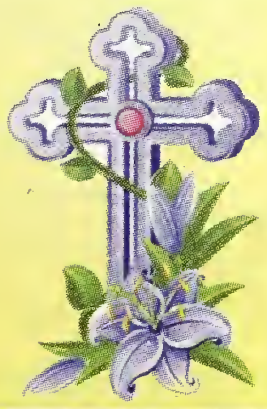


Photo by Jasper Lashley

## 60th Annual One-Day Session Highlights

**T**he Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina hosted its 60th Annual One-Day Session at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Greensboro. We were led in opening worship by the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church choir and musicians of Fayetteville under the direction of Mr. Darnell White. Friendship was spiritually prepared to set the tone and the atmosphere of the entire session by its sacrificial offering of praise.

The congregation was inspired by the dynamical presentation of our Bible Study facilitator, Rev. Dr. Tony Flood, Pastor of the Gaston Missionary Baptist Church of Gaston, who warned against "spiritual stagnation." The Installation of Officers was led by Dr. Nilous Avery, II who charged the of-

ficers to walk in spiritual integrity. The closing sermon was graciously and appropriately delivered by Rev. J.L. Battle, Pastor of Quankey Missionary Baptist Church and Moderator of the Neuse River Association.

Recognitions were made of all supporters of the Woman's Convention. Special recognition was given to all Lydia groups, A-1 groups and the Best Stewardship groups who are all top supporters. On behalf of President Audrey Battle and the officers of the Woman's Convention, thank you for your strong support over the years. Because of your generosity, we are able to support our objectives. We pray that you will continue to do what you do so that we may continue to do what we are charged to do. — More on page 6

## March is Women's History Month

### The Legacy of Minnie C. Lyon

**D**uring this Women's History Month, we pause to recognize the life and legacy of one of the greatest missionary warriors of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Ms. Minnie Canarah Lyon, a pathfinder who spent 30 years as a missionary to Africa serving as teacher, nurse, counselor, and mentor.

Ms. Lyon was the daughter of the late Luster and Della Hester Lyon, born in Granville County in 1886. As a young girl, she attended the Lawson Chapel Baptist Church in Per-

son County where she faithfully attended Bible Study and Sunday School. Here is where she had an encountered with God resulting in a conversion experience.

She attended the Person County public schools and Mary Potter Academy, a private high school from which she graduated.



Dr. Linda BRYAN

(continued on page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

P2

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

P6

Highlights of the MLK Banquet and World Day of Prayer

Renew!

TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

## The Promise of Resurrection: Unconditional love and New Opportunities

*"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, but look – I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave"* (Revelation 1:17-18).

These words from our Lord Jesus the Christ to Saint John the Divine while in exile on the isle of Patmos resonate through time and eternity. The commemoration of Jesus' crucifixion and celebration of His resurrection reminds us of God's unconditional love and unending promise for new life. It witnesses to the immense power of God and serves as a testimony to the resurrection of those (1) who trust in God, (2) whose faith is in God, and (3) whose destiny is promised by God through Jesus the Christ!

With the newness of springtime and the reality and power of the Resurrection come new opportunities for new commitments, new goals, new objectives, new lessons, new experiences, new challenges, and new victories. It reminds us that the same God who created life and can resurrect life after death IS the power and HAS the power to resurrect, renew, revive, refresh, and restore dead

things, dead people, dead lives, dead churches, dead communities, and dead hopes.

In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us that God and only God can reverse the hideousness of death, and only God can remove the sting that is death's and the victory that is the grave's (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us that we serve a risen Savior!



Other faiths and religions were founded by humans whose end was the grave. Unlike other faiths and religions, Christian believers possess and profess faith in a founder who transcends death and promises that His followers will do the same. Without the Resurrection, our preaching would be senseless, our faith would be useless, our lives would be hopeless, our world would be helpless, and our ministry would be fruitless.

But Jesus the Christ has indeed risen from the dead and "has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20). Betrayal could not deter Him, a false conviction could not disrupt Him, death could not destroy Him, and the grave could not defeat Him! Jesus is alive, Jesus lives, and today, Jesus sits at the right hand of God intervening on our behalf and

preparing to return for His second coming.

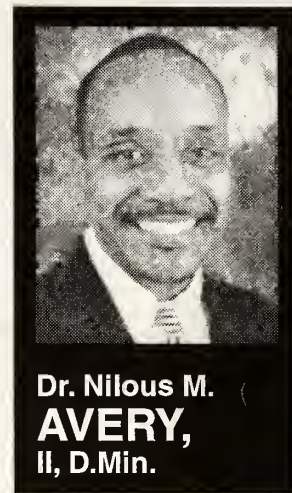
The resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory for every believer. Jesus the Christ was born, He lived, He died, was buried, and rose the third day. And because He lives, we too can live and shall live in the blessed hope that encourages us to know we can turn our minor SETBACKS into major COMEBACKS!

General Baptists, let us celebrate our victory in the resurrected Lord with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and enlightenment. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this way: "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others" (CEV).

Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to celebrate the Lord's resurrection and the promise of our resurrection with a generous spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Let us not be weary laborers, but willing workers in kingdom building.

*"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all"* (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.

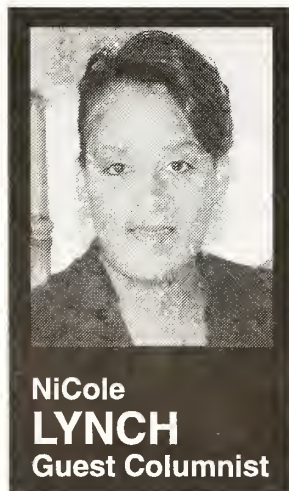
Contact Dr. Avery at: [averyevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyevkin@aol.com)



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## Genuine Friendship: Finding bonds that extend beyond the call of duty

I recently watched the Lifetime channel's original movie, "Betty and Coretta." For those who did not, the movie highlighted the triumphant stories of the late Dr. Betty Shabazz, wife of the late Malcolm X, and the late Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wife of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



NiCole LYNCH  
Guest Columnist

While their mere existence was of no surprise to me, I did, however, find disclosed elements about each of them to be revealing. Two women with "more than their share" of issues helped change their lives and also the lives of others, following the untimely demise of their husbands. Both also exuded endurance.

The film not only exposed the unwavering levels of strength, courage, and faith of these women, but it also delved into the foundation of their bond. I couldn't help but convince myself their friendship was undergirded by their respective spiritual beliefs

and faith.

Although I could never imagine what it felt like to be "in their shoes," I can bear witness to the life-altering effects of a genuine friendship.

I am blessed beyond measure with a core group of women with whom I share uniquely authentic friendships. Similar to "Betty and Coretta," we embrace one another genuinely even though onlookers would quickly assume we couldn't be friends because of the demographics that make us intensely different. Over the twenty years or so I've known all of them, collectively, I can vividly recall the circumstances in life when our friendship and mutual support for one another transformed my life holistically.

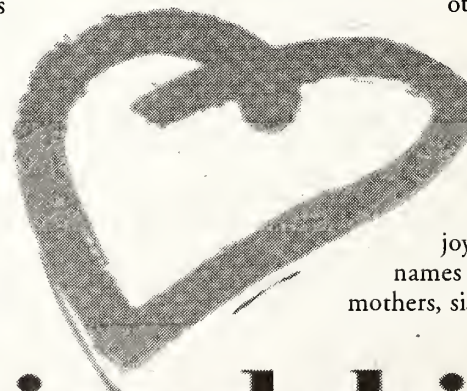
I believe deeply in the scriptural text of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (ESV) which declares, Two are better

than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls has not another to lift him up!

As we celebrate the observance of Women's History Month I admonish you, too, think of how the women in your life have lifted and influenced you.

I'm sure many of us with great joy in our hearts can fondly call the names of mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, sisters, wives, daughters, cousins, and friends who have gone beyond "the call of duty"

to pour into us as they effortlessly maneuvered in the many roles they lived or live out daily.



## Friendship

NiCole W. Lynch is lead photographer for Colez Creations, LLC, the spouse of the Reverend Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, GBSC First Vice President, and a frequent contributor to the Baptist Informer.

## Evangelism: Compassion for the Lost

**Editor's Note:** *This is a continuation of the State Laymen's focus: "Becoming A Great Commission Christian."*

From casual observation, there seems to be some misunderstanding in some churches about what evangelism really involves. Our churches, for the most part, request that members ask people to come to their services on Sunday's and they call this process evangelizing.

Our position is that, Evangelism is: Spreading the good news, exposing people to the truth claims of Jesus. It is the "deliverance" dimension of the Great Commission that tells us to "baptize them."

The Holman Bible Dictionary offers a more "holistic" definition. This might be stated: Evangelism is the Spirit-led communication of the gospel of the Kingdom in such a way or ways that the recipients have a valid opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become responsible members of His church. Such a definition takes into account the essential work of the Holy Spirit, the various ways of conveying the good news, holistic concern for the person involved, the need for actual communication and

understanding of the message and the necessity of productive church membership on the part the convert. Luke 8: 2-56, shows how Jesus brought the good news. He not only Preached; He demonstrated His power over the forces of nature in saving His fearful disciples. Clearly He brought the good news by word and deed, and not by word only.

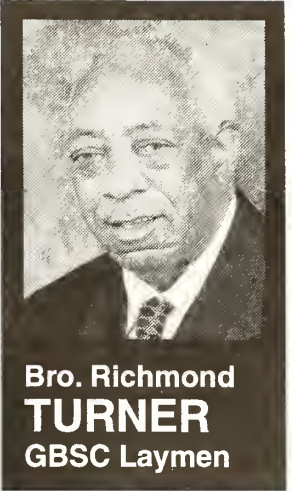
Since this is our position, it is puzzling that most Christians are wasting opportunities that could increase their usefulness to Christ and the degree of their reward. Life on earth is work time (work for Jesus). Heaven is rest and reward time. Jesus committed His unfinished task on earth into our hands to complete. Many Christians are living as if the Lord gave them no task, as if they have no accountability for Christ's Kingdom.

It is our responsibility as "Biblical Watchmen" to teach and warn them of their responsibilities through the word. It is not enough to avoid sin, attend church, read the Bible a bit, and pray a few minutes each day. It is how one invests time in prayer, blessing others, and extending Christ's Kingdom.

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Everything Jesus did contributed to His purpose.

Evangelism is not a matter of mere human sympathy. Christianity is not a matter of dramatic human helps to ease the burden of daily living. Evangelism is a command based upon the authority of Jesus Christ to baptize and disciple sinners into everlasting life. Evangelism is a command, not a suggestion. Christ is no respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of our response to His love, His commands, and the work the work He assigns us. All of our good deeds, good works, and Christian service should be focused and filtered through Christ's command to be witnesses to the life changing power of faith in Jesus. "Do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry" (2 Timothy 4: 5). Evangelism is where Jesus centered His life. To be like Jesus is our goal. "He who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

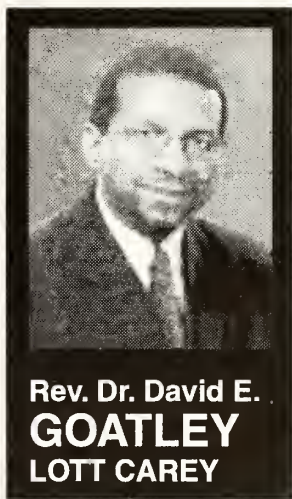
Reach Bro. Turner at [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com)



**Bro. Richmond  
TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## Calling Prayer Warriors: Lott Carey's 31 Days of Global Prayer in March

You are invited to share in Lott Carey's 31 Days of Global Prayer during March 2013. Our goal is to enlist at least 1,000 prayer partners for March. Sign on to join us at <http://www.lottcarey.org/women-in-service>.



**Rev. Dr. David E.  
GOATLEY**  
LOTT CAREY

For many years, Lott Carey Women have led their communities in a Week of Prayer. This year, we expanded the Week of Prayer to a Month of Prayer, and we invite you and your network to join in prayer during March as we remember the crucifixion and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Join women, men, boys, and girls around the world for 31 Days of Global Prayer during March 2013 which is Women's History Month

in Australia, Canada, and the United States. International Women's Day is March 8, 2013, and the United Nations theme for this year is "A Promise is a promise: The time for action to end violence against women."

Lott Carey Women in Service have developed a 31 day prayer guide for the month of March. The prayers are informed by the challenges that women face in the 27 countries around the world where Lott Carey has had direct missional partnerships across the years.

The writers are women from a number of countries. Download and share the following:

Prayer Flyer – Global Prayer Fact Sheet

Access the 31-Day Women Empowered through Prayer Guide.

There is power in prayer. Let's plug in to the power! Praying .... David

### LOTT CAREY MISSIONS ...

The Lott Carey 2013 Spring Missions Conference that will convene April 18 - 20 at Rodman Street Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA. You can register now under the "Annual Gatherings" tab at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org).

Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott Carey, can be reached at [degoatley@aol.com](mailto:degoatley@aol.com).

## •• SHAW UNIVERSITY NEWS ••

### President Yancy Receives Leadership Award

#### Press Reports

Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, president of Shaw University, received the Dr. Dorothy I. Height Leadership Award at the 22nd International Salute to the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Celebration in Washington, D.C. on January 20, 2013. This annual event recognizes leaders around the world who embody the spirit and teachings of Dr. King and the legacy of civil rights activist Dorothy I. Height.

Yancy, a native of Alabama, is the fourteenth and sixteenth president of Shaw University. At Shaw from 2009-2010, she was able to stabilize the financial state of the University by securing a \$31 million federal loan. She restructured and refinanced the University's debt, balanced the budget, raised the CFI score to a positive number and recruited one of the largest freshmen classes in the history of the University. She arrived back at Shaw September 1, 2011, after the campus had been torn apart by the April 16, 2011 tornado. By April 16, 2012, the devastation had been abated and all buildings were back in use. In addition, she is now leading the University through five program accreditation reviews and the regular SACSCOC reaffirmation.

Previous recipients of the Height Award include Sharon Pratt, former mayor of Washington, D.C.; Dr.

Thelma T. Dailey, former President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Vice Chair of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; and Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee among others. Height, who had been chair and president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, was at the forefront of the civil rights movement and worked closely with the major leaders including Dr. King, Roy Wilkins and A. Philip Randolph. She shared the platform when King delivered his "I Have a Dream" in Washington. Height was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 by President Clinton and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

Additional honorees during the event included:

H.E. Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. and Honorary Chair of the International Salute Committee

H.E. Michael Moussa-Adamo, Ambassador of Gabon to the U.S.

Marc Morial, President, National Urban League  
Guy Vickers, President, Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation

Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II, U.S. Representative (D-MO)

Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, PhD, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

# Praying and Fasting for President Obama

As we go through the season of Lent, let us pray and fast for the successful second term of President Barack Obama.

Psalm 72 is a coronation passage of Scripture that says “this is the end of the prayers of David.” In other words, this is David’s prayer for Solomon when Solomon was anointed king of Israel (I Kings 1:33-48). It expresses David’s expectations and hopes for his son as he seeks God’s blessing on him. And it suggests Israel’s understanding of God’s expectations for their king.\*

Psalm 72 also represents a model prayer that we may offer for our newly re-elected president in the wake of his inauguration. Certainly there are many differences between the coronation of a king of ancient Israel and the inauguration of the president of a modern democracy. Nevertheless, as Christians, our expectations and hopes for our elected leader can be guided by this biblical model of a faithful ruler.\*

This psalm calls for us to pray for a leader with an understanding mind to govern us—one who is able to discern between good and evil. The blessings that this prayer seeks for this king are grand, but they are tightly connected to his care for the poor. Care for the poor is a consistent expectation of biblical rulers. This reflects God’s own compassion for those in need and God’s actions to help the oppressed.\*

Psalm 72 calls upon us as citizens of God’s realm in the United States to remind every human ruler, politician, and government official that the way to peace and well-being is found only when power assumes responsibility for justice, and when power is clothed in

compassion!

Therefore, we must not only pray and fast for President Obama’s administration, we must actively support laws and legislation that help the poor among us. We must support calls to control gun violence, we must support health care for all citizens, we must support a floor of economic stability for our people—social security. We must not balance our budget primarily on the backs of poor people.

We must join the NAACP in keeping a close eye on the N.C. State Legislature. We must oppose voter ID that diminishes the vote of minorities. We must fight taxes that shift the burden more on the poor and give breaks to the rich. Write and call your members of Congress and state legislators and demand that they protect the poor and the middle class. Contact the national organization Bread for the World in Washington, D.C. They will help you and your church become better advocates for all of God’s people in the halls of Congress. Contact your local NAACP chapter and ask how you and your church can help protect the poor in your area and around our state.

Psalm 72 says that the king’s enemies “will lick the dust!”

This past election has caused many an enemy of progress to lick the dust: Carl Rove; Mr. 9-9-9 Herman Cain, Mitch McConnell, Donald Trump, Rick Santorum, Sarah Palin, Allen West, and many others. But the enemies of progress will not stop.

We fast and pray when we are desperate for God to act; to do something supernatural in our lives, in our

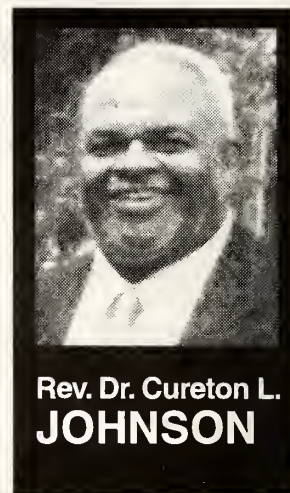
churches, and in our nation. Our U.S. president sometimes looks weary. So let us fast and pray in these days leading up to Easter and even beyond. Pray that he gets his second term off to a good start. Pray for his decisions to come from God. Truly, desperation accompanied by fasting and prayer is hazardous to the devil’s health and will transform us and our land.

Jesus began his ministry after 40 days and nights of prayer and fasting. Jesus overcame the evil temptations of the devil and the angels ministered unto Him (Matthew 4:11). And then the Scripture says “from that time Jesus began to preach and to say repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (4:17).

Prayer will help our President overcome the devils and opposition around him. Indeed, we must be his prayer warriors. Prayer and fasting will bring the angels of God to minister to him in his greatest times of need. And from this time forward, President Obama will be able to move this nation forward because of the prayers and citizen participation of the saints.

*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, is a regular columnist for the Baptist Informer.*

**Editor’s Note:** Passages taken from “Make It Happen President Obama,” by Bread for the World. Go to [www.bread.org/makeithappen](http://www.bread.org/makeithappen).



**Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON**



## YES WE CAN: Reflections on Closing the Achievement Gap

In 1971, I joined an organization known as the National Association of Black School Educators. This organization was formed at a time when people of color were not welcomed into the American Association of School Administrators. In 1978, I attended the Annual Convention of NABSE that was held in Detroit. At that conference, I heard a speaker who changed the way many of us thought about our profession. His name was Dr. Ronald Edmonds.

Ron Edmonds had studied the ethos of 3,000 schools from all over America. From his findings, he concluded the following: “We can, whenever and wherever we choose, successfully teach all children whose schooling is of interest to us. We already know more than we need to do that. Whether or not we do it must finally depend on how we feel about the fact that we haven’t so far.”

In my more than fifty-eight years of teaching chil-

dren and adults, I have concluded that Ron was right. I have further concluded that children are not what you think they are; they are not what THEY think they are; but they tend to become what they think YOU think they are.

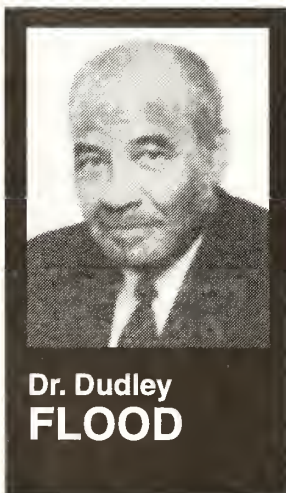
This fact was made clear to me during my early teaching career. In the days following the Korean War, the military in America was short of commissioned officers. To replenish its ranks, it created a program known as OCS (Officers Candidate School). In this program, there would be selected men from among the ranks of enlisted men who would be exposed to ninety days of rigorous training after which they would occupy leadership positions. We referred to them as “90-day Wonders” because none of us understood how a person’s life could be so redirected in such a short period.

During my first year of teaching, I was fortunate enough to visit an OCS and to observe its program. Three things stood out to me: 1. Everybody there spoke to these men as though they were important and intelligent; 2. Everyone responded to them as though what they said was important; and 3. Everyone there behaved in their presence the way we behave around important people.

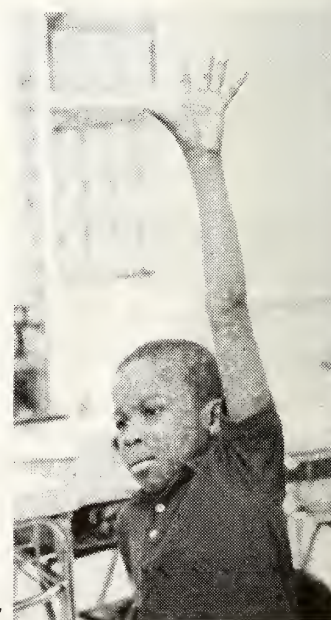
When I returned to my school, I began to practice what I had witnessed. I began to speak to my students as though they were intelligent and important; to re-

spond to them as though they had said something significant; and to behave in their presence the way I act around important people. To no surprise, in about 90 days, they tended to become what they thought I thought they were. If more of us would try this technique, we might make a real difference in the development of our children.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, and is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at [floodspeaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bellsouth.net).*



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**



# Preaching to the Postmodern

**W**hat is postmodernism? Is postmodernism a religion or religious practice? Is postmodernism an element of one's faith? Is postmodernism a political or ideological stance. Is it a certain philosophical view of life? Finally, what does the church have to say to the postmodern? Such questions are important in an effort to understand issues involved in the postmodern culture. Such questions are even more important for the local church as it seeks to reach this population with the message of Christ.

Postmodernism is not a term that is frequently used in our every day vocabulary or conversation. Even though the term is not a familiar one, surprisingly most of us are affected in various ways by postmodernism. Whether in the field of education, employment, social or religious life postmodernism is a mirror that reflects images of ourselves (identity) and therefore touches all of us in diverse ways. Let us look more closely in terms of its definition, philosophy, theological concerns, dangers, contributions and practical steps in communicating to this group.

## Definition of Postmodernism

Postmodernism is a shift in cultural thinking, views

and values quite different than modernism or the way our parents and grandparents understood reality. For the most part, it is the "reinterpretation of what knowledge is and what counts as knowledge" (Kostemberger, Mohler, Jr et al 79). For the postmodern, personal experience is valued over tradition. It is for this reason acquiring knowledge is based on experiential learning as opposed to rationalism. In this sense, postmodernism is an experientially driven culture that seeks not the meaning of life but rather endeavor to make life meaningful.



## Philosophical Basis of Postmodernism

The philosophical basis of postmodernism turns on the wheels of cultural relativism. For the postmodern thinker, truth is not absolute or objective. Rather, truth is related or relative to "how I feel." If something feels

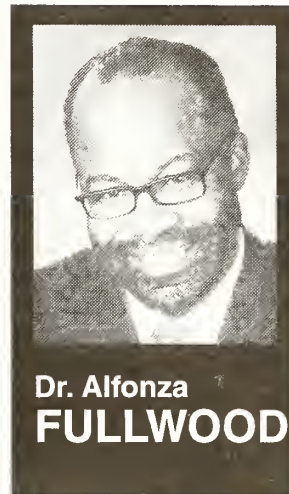
right then it is right "for me." How one feels is valued over how one thinks. No longer is the case where something is "true for everyone." Now, "anything can be true for everyone" (Quicke, 72-73). For this reason, there is a rejection or mistrust of authority and absolutes. There is a new saying: "I feel therefore I believe." To be sure, it is an "anything goes if it feels good to me" pop-culture. Such a view or perspective influences architecture, art, intellectual life and literature. . ." (Ibid., 71).

Additionally, since the postmodern value or crave

for experience there is a huge premium placed on personal intuition and pragmatism—whatever works. Not surprising, "It glories in personal choosing, in discovering (including spiritual searching), and in its new sense of belonging to a global village" (Ibid.). There is a sense in which they are on a path or journey of discovery. Since they are on a journey of discovery seeking to make life meaningful, the preacher is faced with a challenge. The challenge is he/she must find a balance between faithfulness to the biblical text and the contemporary needs of such a population who is an important segment of the local congregation and community. To this end, it will be shown that the greatest challenge facing the preacher with respect to the postmodern is the issue of communication.

In the next column, I will discuss the theological dangers, contributions and specific challenges of preaching (communicating) to the postmodern.

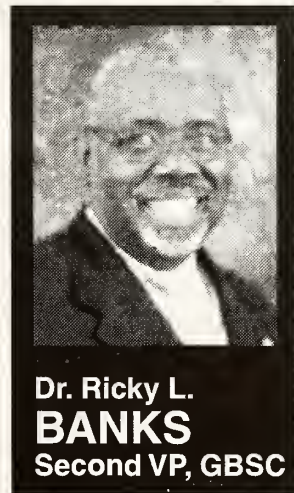
*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

## GOD: I AM ... Exodus 3:13-17

**A**lthough Israel in Egypt apparently did not always remember the God of their fathers, God remembered them. They not only were the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to whom he had made promises, but they also were the people of his plan and the medium of his purpose. Even when they did not recognize him, he was with them. In their bondage as in their days of freedom when Joseph still lived, he was with them. Their multiplication in Egypt, a catalyst of their oppression, was part of the fulfillment of his promise. And even when they were yet to realize the extent of their plight, he already was preparing his agent of deliverance.



**Dr. Ricky L. BANKS**  
Second VP, GBSC

Our first glimpse of Moses on the mountain of God does not present us with the figure of an heroic leader. He was minding his father-in-law's sheep, scrambling

up the mountainside with them in search of something to eat. You would not have thought of him as up to such a dangerous and demanding task as leading an Exodus. His preparation was nearly finished, and

God only had to give him his orders and his authority for carrying them out.

The sight that attracted Moses was the holy fire of theophany. When Moses turned aside to see the bush, he heard the voice of God calling his name and giving him instructions. Then God announced to Moses his identity. The voice he had heard was the voice of none other than the God of Moses' father and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob before him.

God then proceeded to describe the plight of his people, a plight that Moses certainly knew only too well and about which he no doubt had wondered daily. When God announced his intention to deliver them and bring them into a good and wide land, he designated Moses as the one to lead this Exodus. Moses raised a question about his qualification. In effect, he asked, how can I do that?

God answered, "Because I am with you!" God said to Moses I am that is what I am. It connotes action in process; "is-ing." God said to Moses, "I really am or I am the is-ing one."



As the God we call Alpha and Omega, the One without beginning and without end, he is quite pointedly, the One who always is. He is to be thought of not as "was" in the sense of something past or as "will be" in the sense of something yet to be but as the one perpetual "is" through the whole extent of history, even as He knows history. It also tells us what Genesis 1 has told us to begin with, God is. His name can be "I am" because the reality of His existence is His fundamental action on our behalf.

*Reach Dr. Banks at  
pastorrickybanks  
@yahoo.com*

# 60th Annual One-Day Session

(continued from page 1)  
Photos by Ophelia Johnson and Jasper Lashley



**IN THE SPIRIT** - Teen participants of the One-Day Sessions included Rachael Moore, Tia McCollum, Tiffany Graves and Jordan Moore, all members of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro. Youth activities included meetings, praise and worship and praise dances performances.

About 1,000 people attended the 60th Annual One-Day Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina on January 12, 2013, at the Sheraton Greensboro Four Seasons. The theme was "A Call to Spiritual Integrity in Faithfulness." Dr. Audrey Battle, President, presided over the session, that featured sermons, business meetings and other events for churches from across the state.



Seven North Carolina churches were recognized for "Best Stewardships" during the One-Day Session.

Ebenezer, Charlotte, Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Pastor, \$13,741.54; Lewis Chapel, Fayetteville, Dr. John D. Fuller, Pastor, \$11,006.00; First Baptist, Fayetteville, Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, Pastor, \$9,881.13; Union Hill, Nashville, Dr. Thomas E. McCullers, Pastor, \$8,725.00; Saint Delight, Walstonburg, Rev. Anthony Warrells, Pastor, \$6,416.07; First Baptist, Raleigh, Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Pastor, \$6,218.80; Watts Chapel, Raleigh, Dr. Harry White, Pastor, \$6,100.00.



**ATTENDEES** - Kimberly McCauley and Umeko Terry from Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Laurinburg, NC took a break between sessions during the One-Day Session in Greensboro, NC.



## March is Women's History Month — The Legacy of Minnie C. Lyon

(continued from page 1)  
Answering the Call

Her call to the foreign mission field came to her unexpectedly in 1916 while attending the Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist State Convention held at the White Rock Baptist Church in Durham where Dr. Benjamin Brawly was serving as Pastor at that time. According to her biography, Ms. Lyons is quoted as stating "There was a guest speaker – a white missionary on furlough from Africa – who spoke eloquently and convincingly concerning the need for more missionaries on the field. I sat very quietly absorbing every word the speaker uttered. I was moved with strong emotions spiritually." When the speaker asked "Is anyone here today who will answer the call to go to Africa to help teach the boys and girls there? As the speaker continued to plead for help on the mission field, Ms. Lyons found herself standing to her feet and saying "Yes, I will go! I offer myself here and now as a missionary to the foreign field of Africa." This was the beginning of her long journey of service as a missionary to Africa.

Her preparation for this missionary journey began when Dr. A.M. Moore, a local Black physician and member of White Rock Baptist Church was moved by Ms. Lyons' bold step of faith. Dr. Moore offered to

sponsor her preparation at the Religious Training School at Chataqua (now known as North Carolina Central University), where she received her degree in Missionary Training. Ms. Lyons continued post graduate training at Spellman Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

### Foreign Mission Experience

Minnie C. Lyons' missionary journey began in 1921 when she was commissioned by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention to be a missionary. She met with Mrs. Cora Pair Thomas and her husband Dr. William Thomas who became her mentors and traveled by ship LaPe' from New York to Africa. On December 26, 1921 they landed in Monrovia, Africa. They traveled to Liberia where Cora Pair Thomas and Her husband had built and maintained a school.

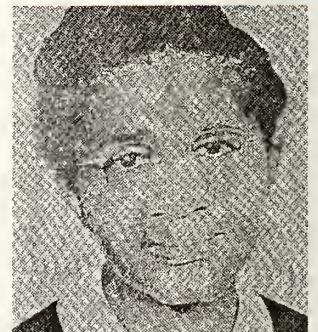
For six years Minnie C. Lyons taught, counseled, nursed and cooked meals in the mission school and caring for the girls and connecting with families. Realizing she needed additional training in nursing and public health, in 1928, she returned to the United States and attended the Harlem School of Nursing in New York. Following graduation, she returned to Africa and served until 1937. In 1937, she sailed back to the States and to North Carolina where she led a major fund raising campaign for Liberia. With funds in hand, she returned to Africa where she re-

mained until 1951

when she retired from the foreign fields, making her home in North Carolina.

When asked what advice she would give to those aspiring to become a missionary, she responded "Well, first, I would strongly suggest that one would engage in missions for what can be accomplished. Some

people go out of curiosity. Others for the opportunity to travel outside the United States. But it takes dedication, commitment and a love for Jesus Christ to remain and prove yourself effective". In 1986, at the writing of her biography, Ms. Lyon was 99 years old. She proved herself effective – she loved the Lord and she loved the people of God.



**Minnie C. Lyon**

By Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, WBHFMC. (Note: Resource: Luella Dickens Edwards, Our "Miss Lyon", A Biography of Minnie Canarah Lyon, 1986).

# Shaw University Divinity School



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Voice of 500,000 Baptists

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# • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

## INSTALLATION

The Reverend Kelvin L. Barnes was installed as Pastor of Gray's Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Hope Mills, N.C. on Sunday, Feb. 17. The service began at 3p.m. and guest speaker was the Rev. Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr. Pastor of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C.

## INSTALLATION

The Reverend Kenneth Cooper will be installed as Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. on March 17, 2013. Guest preachers are Rev. Derrick Dumas at 9:30 a.m. and Dr. J. Michael Sanders at 5 p.m..

## ANNIVERSARY

Announcing Rev. Dr. Horace Mason's 21st Pastoral Anniversary on the 3rd Sunday, April at 11:00 a.m. at the Pilot Baptist Church, Zebulon, NC.

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. P. R. Jones, a former Moderator of the Wake Missionary Baptist Association and former Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Falls of the Neuse Rd., was funeralized on January 31 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Durham, N.C.

## CLARIFICATION

The Reverend James S. Utley of Malabys Crossroads Baptist Church in Knightdale and the Reverend Reginald A. Barnes, Sr. of Guildfield Baptist Church in New Bern, were recent recipients of the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio and were also named "Sir Walter Mack Scholars" at the school. This was incorrectly reported in February's Baptist Informer.



## Health Awareness Month Focus: Colorectal Cancer Awareness

The third most common cancer in both men and women in the United States

The month of March is set aside for National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimates that this year, more than 140,000 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, resulting in over 50,000 deaths. Unlike most cancers, colorectal cancer can be preventable.

### What Is Colorectal Cancer?

Colon cancer is cancer that starts in the colon or the rectum. Since they both begin in the digestive system and have similar signs and symptoms, the names were combined, however, treatment therapies are sometimes different. Colorectal cancer usually starts from polyps in the colon or rectum.



### Getting Screened

According to the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, people at risk for colorectal cancer usually get screened starting at age 50, but it is suggested that people at higher risk get screened earlier and people older than 75 continued to be screened. Early detection and screenings can save lives and in some case prevent colorectal cancer. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that At least 6 out of every 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented if all men and women aged 50 years or older were routinely screened. Screening tests detect polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

### Reducing Risk

Reducing one's risk to colorectal cancer can start with engaging in healthy behavior and activities. This includes:

- Be physically active for at least 30 minutes, at least five days a week.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Don't smoke.
- If you drink alcohol, have no more than one drink a day if you're a woman or two drinks a day if male.

BAPTIST INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT-LIGHT



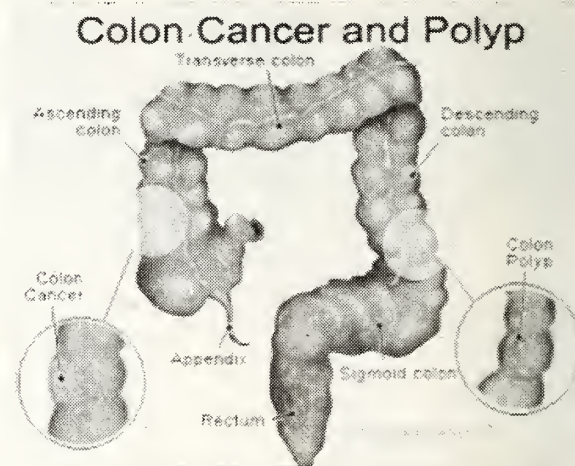
Cornell P. WRIGHT

- Eat fruits, vegetables and whole grains to help you get and stay healthy.

- Eat less red meat and cut out processed meat.

For more information about Nation Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, visit the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation website, [www.preventcancer.org/colorectal](http://www.preventcancer.org/colorectal). For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

*Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a nonprofit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For information visit the website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.*



## Annual Oratorical Contest to be held in June 24-26 at Wilmington

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest will be held June 24-26 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC, where the Pastor is Dr. Terry Henry.

The annual contest is affiliated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. It allows young people across the state to witness for Christ and become involved in public speaking. For more information about rules and regulations, please contact Mrs. Ruth Johnson at (910) 259-5753.

2013-2014 JAMES F. WERTZ  
ORATORICAL TOPICS

Preparatory Division - Time 3-4 minutes

(6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2013)

I Am Blessed  
Where Do I Go From Here?  
God's Rules Rule  
Follow the Leader  
What Jesus' Love Means to Me  
Heaven  
God's Drum Line  
Saved

Junior Division - Time 4-5 minutes

(9th, 10th, 11th grade as of July 1, 2013)  
Do You Feel Me Jesus?  
God's House  
The Shepherd Psalm

"What's the Business Moses"

The Gospel Crew  
The Lord is the Light of My Life  
What Did You Say John?  
Help is on the Way

Senior Division - Time 4-5 minutes  
(rising high school seniors as of July 1, 2013)

My God is Real  
Hip Hop Culture and Christianity  
Jesus Never Fails  
Are You Prepared to Meet the New Challenges?  
God is the Answer  
It Takes Two-Dating and Still Being a Christian  
Player Haters  
Seek Jesus

# Protecting Children in the Midst of the Budget Debates

Nearly one in four children is at risk of hunger in the United States. That's 16.7 million kids who will have difficulty reaching their potential.

While hunger hurts people of all ages, it is particularly devastating to children. Even brief episodes of hunger can forever damage their development—putting children at risk of a range of cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and physical problems. Hungry children tend to be more inattentive in class and earn lower test scores. They are sometimes more aggressive. And hungry children are more likely to be tardy, absent, and sick.

Bread for the World—a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger—advocates for maintaining and expanding federal child nutrition programs, which have proven extremely successful in reducing child hunger and improving health and educational outcomes. Programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); school breakfast and lunch programs; and preschool, summer, and after-school meal

programs have proved vital in providing children with the food they need for healthy development.

Unfortunately, child nutrition programs do not reach every child in need. Of the 20.6 million schoolchildren receiving food assistance at lunch, 11 million do not receive breakfast assistance and 18 million do not receive summer meals. Many eligible children lack access to programs or face other barriers to participation—whether it is because a program is not offered in their communities, transportation is limited, or eligibility provisions lack coordination with other agencies.

Child nutrition programs could do far more to reduce hunger simply by reaching more kids.

In late 2010, Congress passed child nutrition legislation giving children greater access to these critical programs and increasing participation among eligible low-income children. The bill included a \$4.5 billion investment in preventing child hunger over 10 years and



## Bread for Life



**Bishop Don Dixon WILLIAMS**

expanded the number of school breakfast and summer feeding sites.

In conjunction with a new documentary by Participant Media called, *A Place at the Table*, Bread for the World's 2013 Offering of Letters campaign, "A Place at the Table," will urge lawmakers to protect and strengthen domestic programs and initiatives like these, as well as poverty focused development assistance programs abroad. The campaign will also urge both Congress and the president to work together on a comprehensive plan to conclusively end hunger. President Obama committed to ending worldwide hunger in 20 years during his State of the Union Address in February. We plan to hold him and future presidents to that promise.

Charity alone cannot feed all of the hungry children. While our representatives in Congress work to reduce our nation's deficit and balance our federal budget, we pray they will keep children top of mind. Hungry children did not create our deficit, and they should not be required to pay our way out of it. Now is not the time to cut programs that can literally change a child's life.

For more information or to get involved, please visit [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol).

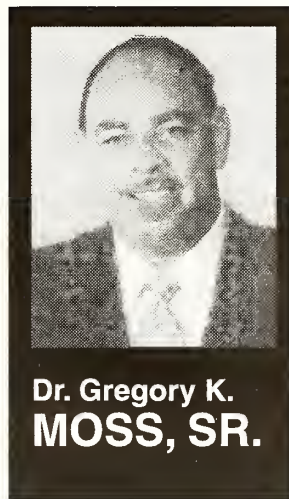
*By LaVida Davis, Director of Grassroots Organizing and Capacity Building at Bread for the World, [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol).*

## Lott Carey Convention Slated for August in DC

The 116th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Convention will be held August 12-16 in Washington, D.C.

This year's hosts are the Lott Carey Churches of the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia) with a regional team of host Pastors: Pastor Anthony G. Maclin, The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square, Capitol Heights, MD; Pastor Donald K. Sadler, New Morning Star Baptist Church, Washington, DC; and Pastor Darrell K. White, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA.

The convention will convene at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Reservations for hotel rooms may be made online at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org) under the "Annual Gathering" tab. For more information, please call (202) 543-3200.



**Dr. Gregory K. MOSS, SR.**

## • • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • • •

### New Raleigh Police Chief



Cassandra Deck-Brown was recently sworn in as the new Raleigh Police Chief, becoming the first African American woman to hold the position in the city.

Deck-Brown, 49, is a 25-year veteran of the Raleigh Police Department, and she replaces former Chief Harry Dolan, who retired last year after being with the department for more than five years. As chief, Deck-Brown will lead a staff of 777 sworn officers with a budget of \$88.4 million.

### Botanical Garden grants

Two grants from neighbors in the Research Triangle Park will help the North Carolina Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill continue a science program for pediatric patients at UNC Hospitals. A \$121,000 grant from the Bur-

roughs Wellcome Fund will support three years of Healing and Hope Through Science. The program involves hands-on, curriculum-correlated activities aimed to develop enthusiasm and interest for science and science careers in children ages 4 through 18, and increase their knowledge of science and science-processing skills. Since 2008, the N.C. GlaxoSmithKline Foundation has awarded 86 grants to nonprofits across the state under the Ribbon of Hope program. As part of the grant, recipients also receive customized consulting services and technical assistance from the N.C. Center for Nonprofits. The goal of the Ribbon of Hope program is to have a positive impact on the lives of North Carolina's citizens in each of the state's 100 counties by supporting programs that further health, science and education in local communities.

### Driver's Licenses to Young Immigrants

The American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCLF) recently applauded a decision by state Transportation Secretary Anthony Tata to allow the state Division of Motor Ve-

hicles to issue driver's licenses to young immigrants receiving work permits through a federal program.

Tata's decision comes two days after Diana Gonzalez, a 17-year-old high school senior from Burlington, North Carolina, who was born in Mexico and brought to the United States when she was 2 years old, delivered a petition with signatures from more than 23,500 ACLU supporters to the office of Gov. Pat McCrory that urged him to grant licenses to thousands of young people like her.

The ACLU-NCLF and North Carolina Justice Center had written several letters to state officials urging them to grant licenses to the immigrants in question.

On Jan. 17, the North Carolina Attorney General issued a legal opinion stating that young immigrants who are "lawfully present" in the United States and have been granted work permits under DACA meet all requirements for North Carolina driver's licenses and should therefore be issued licenses by the state DMV. The federal Department of Homeland Security has also clarified that DACA recipients are legally present in the United States.

# We're only as strong as our weakest link

I am still reeling from the news that our Governor will reject Obamacare and has proposed that North Carolina is "not ready" for Medicaid expansion. Thanks to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the federal healthcare exchanges will give tens of thousands of North Carolinians — millions of Americans — an opportunity to enroll in affordable health insurance plans. For those who still can't afford it, federal subsidies are available. I'm reeling because I've never been able or willing to wrap my head around why the "haves" continue to dismiss the "have-nots." But God is watching. He expects us to take care of each other, "the least of these." And lately, the numbers of our fellow Americans in this "least of these" category is growing.

Arizona's governor Jan Brewer had a change of heart. Perhaps it was under duress, but I'd like to think that a prayer vigil and testimonials from her constituents softened her heart. During my tenure with Know Your Care, Inc., the non-profit dedicated to explaining the benefits of the Affordable Care Act, I met people who lived daily without the protection of health insurance. Our job with Know Your Care was to take note of their stories, amplify them, and connect with stakeholders and policy-makers who would share those stories.

How can we help turn this around? My mom said it best when she opined that the only way things are going to change is through prayer and making those stories known. That story may be yours, a neighbor's, a friend's, or a relative's.

There is plenty of scripture to support the fact that

we must take care of each other. Matt. 25: 45-46, among other scriptures, sums it up: "...Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

We're only as strong as our weakest link.

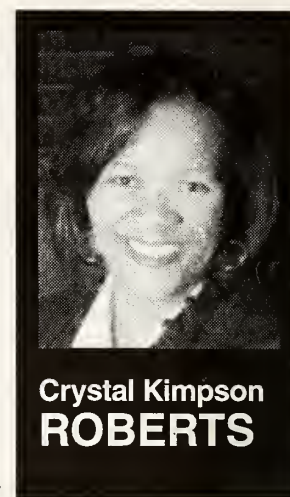
The North Carolina Justice Center posted the following on its website: "In refusing to expand Medicaid, we not only deny care to 600,000 people, we also deny jobs for about 25,000 people that would have been fully funded by federal money for the first three years and then 90 percent funded after that."

And then there's the mother in Asheville, N.C., whose son passed away because he had no access to quality healthcare due to a birth defect that was considered a pre-existing condition. Leslie Boyd, Executive Director of the non-profit WNC Health Advocates ([www.wnchealthadvocates.org](http://www.wnchealthadvocates.org)), writes in her blog about the healthcare exchanges: "Indeed, without federal money, we can't do this; that's why we should accept the federal money. Instead, we turn it down because people in the General Assembly would rather be petty and adhere to a cruel and vindictive ideology. Oh, we'll still pay federal taxes, but the money we pay into the Medicaid expansion will go to places like Arizona and Ohio, where the Republican majorities understand that the expansion is the right thing to do for their constituents. And although "many will still receive treatment," more won't. And some of those will suffer and die just like my son did. Shame on all of you. You will be judged."

When I talk with stakeholders about our state legislators' unwillingness to do what's only right to turn the tide on an unhealthy society, we're all convinced that mean-spiritedness drives this phenomenon. Last year, Know Your Care sent a press release that opened with a two-word introduction in response to the campaign against Affordable Care. It began with "Drop Dead" because that's the essence of this movement against healthcare for the less fortunate.

But God is in control. And of those of us who believe can make a difference for the "least of these."

Crystal Kimpson Roberts can be reached at [crystalkimpsonroberts@gmail.com](mailto:crystalkimpsonroberts@gmail.com)



**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.

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# Remembering the history makers around us

The bible is filled with historical figures and many of them women. Women, you say? Indeed, women in the bible who made history may not have changed water into wine or healed the sick, but they were remembered, because they stood out in other ways. The neat thing about them is that many of those historical female figures in the bible remind us of women we meet in our churches.

Let's take the Shunammite woman (II King 4:16). Did she present a great speech on a mountaintop that gave her a permanent spot in history? No. She simply showed hospitality. Her kindness was rewarded with the gift of a son. But the story didn't stop there. The son fell sick and died, which provided an opportunity for a miracle. The woman then showed her faith in seeking out help for her son. Her son found new life. We remember her because she believed and because she was hospitable. Her experience brings back memories of a recent funeral and the story told by one of the ministers who recalled that the deceased had not only opened her doors to him when he needed a place to stay, but she had never charged him anything for her hospitality in all the years he stayed in the woman's home. To that minister and to the



many other people she helped, the 90-year-old deceased woman will forever hold a place in history.

Another woman who made history is Dorcas, also known as Tabitha (Acts 9:39). Dorcas was that woman in the church who could always be counted on to work hard. Most of us remember a Dorcas type of woman from our youth. She was the lady who not only ran Vacation Bible School, but created all the ideas for the arts and crafts, as well. When it was time for Sunday School, she picked up children who had no transportation and she reworked those bathrobes for the Christmas play so they looked "just like the real thing." Our

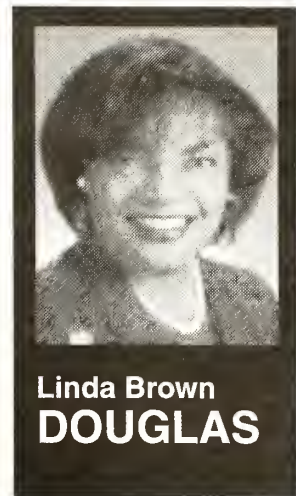
Dorcas even smiled through the noise of a bunch of giggling teen girls from the youth missionary group who made a mess of her kitchen while attempting to make finger sandwiches for the next day's calendar tea. Dorcas was the woman who will long be remembered for dedicating herself to good works.

And, lest we forget Sarah, the mother of an entire nation (Genesis 17:16)? Sarah's experiences and her gift of a son long after her childbearing years, remind us that nothing is too hard for God. She became the mother of

many generations. So are the mothers of our churches. They are the ones who scold us whenever we forget to "speak". They always say, "Amen" when we stand before the church, even when we clumsily recite the scripture. They buy our Girl Scout cookies, knowing they have no one at home with a doctor's permission to eat sweets. And the church mothers show almost as much pride in us as our parents when they hear about our plans for college. Who would ever forget them? Even if they never earn a spot in our printed church history, they will always hold a place in the history of our hearts.

Both the historical women of the bible and the historical women of our churches share faith and a kind of spirit that will help us remember them. As we remember women who made history in the books, let us also remember those who continue to make history all around us.

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a regular family issues contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach her at Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*



**Linda Brown DOUGLAS**

## • • • WBSC BRIEFS • • •

### WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 16 Central Regional Summit, First Baptist Church, Franklinton
- April 13 Statewide Leaders' Workshop, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte
- April 20 Eastern Summit, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Beaufort
- May 3-4 Ministers' Wives & Widows Retreat, Atlantic Beach
- May 18 Institute Instructors Workshop, Baptist Headquarters, Raleigh
- June 1 Young Adult Retreat, Ocean View Association Headquarters, Shallotte
- June 9-14 Youth Bible Camp, Camp Dixie



### International Women's Day is March 8, 2013

The United Nation's theme for this year is "A Promise is a promise: The time for action to end violence against women."

**Join Us in 30 Days of Global Prayer.**

### Leaders' Workshop Planned in April

The 42nd Annual State-Wide Leaders' Workshop will be held April 13, 2013 at St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. The event is presented by the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina.

The workshop's guest speaker will be the Reverend Robert McGowan, Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. The Reverend Dr. Beverly Spivey from Lewis Chapel Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C. will serve as workshop facilitator.

The registration fee is \$10 per person and may be mailed to Woman's Baptist State Convention, Post Office Box 1818, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27602 by the deadline - April 2, 2013.

On-site registration will be \$11 per person.

For details, call the Woman's Convention at (919) 833-4823.

### WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION Position Announcement

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer is the principal administrative officer of the Woman's Convention with responsibility for oversight of day to day operation, program planning and development, budget management, and staff supervision.

**Qualifications:** Must be a Christian and a member of a Missionary Baptist Church. Applicant must possess a college degree, preferably an advanced graduate degree in the area of Christian Education, Missions, Administration or other related field; must have adequate knowledge and broad experience in Christian missions and an understanding of Christian stewardship, Baptist polity and doctrine.

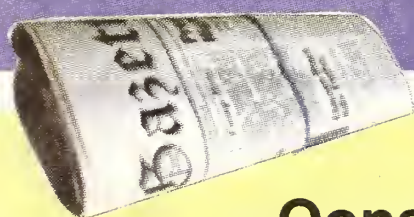
Applicant must have strong administrative operational experience, including managing funds, understanding financial accountability, budget management and reporting. Applicant must have supervisory experience, good people skills, be efficient in oral and written communication and must be technically savvy in the use of various software required for budget management and program management and development.

Applicant must be able to relate to the needs of the Convention, its programs and the local churches. Must be able to travel and serve flexible hours as needed. Applicant must have at least four years of experience in an executive or administrative capacity.

Resumes must be postmarked no later than March 15 and forwarded to the following address:

Woman's Baptist State Convention  
Search Committee  
P.O. Box 1818  
Raleigh, NC 27602





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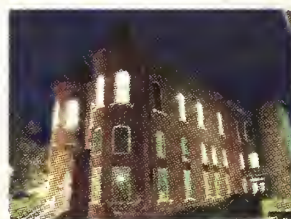
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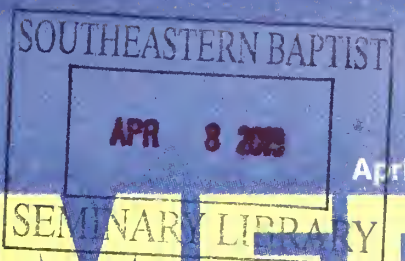
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# BAPTIST INFORMER



April 2013

Volume 136, No. 3

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

## Join Us . . .

**NC Laymen's Annual Event is April 5-6**  
*Tickets Still Available*

The North Carolina State Laymen's League will hold its Annual Banquet and Mid-Year Session on April 5-6, 2013 at Mount Peace Baptist Church, 1601 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Reverend Dr. J. Vincent Terry Sr. is the host pastor.

Banquet speaker will be Dr. Harold L. Simmons, President of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement, on April 5. Tickets for the Annual Laymen League Banquet are \$30.00. Please call the General Baptist State Convention (GBSC) at 919.821.7466 for ticket information.

The Mid Year Session opens with registration at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6. The fee is \$10 per person. The Executive Board meets at 9 a.m. Sessions begin at 10 a.m. at Mount Peace Baptist Church.

### Lott Carey Youth Seminar - Register Soon!

The 59th Annual Lott Carey Youth Seminar will convene 22 - 27 June 2013 on the campus of Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia. Register your young people now at [www.lottcarey.org/youth-development/](http://www.lottcarey.org/youth-development/)

The Annual Youth Seminar is an exhilarating week of service, learning, worship, and fellowship for young people ages 14 - 20 years old. You can invest in an opportunity for discipleship formation for your young people for only \$350.00.

You want to register sooner than later to ensure that your young people can share in this transforming experience of missional empowerment.

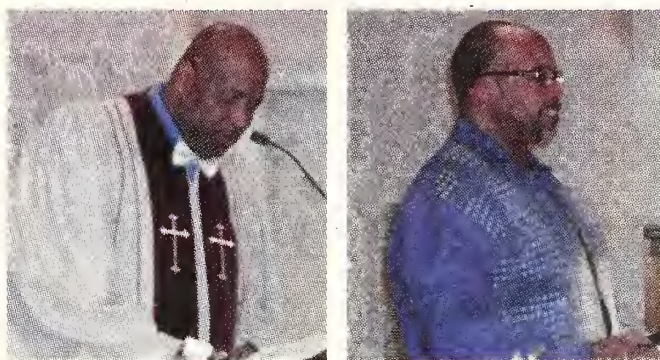
Registration materials must be submitted by 31 May 2013.



More than 200 clergy attended the 40th Annual 2013 Alexander/Pegues Ministers' Conference at Shaw University last month. The week-long event featured dozens of lectures, workshops, sermons and fellowship for pastors, ministers and laypersons from across the country. (See more on page 6)

## Laymen's Study Session on March 9: Training and Encouraging Discipleship

By Roger Battle/For the Baptist Informer



Reverend David Roberts (left) presented the sermon, and Reverend Bobby Hill, Jr. (right), hosted the Laymen event.

The North Carolina State Laymen League Study Commission met at Mills Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Black Mountain, North Carolina March 9, 2013.

The Laymen were greeted at the Executive Board meeting and the Laymen Session by the host Pastor Rev. Bobby Hill Jr. There were extended greetings from Brothers Levon Lindsay and Rev. Keith Hedding - President and Vice-president of the Western North Carolina Laymen. President Richmond Turner brought forth greetings to everyone at the Executive Board meeting and Laymen Session.

The workshops were spiritual and inspirational to the youth, (continued on page 10)

## Aging Pushes Churches to Fiscal Brink . . . Congregations Mergering

WIRE REPORTS

Things were looking bleak for Orange Grove Baptist Church and its aging membership when Greg Shoemaker arrived as its pastor about a year ago.

Located just north of Pascagoula, Miss., the congregation and community around it had been hit hard by years of flooding, the closing of a paper mill and elementary school and the decline of the local fishing industry.

Add to that the national trends driving down church attendance and all Orange Grove Baptist had were about a dozen mostly elderly members worshipping in a sanctuary meant for 120.

"It was a little discouraging," said Shoemaker, 44, a bi-vocational pastor who also works in health-care administration. "They were a dying church with a lot stacked up against them."

What he didn't know at the time was that the decline in



numbers would continue and raise questions about whether the church would survive.

Churches on the edge  
It's a question thousands of American churches confront (continued on page 6)

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| <p><b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</b> : <b>P2</b> From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery</p> | <p><b>P6</b> Highlights of the 40th Alexander/Pegues Ministers' Conference</p> | <p><b>Renew!</b> TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form</p> |
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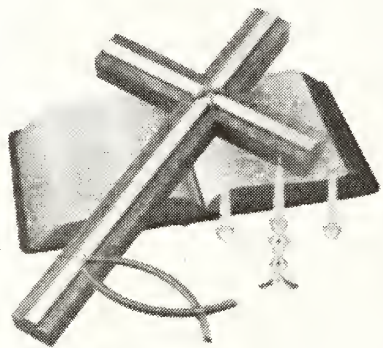
From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

## God who presents us with new mercies “morning by morning!”

*“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen” (Galatians 1:3-5, NIV).*

The recent commemoration of Jesus’ crucifixion and celebration of His resurrection reminds us of God’s unconditional love and unending promise for new life. With the newness of springtime and the reality and power of the Lord’s resurrection, we are blessed with divine opportunities to experience the great faithfulness of our awesome God who presents us with new mercies “morning by morning!”

The Christian community must be equipped and empowered to embrace our opportunities, confront the challenges, overcome the obstacles, cultivate our gifts, learn from the lessons, and celebrate our victories with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and



enlightenment.

The Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the believer to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this way: “God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others” (CEV). Consequently, prophetic ministry must match our proclaimed mission.

Our congregational IN-REACH and community OUTREACH must always lead to a God-honoring UP-REACH that glorifies God and edifies others. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others.

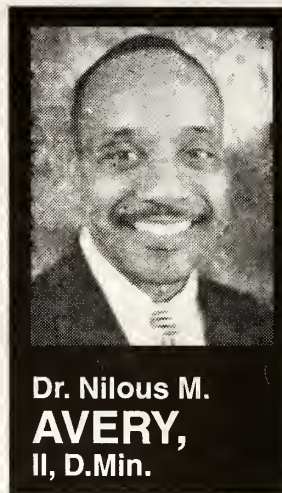
Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to fulfill our spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Our time, talents, treasures, and prayers are needed, encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated. The convention and the local ministries we serve are gifts from God, which God has entrusted to us as faithful

stewards. I can think of no better way to glorify God and edify others than through your generous and cheerful contributions to missions.

Missions is what we do and we do it through our General Baptist State Convention! We do it by supporting: State Missions, Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children’s Home of N.C., J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention. The harvest is ripe for a prophetic ministry that preaches ongoing good news, and proclaims freedom, restoration, release, and the year of the Lord’s favor (from Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4:18-19). Let us not be weary laborers, but willing workers in kingdom building!

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.

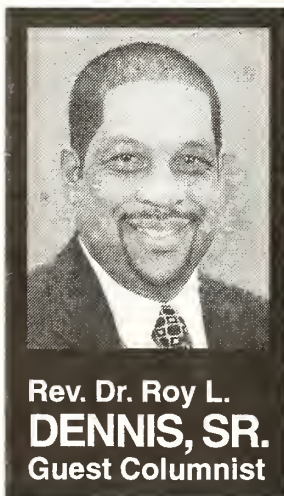
You may contact Dr. Avery at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## Blessed Are They That Mourn

The gospel writer Matthew received inspiration from God and penned in Matthew chapter five, verse four: “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” This verse delivered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, implies that we should be blessed because we are mourners. The conditions of blessing and mourning are oxymoronic in that they pull in opposite directions.



Rev. Dr. Roy L. DENNIS, SR.  
Guest Columnist

How can you be comforted when you are mourning? There are usually support elements within the community and church that attempt to bring about the comfort in the time of mourning. This effort is most prevalent at the initial time of death. It seems in most instances

“for they shall be comforted” can set a solid theological foundation for a church to bring comfort to the grieving, especially at the time of the initial death. But where is the church after the re-pass and all the family have resumed their daily lives and often in a distant location.

The transition from life to eternal life of a loved one often sends people spiraling into one of the loneliest suffering times in life. The impact of losing a loved one to death is often numbing to the entire family but often most traumatic to those family members who have had daily interaction with the deceased. The initial shock of the death, coupled with the family and friends gathering to prepare for the funeral,

often provides a temporary protective shelter from the intensity of the pain of loss. Denial and disbelief are often enhanced by a high level of consolation and by the activity of making funeral preparation. Church ministries and community friends provide a constant flow, which may also serve as a buffer to minimize the pain. After the funeral and the repast, however, the family members go back to their respective lives and the church members often communicate clearly that you can call me if you need me. The grieving person often goes from having a house full of people which helps to absorb the pain, to being alone and having the spiritual support say “Call me if you need me.” This message could leave one feeling that I should be spiritually strong enough to get through this period with the Lord and myself. An unspoken mindset that is implanted into the theological mindset of Christians is that “everything will be all right” because “the Lord will make a way somehow.” The message has been delivered and the person has been left alone to deal with this new profound pain.

The new profound pain that had been suppressed often is stronger than the initial shock of death. There is loneliness that creeps in, if the situation presents itself, and even when people are physically present with the person whose loved one passed away. Often persons in this situation, feel that no one understands or sees their downward spiral of pain and loneliness. Then, Christians often feel the additional pressure not to grieve openly because the Lord knows what’s best and the Lord will make everything all right. When the grieving person is a church leader, the unrealistic expectation delivered by self and others is that you should be able to handle the death because of your spiritual status.

The feeling that the Lord will provide, coupled with the self-help mentality in the time of grief, often



translates into a lonely state that can leave one existing instead of living a productive life. There is a need for ministries within the ecclesiastical world that are able to recognize when a member of the church is not functioning within a normality of self especially after the burial of a loved one.

One question that remains: What is the theological foundation within your church ministry that addresses the spiritual needs of the mourning membership while providing a confidential and comforting environment? “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

The Reverend Dr. Roy L. Dennis, Sr. is Pastor of Bluestone Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, N.C. He holds a Doctor of Ministry in Church Growth and Development from Drew University. His dissertation topic was “A Sacred Path to Healthy Grief.” He is a frequent contributor to the Baptist Informer Newspaper. Reach him at [rddennis@aol.com](mailto:rddennis@aol.com).

## MINISTRY BRIEFS



### Dr. W. K. Raynor Honored

The Reverend Dr. W. K. Raynor, Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, in Kinston, N.C. (36 years) and First Missionary Baptist Church in Rose Hill (39 years) was recently honored during Black History Month for his enduring service to ministry.

The Black History Month program, "Honoring Our Own," features members of the congregation and gives insight into the black and church history.

Dr. Raynor, a native of Fort Barnwell, N.C., has received numerous awards and honors during this tenure in ministry, include Outstanding Leadership as Pastor and Moderator given by the General Baptist State Convention during the Martin Luther King Awards Banquet in 2006. He is also a recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine presented in 2011 by former Governor Beverly Perdue for his long duration in ministry. He retired from Camp Lejeune in 1987 as an Assistant Superintendent of the golf course.

Congratulations Dr. Raynor!

### In Sympathy ...

The Reverend Johnnie R. Smith, Sr., Pastor of Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Havelock, N.C., was funeralized on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church, 617 New Bern, N.C.



## LAYMEN OUTLOOK

### Obedience: The Secret of Our Power

The National Baptist Laymen's Movement's theme for 2013 is "BIBLICAL WATCHMEN in SOLIDARITY with the SAVIOR: Watching and Warning through the Word" (Ezekiel 33: 7; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

The Rev. George T. Cromwell, Sr., in his book, *Flames of Fire*, listed the duties of a watchman as threefold: "1. To wait and watch for what God would say and warn His people: 2. To watch over and superintend the people: 3. To warn the people for God." Cromwell wrote additionally that "God has given His ministers a grave responsibility and He will minister to all our needs if we obey Him."

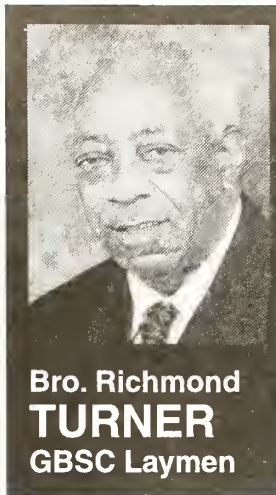
Evangelism is said to be a command based upon the authority of Jesus Christ. The source of Christ's victory, the secret of His power, and of ours, lies in obedience. In an obedient heart there is a way prepared for God. There are many Christians who always seek pleasure and satisfaction for themselves. These have not yet learned that only obedient children are happy children. That which in truth brings abiding happiness is nothing else than obedience toward God. For a healthy soul there is only one thing that counts—to be obedient.

Why have so many of God's lambs so little assurance of sal-

vation? Why are their souls not satisfied with the peace of God? God gives the answer in Isaiah 48:18: "Oh that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been a river, and thy righteousness as the wave of the sea." People say, "I lack faith, I have little; therefore I have no assurance of salvation, no peace."

But in most instances it is not faith that is lacking, for even with a trembling hand one can receive costly gifts. It is rather obedience that is lacking. There is something in their lives that they will not let go and which hinders the Holy Spirit from giving the assurance that they are God's Children. No one who is disobedient to God can have confidence in Him. Confidence is a result of obedience. "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother," (Mark 3:35). Jesus allows everyone the privilege of obeying God and becoming part of His family.

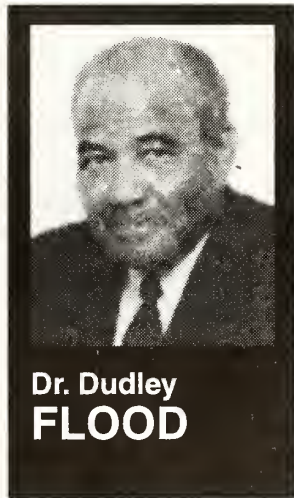
Reach Bro. Turner at [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com).



Bro. Richmond TURNER  
GBSC Laymen

## Who Won The War on Poverty?

Several years ago, our nation adopted a slogan regarding the eliminating of poverty in all of America. Many of us became excited by this slogan because we believed it possible that the wealthiest nation in the world could do so. We thought that even though not all of us would be "rich", none of us would live in deplorable conditions for the rest of our lives. Little did we know that poverty was an outgrowth of our lack of ownership of the means of production, and unless we acquired such means, some elements of poverty were firmly rooted in that lack of self-determination.



Dr. Dudley FLOOD

The first key to eliminating poverty is that of creating an educated populace. If a person is trained, he or she may be able to get a job doing that for which they were trained, but if he or she is educated, they might create their own revenue-producing activity. Even if one makes money but has no understanding of the economic system, that person and their money will soon become separated. I am convinced that if all the money in our economy were divided equally among all the people, in less than six months, the same people who have it now would have most of it back. Not enough of us have learned to think beyond the control of a few thousand dollars.

While it is obvious that poverty is systemic, a beginning point for eliminating it is to free oneself from its grasp. Here are five steps to take that may work for you in that regard.

1. Select something that you love to do so much that you would do it free of charge if you could afford to do so. Realize that you will never be your best at something that you hate doing.



2. Focus your effort on that selection until you have become so good at it that people think first of you when they want that service or product.

3. After you have mastered this service, learn to market it. Remember that people will pay outrageous amounts of money for anything that they think is the best of its kind.

4. Begin to associate with people who respect what you are doing with your life. Others will drag you down to their own level without even trying to do so.

5. Extend your influence by teaching others who aspire to succeed as you have done.

These five steps and constant prayer will take you toward success. It will not be easy, but it is very possible. My personal slogan that I adopted many years ago is "I will do good work; at a profit if I can, at a loss if I must, but I WILL do good work."

Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, and is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at [floodspeaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bellsouth.net).

# General Baptist Usher's Convention

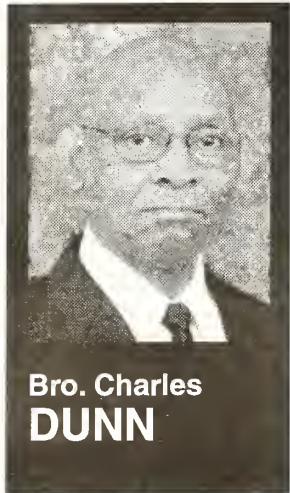
President Charles Dunn opened the One Day Session with Bro. Ben Hooker, the Worship Leader doing the Devotion. The Scripture was by Sister Catheryne Scott, President of Saint Stephens Ushers and the Prayer was by Sister April Timmons from the Forsyth County United Ushers. The music was from the Saint Stephens Praise Team. Dr. James E. Cook gave us the Welcome. Then Rev. Avery gave the Greeting by telling us to sit on the edge of our seats and shout Hallelujah.

We had a presentation from Bro. Oshe Pittman, who did Martin Luther King's Speech, "I Have a Dream", and intergrated President Obama's speech, "Yes, We Can," together. Then President Howard Parker gave his Greeting. Mother Ballance gave an appeal for the need of our

support for the Women's Baptist Home.

The Workshop was presented by Dean Marvin T. Clowney. The Subject was: "Who Are We Living For?" This was taken from Mark 10: 17-31. He said, "Your works are going to be tried. You did what God ask you to do, as an Usher, you're to be prompt, not thirty minutes later. We are to be immediators of God. But we sing, "I want to be like Jesus." Ushers read your Bibles so you can be like Him. He wants you to practice His Word and receive His Rewards. Look at the Peanut in the field and the Peanut Butter in Food Lion. Don't worry about the Brand name because the image of an Usher is the image of the church. Can you see Jesus in me? You use to sing about the cross but do you know what the emblem mean in the center of the cross? (In His Service) What is serving God? We need to be aware of our commitment to God's service. Then He got back on the rich young ruler. He was told to, "sell all; give all away; and follow me. Do it now and spend the rest of your life following me." Sell all. "Give all of it to the poor, follow me." "Who are we living for?" "You will have treasure in Heaven."

Reach Bro. Dunn at [justicem@bellsouth.net](mailto:justicem@bellsouth.net).



Bro. Charles DUNN

## General Baptist State Usher's Convention 2013 Calendar

April 13, 2013 (Saturday) (10:00 am.)  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting  
Mount Peace Baptist Church  
Raleigh, NC.

July 22-26, 2013, All Baptist Assembly  
Place TBA, Raleigh, N.C.

August 3, 2013 (Saturday) (10:00am.)  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting  
Mount Peace Baptist Church  
Raleigh, NC

September 20-21, 2013 (Saturday) (8:00am.)  
Ushers' Retreat  
Place, TBA

December 7, 2013 (Saturday) (10:00 am.)  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting  
Mount Peace Baptist Church  
Raleigh, NC

# One's Purpose in Light of the Good News

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me." Galatians 2:20 (ASV)

How would you describe your purpose in life? Is it to have as much fun as you can, as often as you can, for as long as you can? Is it to promote random acts of kindness, to help people who are need? This question may seem somewhat arbitrary and simple.

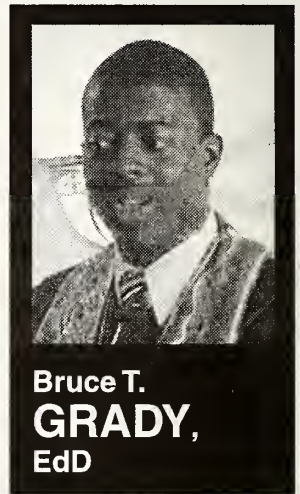
Now, think about all of the ways in which you express yourself and try to imagine how others would describe your life's purpose. Can others tell by your words, your gestures and your attitude that your purpose is to please Christ? Do your actions demonstrate an abiding faith in the God of all creation?

Without prayerful and careful attention to Jesus' teachings, much of our time is wasted. We become consumed with thoughts about where we should live, what we should wear, the car we should drive or what others think about us. Running here and

there, searching for meaning in barren places leave us emotionally, physically and spiritually dissatisfied.

According to the Bishop of Hippo in his book, *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, "Our hearts will remain restless until they find their rest in [Jesus]". Resurrection is a season in which the Holy Spirit reminds us of our true purpose. What matters most is to live your life in the light of the Good News- Christ died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

*Bruce T. Grady, EdD, is Dean and Associate Professor of Religious Education at Shaw University Divinity School. Dr. Grady is a regular columnist. Please contact him at [bgrady@shawu.edu](mailto:bgrady@shawu.edu).*



Bruce T. GRADY, EdD

## SHAW NEWS

### Dr. Stevenson Named to New Post

The Reverend Dr. Joe Stevenson was recently named Director of Continuing Education at Shaw University and Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Shaw Divinity School, located on the campus of Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C.

Dr. Stevenson is Pastor of Macedonia New Life in Raleigh and a church planter of the Iglesias Hispana, also in Raleigh.

"Continuing education is the minister's most important duty and responsibility," he said. "Surely the Lord has provided much for the masses and there is always more left over than what is given. Continuing Education provides ministers, pastors and laypersons the opportunity to gather the fragments of overflow."

Dr. Stevenson has a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio and an honorary Doctor of Ministry from Detroit International School of Ministry.



### Spring Branch Missionary Baptist Church

#### Musician/Minister of Music

Spring Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. is looking for a musician/minister of music.

- Salary negotiable but will be based on level of education or experience
- Must have great organizational and administrative skills
- Must be willing to work with the Pastor to enhance worship
- Must have at least 3 years of experience or a willingness to attend necessary training
- Must have a working knowledge of music ranging from the contemporary to the traditional hymns and ability to train voices and teach songs

All interested persons may: 1) Apply in person at 21300 Old Wire Road in Wagram, North Carolina, Tuesday – Thursday between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2)

Email resume to: [sbbc@springbranchmbc.org](mailto:sbbc@springbranchmbc.org) or 3)

Fax resume to 910-369-2042 Attention: Personnel Committee

# Preaching (Communicating) to the Postmodern

(Note: In the previous article, a context was provided to discuss the issue of preaching to the postmodern.)

Several questions were raised regarding the definition and philosophical basis of postmodernism. Even more important, the question was raised with respect to the voice of the local church not only preaching the message of Christ but finding the most effective approach to engage this population in ways that the gospel does not lose its authority and the church its relevance. To this end the question is this: Does the church have anything to say or offer that the postmodern is not able to get from other institutions in society? Answering such a question, let us now consider theological challenges and dangers associated with preaching to the postmodern.



For this reason, contemporary preaching and teaching methods are shaped by the needs of culture, for the most part (Ibid.). This point is especially true when it comes to the issue of communication. One of the greatest challenges in terms of preaching or teaching the postmodern is the question of "how do I get them to listen?" Answering this question depends first on knowing how the postmodern listen. In doing so, we seek new approaches and forms based upon how they hear and their way of knowing (epistemology). In this way our sermon form or structure is shaped by scripture and cultural considerations.

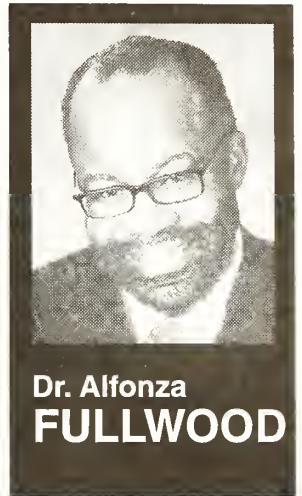
## Theological Dangers

What are the dangers and risks, theologically, in trying to reach this population? For the preacher, the real danger is putting or overemphasizing the needs of culture over the authority of Scripture. We must be careful not to allow the needs of culture to usurp the authority of the scripture. With this said, the primary interest of Scripture is redemptive in nature, as opposed to addressing our social or economic needs (felt-needs), although these areas are profoundly important. If we give too much attention to the needs of a pop-culture community or congregation, then the biblical or theological question is ignored.

The question is not what is working for postmodern thinkers but rather is it faithful to scripture, thus honoring God. In this sense, our preaching must not be "all about me, all about us" and little about the gospel (Vanhoozer, 2). And so we search for a balance that allows

God's word to be proclaimed in a way that speaks to the culture in which we live (Cahill, 74).

Having made this point, we must never lose confidence in Scripture and the passion to reach the postmodern. To his credit and not surprising, Gardner C. Taylor holds the tension in balance noting, "One must get out of life and into the Bible, but there are also times when one must get out of the Bible and into people's lives." (Gilbreath, 26). Therefore, the three greatest theological dangers are cultural and moral relativism (no absolute truth or universal moral standard), pragmatism (truth is grounded in whatever works or whatever is practical) and pluralism (principle of acceptance of everything for the common good). Such dangers foster and promote a kind of tolerance that opens the flood gates of acceptance, respect and legitimacy for the notion of "everything goes." Consequently, if everything goes, arguably there is no sin and God is guilty of "perjury." The next article deals with contributions, homiletical challenges, practical steps and methods that best engage the postmodern thinkers.



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at RHBC@bellsouth.net.*

## Theological Challenges

Preachers and church leaders invest considerable time and energy concerning the knowledge of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and other doctrinal issues. Acquiring such knowledge is crucial as it relates to preaching and teaching with an aim to lead the postmodern to Christ and nurture them in the faith. On the other hand, it is counter-productive to acquire knowledge about the scripture and fail to learn about people and culture. One must not only be faithful to learning the scripture but also the culture in which he or she lives (Cahill, 69). It is not enough for the preacher to know much about Christ (Christology) and yet know little about culture (anthropology). For sure, we should honor Scripture faithfully, but we should also attend to the needs of cul-

### Pastoral Vacancy Triumph Missionary Baptist Church Washington, North Carolina 27889

Triumph Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a born-again licensed/ordained pastor with the following qualifications:

- Pastoral experience preferred
- Willing and qualified to preach and teach God's word
- Strong church administrative abilities
- Must meet the qualification of 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Concerned about the spiritual growth of all members
- Willing to work with all organizations
- Willing to attend conferences and conventions
- Counsel parishioners and visit the sick and shut-in
- Bi-vocational
- Available to teach Bible Study
- Willing to support the Church Sunday School
- Must have a Missionary Baptist background
- Must promote stewardship and tithing
- Bachelor's degree preferred

**All applicants must submit a resume and (3) verifiable references by June 30, 2013**

Triumph Missionary Baptist Church  
Attention: Pastoral Search Committee  
1250 Sticks Rd.  
Washington, NC 27889

### Pastoral Vacancy St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church Goldsboro, NC 27533

St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Worship Services are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month at 11:00am.

#### Qualifications:

- Must be a licensed and ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Must be a born again Christian as evidenced by one's character and dedication
- Must be a high school graduate (some college preferred)
- Prefer 1-3 years of pastoral/ministry experience
- Must be a visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Must be willing to follow Baptist doctrine, policies, and practices
- Must have the ability to effectively preach and teach God's Word (Holy Bible)
- Must have good public relations and strong communication and administrative skills
- Must be 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
- Must be willing to support all church programs (Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting, etc.)
- Must be willing to visit the sick and shut-in (homes, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.)
- Must be willing to become an affiliate of the Bear Creek Association
- Must demonstrate interest in attending seminars, conferences, workshops, and other educational programs that contribute to his/her spiritual and intellectual growth
- Must be between the ages of 30-60 years old

**Principal Responsibilities:** teaching and preaching God's Word, leading the church in an effective and caring ministry, and representing the church at meetings of the local and state associations. To be considered for the position, all candidates must submit a resume with a cover letter, an official/sealed high school transcript (minimum), a copy of his/her ministerial license and ordination certificate, three character reference letters from individuals other than relatives, and a photo.

Applicants Must be willing to submit a criminal background and credit check

The deadline for submitting all materials is May 15, 2013. Please forward all correspondence to:

**St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church**  
Attn. Deacon Robert Alston, Chairman Pastoral Search Committee  
206 Pearson St.  
PO Box 1242  
Goldsboro, NC 27533

# The Power of the Gospel:

## Preaching Jesus in a Changing Culture



Photos by Sherard Johnson

### Staff Reports

More than 200 clergy and laypersons attended the 40th Annual 2013 Alexander/Pegues Ministers' Conference at Shaw University March 11-14. The week-long event featured dozens of lectures, workshops, sermons and fellowship sessions for pastors, ministers and others from across the United States. The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Booth, Pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, (pictured at lectern) was the Conference Preacher. He has been listed in *Ebony Magazine's* Honor Roll of Preachers.

Other headliners included Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., Pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, was Opening Conference Preacher, and the Reverend Dr. William Turner, Jr., Pastor of Mt. Level Baptist Church in Durham and a Professor at Duke Divinity School, who served as the Conference Lecturer.

Conference Workshop Facilitators included: Dr. Lonietta T. Cornwall, Organist/Director, Visual and Performing Arts Department and Assistant Professor of Music at Shaw University;

Dr. Esther Acolatse, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and World Christianity at Duke Divinity School; Dr. David Moffitt, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek at Campbell University Divinity School; Dr. Annie Tinsley, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Shaw University Divinity School; Pastor Michael McBride, Pastor of The Way Christian Center in Berkeley, CA; Pastor Ben McBride, Executive Director of CityTeam in Oakland, CA.

Conference Preachers included: Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., Pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Bronx, New York (Distinguished Alumni Conference Preacher); Dr. Jeanette Floyd, Pastor of Dickie's Grove Baptist Church in Henderson, N.C.; Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr., Pastor of Union Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Dr. Harry White, Jr., Pastor of Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.; Dr. Joe Stevenson, Pastor of Macedonia New Life Church in Raleigh, N.C. served as Late Night Preacher; Rev. Ernest Brooks, Assistant Dean of the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, was the "Young Voices Emerging" Preacher.

The Reverend Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Pastor Emeritus of Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York, was honored during the conference for his contributions and involvement with Shaw University Divinity School.



## Aging Pushes Churches to Fiscal Brink . . .

(continued from page 1)

each year. Estimates of annual church closures range from 3,500 to 7,000. That's likely to increase as younger generations, including the rise of the "nones," increasingly avoid organized religion.

One of the biggest dangers facing those churches is the failure to see the financial trap that puts them in, said Chris Gambill, manager of congregational health services at the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"A lot of established, traditional congregations don't realize how close they might be to this scenario," he said.

That scenario can spell trouble because aging members are the biggest givers in most American congregations. Gambill said 60 to 75 percent of giving comes from members who are 60 and older.

Gambill said those older members are often resistant to changes in ministries, and their giving isn't being replaced after they leave or pass away.

"My best guess is that there is a 10- to 20-year window before most churches hit a financial crisis that

will push them over the edge," Gambill said.

Discerning that edge for Orange Grove Baptist church wasn't always easy, said Patsy Ready, 71, a member of the congregation since its founding as a mission of First Baptist Pascagoula in the 1960s.

"I can remember a time when it was full and we had youth groups and everything," she said. "Then we began to have our ups and downs, and it was probably in the '80s when we began to see real declines and couldn't seem to build back."

Ready said a series of preachers brought with them surges in attendance followed by more declines. Not until three or four years ago did the idea of shutting down become a sustained conversation.

"Personally, I felt like it was going to go down," Ready said. "The last three or four years we have really been down to where 10 is a big crowd."

### 'A time for reinvention'

While shutting down is a nightmarish concept for most churches, others have found it to be a graceful way for aging members to leave a legacy, said Molly

Marshall, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary near Kansas City.

In 2008, a St. Louis-area church closed and gave \$2.2 million to the seminary. The money was used in part to create an endowed chair and programming that continues today, Marshall said.

Another church donated its property to the seminary, which is using the facility as a church start for a new congregation, she said.

"Congregational health doesn't mean that you live forever," Marshall said. "It means you are able to make wise decisions about your future, and sometimes wise decisions are to merge, move, sell or give away."

Gambill agreed and said the center is hearing from an increasing number of churches wanting to know how to go about shutting down. But most inquire about other options, including mergers with other congregations. "I think it's a time for reinvention and re-imagining," Gambill said.

Jeff Brumley is assistant editor of *Associated Baptist Press*.

# Shaw University Divinity School



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## BAPTIST INFORMER

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## Annual Oratorical Contest to be held June 24-26 at Wilmington

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest will be held June 24-26 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC, where the Pastor is Dr. Terry Henry.

The annual contest is affiliated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. It allows young people across the state to witness for Christ and become involved in public speaking. For more information about rules and regulations, please contact Mrs. Ruth Johnson at (910) 259-5753.

### 2013-2014 JAMES F. WERTZ ORATORICAL TOPICS

**Preparatory Division – Time 3-4 minutes**  
(6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2013)

I Am Blessed; Where Do I Go From Here?; God's Rules Rule; Follow the Leader; What Jesus' Love Means to Me; Heaven; God's Drum Line; Saved.

**Junior Division - Time 4-5 minutes**

(9th, 10th, 11th grade as of July 1, 2013)  
Do You Feel Me Jesus?; God's House; The Shepherd Psalm; What's the Business Moses; The Gospel Crew; The Lord is the Light of My Life; What Did You Say John?; Help is on the Way.

**Senior Division - Time 4-5 minutes**

(rising high school seniors as of July 1, 2013)  
My God is Real; Hip Hop Culture and Christianity; Jesus Never Fails; Are You Prepared to Meet the New Challenges?; God is the Answer; It Takes Two-Dating and Still Being a Christian; Player Haters; Seek Jesus.

## Stepping Into Spring ... Ready, set, WALK ...

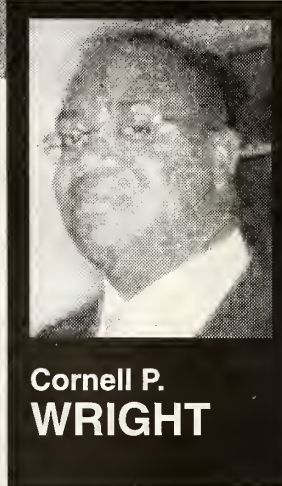
As the days become longer and the weather gets warmer, the desire to be outside and more active becomes more contagious. In a world of smart phones, interactive video games, and social media, it is sometimes easy to forget to go outside and stretch our legs. When I was younger, those luxuries were not an option. Neighborhoods were filled with anxious youth and adults, engaging in various activities of a physical nature. Times were good. People were healthier. Enter; fast food, technology, and other distractions. Now we barely have time to walk to the mailbox because it is so much easier to just drive up on our way into or garages. Something has to change. In order to become healthier, we must alter our behaviors. This can be easier than you think.

This year National Walking Day falls on Wednesday April 3, 2013 and it is encouraged that individuals and groups use this day to encourage physical activities in their communities, families, churches, and beyond. Let's use this opportunity to improve our own health one step at a time. Pledge to walk or engage in some type of physical activity more often and if you have to have your smart device with you, make sure you add any apps that can help you track your progress while you work towards being a better version of you. Be sure to always consult your primary care physician before making any changes to your health and fitness behavior.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), physical activity is anything that gets your body moving. Each week, it is suggested that adults engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity means you're working hard enough to raise your heart rate and break a sweat. One way to tell is that you'll be able to talk, but not sing the words to your favorite song. Here are some

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

examples of activities that require moderate effort:

- Walking fast
- Doing water aerobics
- Riding a bike on level ground or with few hills
- Playing doubles tennis
- Pushing a lawn mower

Exercise and increased physical activity has many benefits. Experts at the Mayo Clinic believe that there are at least 7 key benefits to exercise, including;

- Improved health conditions
- Improved mood
- Boosts in energy
- Improved sleep
- Weight control
- Improved sexual activity
- Having fun

For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

### FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

103 Church Street

Thomasville, North Carolina 27360

First Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
2. Strong knowledge of *Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure*.
3. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Credentialed from accredited college and/or Seminary school.
6. Strong skills in community ministries.
7. Teaching ministry; i.e. Bible study, Sunday school
8. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourages active participation.

A DVD or CD of a recent sermon would be appreciated.

Please send resumes to:

The Pastoral Search Committee  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
103 Church Street  
Thomasville, N.C. 27360

### Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Kinston

311 North East Street – Kinston, NC 28501

PO Box 2363

Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Kinston, North Carolina is seeking a pastor. We are currently accepting resumes.

Skills and Qualifications Desired:

- Must be licensed and ordained as a Missionary Baptist Minister
- Must have 3-5 years of pastoral experience
- Must demonstrate the ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be able to share his vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Must promote stewardship and tithing
- Must have the ability to develop a Christian Education Ministry
- Must have the ability to teach and fellowship with all ages in the congregation
- Must visit the sick and shut-in members in homes, hospitals and nursing homes
- Must have the ability to handle conflict effectively
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and financial management skills
- Willingness to have criminal, character and credit background check

Please include: Resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers

Please mail all correspondences to:

Attn: Chairman Pastoral Search Committee  
Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 2363  
Kinston, NC 28501

# Having faith, staying connected to communities

**W**e all know of local churches and charities that make it their priority to put an end to hunger. But we are often unaware of the time and commitment it takes to make sure no person in our community goes unfed. Volunteers spend many hours of their free time tracking down donations, running food drives, preparing food, and serving their neighbors. Many of those volunteers go the extra mile, making sure that the people they meet are clothed and housed—as well as fed. Lives are saved because of the devotion of these good Samaritans.

Yet, the task of feeding all the hungry people in the United States—not to mention around the world—is too big for churches, charities, and food banks to do alone. Did you know that community groups contribute only 4 percent of assistance that the federal government provides to hungry people in the United States? Millions of mothers and young children across this country receive vital nutrients through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, significantly increasing the odds that those children will grow into healthy, contributing adult members of our communities. Half of the babies in the United States are signed up for WIC.

But that assistance is now in jeopardy.

On March 1, the sequester—mandatory across-the-board cuts in government spending—went into effect, making the lives of hungry and poor people even

more uncertain. If lawmakers can't come to an agreement, WIC, poverty-focused development assistance, international food aid, and other vital programs face cuts.

Consider this: if nothing is done to replace the cuts to WIC, more than 600,000 women and children will lose access to important nutrients. If poverty-focused development assistance or international food aid are cut, millions of hungry and poor people in developing countries will be denied lifesaving food and medical assistance. These programs were put in place to assist those who struggle, those who often do not have a voice.

We still have time to make sure these programs do not get cut. It is up to us, as a nation, to ensure

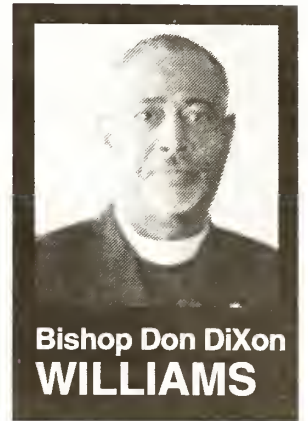
that the efforts made by our churches and charities are not wiped out by changes in the federal budget. Fortunately, there is something you can do.

On the very day that the sequester took effect, Bread for the World launched its 2013 Offering of Letters, titled "A Place at the Table." Bread is advocating for policies to end hunger. As in the past, Bread is promoting letter writing in churches and other community locations—to be sent to Congress. In addition, Bread is encouraging all people who care about hunger to sign a petition to President Obama, urging him to work with lawmakers on a comprehensive plan to end hunger.

A major documentary, also titled A Place at the



## Bread for Life



**Bishop Don Dixon WILLIAMS**

Table, launched on March 1 as well. Produced by Participant Media and distributed by Magnolia Pictures, the film portrays the depth of the hunger epidemic in this country through the lives of three struggling families. A Place at the Table shows how good-hearted people around the country are looking out for their hungry neighbors by volunteering and organizing food distribution efforts. Those people are making a difference—but they are overwhelmed.

Our government has a responsibility to ensure that people do not go hungry in the United States or abroad. Join me in imploring our leaders to continue supporting programs that prevent people from going hungry and lift them out of poverty.

*Bishop Don Dixon Williams is racial-ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World and sits on the Board of Bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

## • • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • • •

### Fluoride in water cuts tooth decay in adults

PRESS REPORTS

A new study conducted by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Adelaide, Australia, has produced the strongest evidence yet that fluoride in drinking water provides dental health benefits to adults, even those who had not received fluoridated drinking water as children.

In the first population-level study of its kind, the study shows that fluoridated drinking water prevents tooth decay for all adults regardless of age, and whether or not they consumed fluoridated water during childhood.

Led by UNC School of Dentistry faculty member Gary Slade, the study adds a new dimension to evidence regarding dental health benefits of fluoridation.

"It was once thought that fluoridated drinking water only benefited children who consumed it from birth," explained Slade, who is John W. Stamm Distinguished Professor and director of the oral epidemiology Ph.D. program at UNC. "Now we show that fluoridated water reduces tooth decay in adults, even if they start drinking it after childhood. In public health terms, it means that more people benefit from water fluoridation than previously thought."

The researchers analyzed national survey data from 3,779 adults aged 15 and older selected at random from the Australian population between 2004 and 2006. Survey examiners measured levels of decay and study participants reported where they lived since 1964. The residential histories of study participants were matched to information about fluoride levels in community water supplies. The researchers then determined the percentage of each participant's lifetime in which the public water

supply was fluoridated.

The results, published online in the Journal of Dental Research, show that adults who spent more than 75 percent of their lifetime living in fluoridated communities had significantly less tooth decay (up to 30 percent less) when compared to adults who had lived less than 25 percent of their lifetime in such communities.

"At this time, when several Australian cities are considering fluoridation, we should point out that the evidence is stacked in favor of long-term exposure to fluoride in drinking water," said Kaye Roberts-Thomson, a co-author of the study. "It really does have a significant dental health benefit."

### Genes cause kids to be picky about food

PRESS REPORTS

Parents may plead, cajole or entice their children to try new foods, but some kids just won't budge. Now, new research from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill reveals that the reason these kids fear new foods has less to do with what's on their plate and more to do with their genes.

The work, led by Myles Faith, an associate professor of nutrition at UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health, adds to the growing body of knowledge that genes play a significant role in children's eating behavior, including the tendency to avoid new foods.

"In some respects, food neophobia, or the aversion to trying new foods, is similar to child temperament or personality," said Faith, whose work appears today in the journal Obesity. "Some children are more genetically susceptible than others to avoid new foods. However, that doesn't mean that they can't change their behaviors and

become a little less picky."

The study looked at 66 pairs of twins between ages 4 and 7 years old, and found that genes explain 72 percent of the variation among children in the tendency to avoid new foods, while the rest was influenced by environment. Previous research has shown a similar genetic influence for food neophobia in 8-to-11-year-olds (78 percent) and adults (69 percent), suggesting that the impact of genes on food neophobia is constant across the developmental spectrum.

Faith and his team also examined the relationship between food neophobia and body fat measures in both parent and child. Unexpectedly, the researchers found that if the parent was heavier, the child was heavier only if he or she avoided trying new foods.

"It's unexpected, but the finding certainly invites interesting questions about how food neophobia and temperament potentially shape longer-term eating and influence body weight," said Faith.

On the environmental side, the findings suggest that parents should consider each child's idiosyncrasies, even for siblings in the same household, when thinking about how to increase a child's acceptance of new foods. For example, parents can serve as role models and provide repeated exposure to new foods at home, or show their child how much they enjoy the food being avoided. They might also provide a choice of several new items from which a child could select.

"Each child may respond differently to each approach, and research needs to examine new interventions that take into account children's individuality," said Faith. "But what we do know through this and other emerging science is that this individuality includes genetic uniqueness."

# Trusting and Believing

**M**y spirit led me to this month's topic. I recently caught an early morning news story on television reporting how a growing number of mothers are medicating themselves in order to manage their parenting responsibilities and prevent anxiety attacks and ward off certain destructive behaviors. Then, I heard from a friend who is concerned about a co-worker who seems to be in constant angst.

As we continued our conversation, we put our heads together to unwrap the deep underlying reasons for the conflict that was wreaking havoc on this man's life. Not that we had the answer, but then, we really did. It was tucked between the pages of the Good Book, in Proverbs 3:5 which reads, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding."

Our conversation turned to that which we already knew. Our faith is continuously tested, and sometimes we buckle to the dizzying array of trials and tribulations that hit us head-on, some of which leave us gasping for air, and wondering why. It's natural to react: some of us become bitter, angry, paralyzed with fear, or grief-stricken. The after-shock includes feelings of despondence, disappointment, and pure sadness. But at some point, we must rise up, brush ourselves off, and forge ahead. How we do that requires an abundance of faith.

So here's what we gleaned: The fact is that our lives are filled with the blessed experience of crossing paths with a myriad of people. Our interactions serve as an opportunity to share our experiences and testify to the amazing grace that God so richly provides us. I shared with my

friend that perhaps their paths had crossed for good reason. She is a woman of faith and ever-strengthening spirituality whose positive influence could help shift her co-worker's perspective on life and how he lives it. Seems so simple: all that's required of us is that we trust and believe. But first, we must get out of our own way—that's the hard part.

As my children have grown up, I have been the doting mother, concerned about everything from their diapered bottoms to how they would fare as young adults after graduation. But most overwhelmingly, I have felt the joy of being their mother, acknowledging the bountiful blessing of being their mother. Years ago, when I realized that I didn't have complete control I began to pray more fervently for and about my children and for guidance over my life. This is not to say that I found a perfect solution to suffering or challenges. Rather, I found peace. And in the midst of it all, I can still thank God for my life and testify to the power of prayer.

We're praying for peace for my friend's co-worker. That's what we should all seek from God. And if we step aside, we'll find it.

*Crystal Kimpson Roberts at knowyourcarenc@gmail.com.*



**Crystal Kimpson ROBERTS**

## NC State Laymen League met March 9

*(continued from page 1)*

wives/women supporters and the brethren. Samuel Teague, Youth workshop facilitator, taught a session on "Watch Your MOUTH." Sister Erica Turner, the wives/women supporters facilitator, discussed "Sexuality in the Black Church." President Turner, the men's facilitator, taught a session on "Biblical Manhood and Discipleship."

It is of the utmost importance that every born again child of God obey the Great Commission to evangelize," Brother Turner said during his session. "Our chief work is to fulfill the Great Commission - in our personal lives, in our homes, in our community, in our culture and in the world at large."

He added that the Great Commission has three basic strands: (1) Evangelism: Proclaiming the Gospel (2) Discipleship: Developing spiritual character, sanctification, training and teaching people to live effective Christian lives (3) Deployment: Meeting the needs of the people - with the Gospel of Salvation.

"Prayer has much to do with the preparation of the person you want to introduce to Christ," he added. "Prayer binds Satan, opens blind eyes and enables the person to understand the gospel. Evangelism is where Jesus centered his life."

The Reverend David Roberts, Pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, delivered an sermon titled "I Hear You Lord" and the reference scripture was taken from The Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 28). He focused on six areas to help with evangelism among Laymen: (1) Get up early (2) God is waiting (3) the world is dead (where are the men?) (4) Get excited about spreading the gospel and (6) Do you know your assignment?

"Men don't know how to get up early for the Lord," Rev. Roberts said. "We live in a world that doesn't know the Lord, but there is no earthquake in your life that the Lord can't fix. The Holy Spirit will move you to do the right thing. When you come into the presence of the Lord, you can't go out the same."

— Submitted by Roger Battle Jr. / Assist. Secretary

**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.*

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# How can you tell when your child is blooming?

The spring has a tendency to rattle a lot of parents who watch children beginning to stretch out on their own – selecting dates for proms, choosing college dorms and driving on longer afternoon outings. These are the times when parents begin to wonder if they remembered to teach all the important lessons for thriving in the future. These are also the times when many parents begin to hover in one more attempt at protecting the flower they nurtured.

Children are a bit like flowers.

First, I must confess that I'm no good at handling plants and things. I follow the directions by dropping that little seed in the healthy soil. I add water and place it in a welcoming space where it will be able to enjoy the light. Then I wait. Sometimes I see a little green thing pop up, but I can never seem to get past that point. Even when I start with baby flowers, they never do very well.

I think part of the reason I have difficulty with plants is because I can't tell when the flower is beginning to bloom. Is it blooming when that little green thing pops out?

Sometimes we can't tell when our children are starting

to blossom, either. Is it happening when a little girl decides she doesn't want to wear the pink, puffy dress you picked out and would prefer the one with the Hello Kitty face on the front? Is a son blooming if he decides he wants to join the football team even though he was always afraid of the game before? Or are the buds showing when the college graduate decides to move to the other side of the country to begin a career?

The flower experts say several things need to take place to make sure a plant blooms properly:

Make sure the plant is actually supposed to produce flowers before trying to force it to happen. Sometimes we try to make children into one thing when God has a different plan. The result is that we stifle God's plan by trying to force our own will.

Give the plant proper nutrients. Providing nutrients not only means healthy food, but also healthy support. Sometimes our children want to take on challenges that we think are too hard, but we realize we have to support them so they can grow.

Don't coddle flowers. Flowers actually need a little stress. Date palms, for example, flower after a period of cold. Also, flowers are exposed to creatures that may not always appear safe. Imagine what would happen if bees, with their scary stingers, could not connect with flowers for pollination. Pollinating insects are critical in the production

of seeds in most flowering plants. Likewise, sometimes parents become nervous in sending children where they may be exposed to the things we fear, but we have to trust God to protect them.

Give plants enough time to bloom – not our time, but God's time.

Provide the correct amount of light. One difference between a plant and a child, however, is that sometimes a plant can thrive through artificial light, but our children must be exposed to the true light that comes only from God. And unlike some flowers that weaken from too much light, our children grow stronger as they increase God's light.

Maybe we can tell if children are blooming the same way we see flowers bloom. We know they're blooming when they lean towards the light.

A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (King James Version, Psalm 27:1)

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a regular family issues contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach her at Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

## • • • WBSC BRIEFS • • •

### SAVE THE DATE

WBHFMC Ministers' Wives Retreat

May -4-5, 2013

Hampton Inn & Suites, Atlantic Beach, NC.

For details, call Mrs. Annie Hewett at (910) 842-9951  
or Baptist Headquarters at (919) 833-4823.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY  
CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

### ANNUAL SESSION

July 28-August 1, 2013 • Raleigh Convention Center

Dr. Audrey P. Battle, President • Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

### WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION UPCOMING EVENTS

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| April 13  | Statewide Leaders' Workshop, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte     |
| April 20  | Eastern Summit, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Beaufort                   |
| May 3-4   | Ministers' Wives & Widows Retreat, Atlantic Beach                   |
| May 18    | Institute Instructors Workshop, Baptist Headquarters, Raleigh       |
| June 1    | Young Adult Retreat, Ocean View Association Headquarters, Shallotte |
| June 9-14 | Youth Bible Camp, Camp Dixie  |



### HOLY HAND ME DOWNS!

The 2013 Youth Department Missions' Project - "Recycle Your Blues" - is underway. Participants are asked to bring gently used blue jeans to the Annual Session in July 2013 in Raleigh, NC. For more information, please contact Minister Genetta Williams, Youth Supervisor, at wbcys1216@gmail.com or call the WBSC Headquarters at (919) 833-4823.

### SWADDLING DRIVE

Diapers, baby wipes, lotions and infant clothes are being collected by the 2013 Young Adult Missions' Project. Other needed items include baby shampoo, soap and toddler clothes. For more information, please contact Rev. S.L. Raines at sl\_raines@hotmail.com or call the WBSC Headquarters at (919)833-4823.

Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist Church  
6854 Old 125 Hwy/ PO Box 583  
Scotland Neck, NC 27874

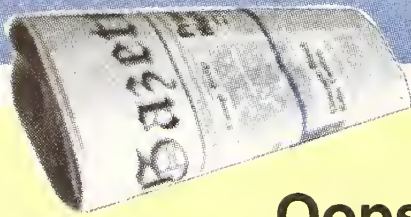
#### Pastor Vacancy

Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist pastor to serve as the chief spiritual leader and Christ led shepherd of our congregation. Worship Services are held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11:00 am. The successful candidate must be able to communicate across generational lines and be committed to reaching the lost within the community.

- Must be a born again Christian, anointed and Spirit-filled
- Must meet biblical criteria as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9
- Degree in Theology or working towards, or taking classes to improve their ministerial skills
- Must be able to lead our Staff and Congregation with Exemplary Character
- Must be able to feed us with the Word of God
- Must be able to demonstrate sacrificial love
- Willing to visit sick and shut-ins
- Must develop and implement a strategic plan for healthy church growth
- Willing to work with the development of a youth church
- Concerned about the training and Christian education of church members
- Must attend Bible Study and Sunday School regularly
- Willing to serve in accordance to Bylaws and Constitution of church
- Geographical location – not more than 2 hours time frame from church

If you wish to apply, please include in your package a cover letter describing why you want to be considered a candidate, resume indicating relevant experience, a copy of certificate of license and ordination, copy of degrees and 3 letters of reference (clergy, lay person and personal....please do not use relatives). A recent sample sermon on DVD (preferred) but will accept CD or cassette tape. (Note: missing information may result in automatic disqualification). Please send to the Pastor Search Committee at the above address. The deadline for all information must be postmarked or submitted by April 30, 2013.

Final candidates are subject to a background check which includes credit report, criminal check and previous employers.



## Oops!

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Central Children's Home of North Carolina,  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
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# BAPTIST INFORMER

May 2013

Volume 136, No. 4

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

## ANNUAL SESSION



**July 28-August 1, 2013**  
Raleigh Convention Center

Dr. Audrey P. Battle, President  
Dr. Linda W. Bryan,  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Reservations are being accepted now for rooms. Please contact your choice hotel for accommodations at one of the 800 numbers above. Rooms are reserved under the name Woman's Baptist State Convention, Annual Session.

\* Please remember to get your confirmation number once reservations are made and take with you when you check-in at the hotel of your choice.

## 2013 Mid-Year Session of the General Baptist State Convention convenes May 7 in Fayetteville

### Staff Reports

**D**r. Jerry Michael Sanders will be the Keynote Preacher for the 2013 Mid-Year Session of the General Baptist State Convention on Tuesday night May 7 when the Convention convenes in Fayetteville. The host church is First Baptist Church (302 Moore Street) where the Rev. Dr. Cureton L. Johnson is pastor.

The Mid-Year Session opens at noon on Tuesday, May 7 and will adjourn at noon on Wednesday, May 8.

"First Baptist has historically been a pillar congregation in the GBSC," said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Haywood T. Gray. "They have long been on the frontlines for missions and Christian education. Our Convention will be very much at home at First Baptist."

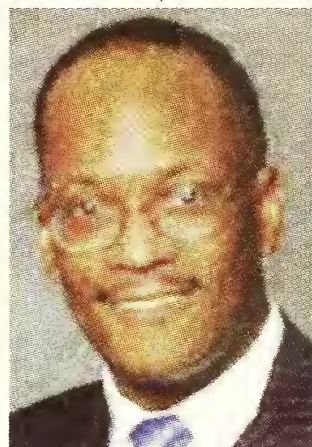
Dr. Sanders, a native of Charlotte, N.C., will celebrate having served 30 years as pastor of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, NJ in December. A graduate of Benedict College, Dr. Sanders also received a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School. He is also the recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees.

Denominationally, he holds memberships in the American Baptist Churches, National Baptist Convention USA, and Lott Cary Baptist Foreign Missions Convention (of which he is a former president).

Dr. Sanders has led Fountain to be a strong supporter of missions. The Church has given more than \$400,000.00 to the United Negro College Fund and gave one million dollars to help with relief efforts in the Gulf Coast following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The church also gave \$300,000.00 to the Baptist Convention of South Africa to purchase a headquarters in Johannesburg.

### Registration

Churches wishing to pre-register must do so before Tuesday, April 30, 2013. Fees and a registration form must be received at Baptist Headquarters (603



**Dr. J. Michael Sanders is Pastor of the Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey and former President of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions.**



**Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, the host for the 2013 Mid-Year Session of the GBSC.**

South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601) before the deadline. Do not send fees or forms to First Baptist Church. Call Baptist Headquarters (919-821-7466) for instructions on how to register with a credit card.

On-site registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7 at First Baptist Church (302 Moore Street, Fayetteville, Greensboro, North Carolina). All sessions will be held at the Church. Checks should be made payable to GBSC. The Convention also accepts VISA, MasterCard and Discover for payment of registration.

If your Church will not attend or represent at this session, you may send your representation fee and your contribution for State Missions to the Baptist Headquarters (603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601). **DO NOT MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION TO FAYETTEVILLE.**

The following chart outlines the Constitutional requirements for representation. Please use this chart to determine the amount you must pay to represent and the number of messengers that your Church is entitled to send to this session.

- 1 - 50 Members = \$20.00 = 2 Messengers
- 51 - 100 Members = \$35.00 = 3 Messengers
- 101 - 250 Members = \$50.00 = 4 Messengers

(continued on page 5)



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**P2**

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

**P5**

More Details and Registration Form for Mid-Year Session

**P6**

Highlights of Marshall-Morgan Award Banquet and Laymen One-Day Session

From the Desk of the ~~1988 6:2:894~~ First Vice President-at-large ...

# Missions Is What We Do!

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

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

The late Dr. Edward Victor Hill who served as pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California, was noted for often saying there were three books the church needed to carry out its kingdom mandate: the good book (Bible), the hymnbook, and the pocketbook.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus used parables to illustrate the kingdom of God. Jesus emphasized the stewardship of material possessions in 16 of the 38 parables in the Gospels. The importance of stewardship and its faithful, generous practice in kingdom building is replete throughout the Scriptures. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:11 reminded us that we are enriched by our generous and gracious God in order to be free and liberal givers. Liberality and generosity in giving are not optional; they are kingdom responsibilities.

John Maxwell notes the scriptures challenge us to

be liberal and generous in giving (Stewardship Strategies). Maxwell says we must support the ministry of God's kingdom building because:

Giving is Kingdom-focused (Matthew 6:33).

Giving responds to needs (Romans 12).

Giving is consistent and deliberate (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Giving enriches and benefits others (2 Corinthians 8:9).

General Baptists, MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO! Missions is Kingdom-focused, responsive to needs, constant and deliberate, and enriches and benefits the lives of others. God has blessed us so we can bless our convention through cheerful and generous giving. As you give, your convention will be blessed to become a blessing through you, to you, and others. My brothers and sisters, we are blessed to become blessings. We are recipients of God's grace and generosity in order to become gracious and generous givers.

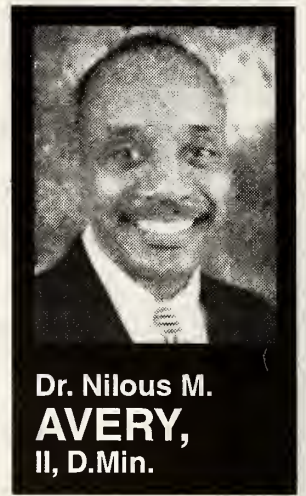
The biblical example of the Macedonians is a great model for kingdom ministry and stewardship. They weren't rich, but they were willing. God enhanced and empowered their willing spirit in a mighty way.

As a result, God blessed them in order to be blessings for God. They were enriched by their willingness and generosity.

Please encourage your church, ministries, association, and community to support the convention and its objectives: State Missions, Central Children's Home, Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention.

Remember, MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO! Let us do it with faithful and fruitful contributions. Please send your generous and liberal support (financially, prayerfully) today! I am looking forward to seeing you all and hearing from you soon. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Philippians 4:23, NKJV)

You may contact Dr. Avery at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com)



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## "Practicing Good Grief" through the grace of God

Amid phenomenal blessings of God in my life, I have sustained major losses. Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends have all transitioned. The pain of their deaths varied in degrees.

I felt each loss differently. When my best friend/husband of thirty-five years, my husband of twenty-eight years and nine months joined the celestial chorus, my grief was massive. That grief shook me physically, emotionally, spiritually. I was exhausted: "we all want to be with Jesus, most of us are not yet ready to die."

Grief is the sorrow, sadness, distress, angst, and pain we feel when we lose someone. The type and

depths of pain depends on the person who grieves, relationship she/he had with the person who moved away or died, and type of support systems available. Some people are angry and relieved when someone dies if the relationship was abusive, or if the relationship required extraordinary care giving. Some people may experience a variety of emotions; some become numb. Some experience depression because they had come to define themselves around the care giving. Practicing good grief acknowledges whatever the emotion, it is okay, when handled appropriately. Feelings are not facts: they are, and we need to honor these emotions without condemnation and denial.

Having lived with grief for about a year and a half, I have learned much about God's grace and humanity.

God daily brings comfort and I have family and friends who are loving me into wholeness. Prayerfully, we respect and engage grief. Grief will not go away. Grief tells us we are alive and we care. Sometimes visits to a grief counselor are needed. We cannot love deeply and when loss occurs, think we can just get over it. Love makes room for good grief; joy does come in the morning (mourning). Ps 30:

*Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women's Studies at the Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, N.C. She is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer.*



## "Mothers"

Mothers are incredible, loving female parents, through birth, adoption, caring. Mothers mold and make us, with gentle reprove.

Mothers guide and cheer, hold and nurse us when we are ill. Healthy mothers know God and honor the relationship with children and others as a divine call; yet, like Jesus, be able to take some time for herself. Mothers wear many hats, from being household CEO (chief executive officer) to event planner, nurse, and mechanic.

Too often we take mothers for granted. We expect mothers to be available 24/7; to have all the answers; to be in charge at home; and be able to volunteer in the community without help. Too often, we encourage mothers to be superwomen, heightening stress, kissing death prematurely. Sometimes those who are mothers do not realize the gift, challenge, and responsibility of motherhood. Sometimes teens think they want a baby to receive unconditional love and atten-

tion when her belly gets big, oblivious to long-term commitment. Even marriage and some maturity do not guarantee one understands the responsibility of being parents, of being mother. Some go to Proverbs 31 as model, which is problematic, because in the Hebrew, no one can find a virtuous woman: she does not exist. The articles and descriptors referring to the Queen mother are usually used for a god or man. No one cares about the mother in Proverbs 31!

As the church, we fail to help people love God and themselves so well that they can be a loving mother. We often throw stones, but have not helped individuals secure a firm foundational faith that integrally supports them holistically. Before becoming a mother, please ask, "God, are you calling me to be a mother?" If so, help me so to be. Being a mother is gift. Let us honor and not take mothers for granted.

— Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan

## SHAW NEWS

### Shaw University Receives \$100,000 Grant From Cannon Foundation

RALEIGH, NC (April 18, 2013) – Shaw University, the first historically black University in the South, received a \$100,000 grant from the Cannon Foundation the University announced today. The funds will be used to make repairs and renovations to the Fleming Kee and Dimple Newsome campus residence halls.

“This grant provides a tremendous opportunity to enhance our campus environment and enrich the quality of living for our on-campus students,” said Dr. Jeffrey A. Smith, Shaw University Vice President for Student Affairs and Administration and principal investigator for the grant. “It will enable us to improve our infrastructure and reduce the number of building repairs needed on an annual basis. We are thankful to the Cannon Foundation for their assistance.”

Fleming Kee is a nine-story residence hall that houses a maximum of 375 male students. Dimple Newsome, also nine stories, houses a maximum of 415 female students. Both residence halls house predominately first and second year students.

The Cannon Foundation was established in 1943 by the late Charles A. Cannon, President and Chairman of Cannon Mills Company for more than 50 years. Historically, the Foundation has awarded principal grants in the healthcare and education fields, especially to independent liberal arts colleges in the Piedmont and Western regions of North Carolina. The Foundation makes grants for capital purposes, including new construction, renovation and expansion projects and programs.

Shaw University was founded in 1865 and is the first historically black university in the South. Shaw is a private, co-educational liberal arts university that awards degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The primary mission of Shaw University is to advance knowledge, facilitate student learning and achievement, to enhance the spiritual and ethical values of its students, and to transform a diverse community of learners into future global leaders.



## LAYMEN OUTLOOK

# “Eternal Life”

Our focus continues to be: “BECOMING A GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIAN.” We are out of Necessity, addressing three strands of the Great Commission: Evangelism, Discipleship, and Remembering the Poor. In the March article, we begin emphasizing the first strand; evangelism: Passion for the lost.

Due to Evangelism being a command from our Master, we found it appropriate to write a parenthetical article in April, on the requirement obedience to His command. Now we continue our discussion on the strand of evangelism. If we don't get the first strand right the other two will fall short of there purpose.

In the church, as in every organization, different auxiliaries, departments and committees sometimes imagine that their task is the area upon which the fortunes of the organization rise and fall. In every organization each auxiliary and department must contribute to the ultimate end of the organization: To provide a product or service that meets a need. The ultimate end or mission, is the organizing idea and the driving force. In the final analysis, unless people purchase a company's product or services then all else is for naught.

There are two exceptions to this rule. With limited accountability, the government and the church are able to cruise along,

collecting and spending money without necessarily producing significant results.

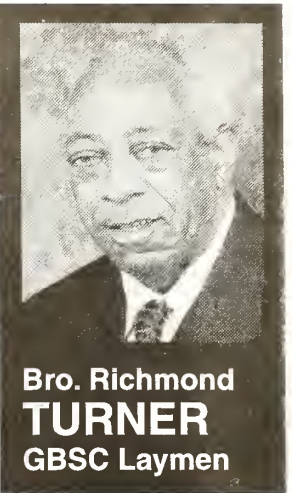
Too many of our churches belong to that gigantic new denomination, cultural Christianity.

What is the chief end of the church? Unless our service include a sensitivity to how may win the lost, we labor in vain, for the ultimate purpose of God is to save lost sinners, not merely bandage humanity's mortal wounds.

The product God offers is eternal life, and He is the exclusive manufacturer. The church is nothing more than the manufacturer's representative. Unless the church sees people coming to faith in Christ, it is not accomplishing God's goal. Various departments and auxiliaries may produce scintillating numbers. But if “eternal life” is not being sold and bought, then the church has missed it's evangelistic mission. OH, don't forget—you are the church.

Next month we hope to conclude strand one with a discussion on methods of sharing, and proceed on to strand two.

Reach Bro. Turner at [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com)



Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## We Need a More Perfect Union

History teaches us that when one culture seeks to control another, its first attack is on the system of education. They may burn the culture's books or prohibit the teaching of members of the population under attack. There are indicators that such a mindset is emerging in our beloved North Carolina. Education for the under-

represented is under the most vicious attack that has occurred during my lifetime. The results could be a furthering of the maintaining a permanent underclass of citizens in our society.

There was once a television show called “Slattery's People” that opened with the comment; “Democracy is a very bad form of government, but I ask you never to forget that all the others are so much worse.” To my knowledge, democracy is also the only form of government that espouses free public education as being a right

of every citizen. The only way to protect and preserve the concept of democracy is through ensuring that there is an educated citizenry.

This fact places education in the peculiar position of being an eleemosynary institution. It exists less for the individual want or need and more for the common good of society. This concept must be safeguarded with all our being.

True government in a democracy derives its just power from the consent of the governed. However, at present, we are afforded very few opportunities to voice our desires to those who make policy that control our lives and our livelihood. The relief

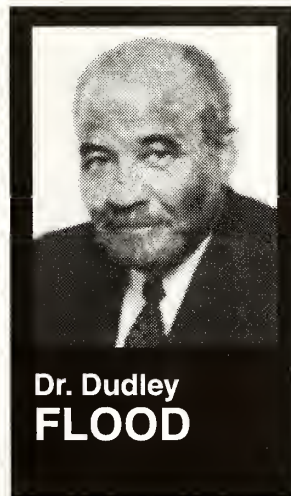


from this condition lies in our willingness to amass a strategy to elect leaders who will act on the will of the people and for the common good.

The philosopher, Lao-tzu once stated, (and I agree):

Of the best leaders, the people only know that they exist:  
The next best, they love and praise;  
The next they fear;  
And the next they revile.  
When they do not command the people's faith  
Some will lose faith in them  
And they may resort to recriminations  
But of the best, when their task is accomplished,  
Their work done,  
The people will remark, “We have done it ourselves.”

Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, and is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at [floodspeaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bellsouth.net).

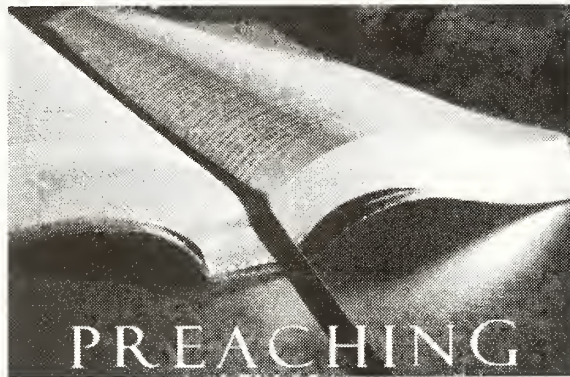


Dr. Dudley  
**FLOOD**

# Preaching to the Postmodern

Part 3 in this Series

The last article set forth the theological challenges and dangers of postmodernism. (As you might remember postmodernism is a shift in cultural thinking, views and values. It is a new understanding or reinterpretation of knowledge based upon personal experience as opposed to tradition. In this sense the postmodern seeks not the meaning of life but rather try to make life meaningful based on personal experience. For this reason, truth for the postmodern is driven by personal feeling (subjective) not tradition or authority.) Needless to say, such a belief carries contributions and implication for practical preaching. Now, let us consider contributions and practical points for preaching to this group.



## Contributions of the Postmodern

While postmodernism carries obvious theological dangers, there are valuable contributions made. The idea of experiencing reality is an important contribution that expands the conversation about real moments of encounter, drawing on the Scripture but never apart from it. Experience is a vital part of one's relationship with God. From the believer's experience emerges testimony grounded in the believer's experience with Christ and the scripture. For the postmodern, they reject the idea that right teaching brings about right experience with God. Conversely, they hold that experiencing God brings about right teaching.

Another area of contribution is the idea of honesty and authenticity. (What you see is what you get) For

sure honesty is another useful quality postmodern offers the local church. They are real and upfront about who and whose they are, and what they believe and feel, without apology. In doing so, they value transparency not only in themselves but in others, including and especially preachers. (They want the pulpit to be "square" or "on the level" with them) Ironically, there was a time the preacher could not be open and honest. Traditional thinking viewed transparency as a weakness but among postmodern it is valued. They see it as a way to make sense of their own story.

One final area of contribution of postmodern is listeners' authority. Postmodern listen differently and therefore present a greater challenge in the area of communication techniques and styles. Such a challenge with respect to knowing how to communicate to postmodern community raises the preacher's awareness of the importance of effective communication in preaching. Invariably, the issue of communication presents the greatest challenge related to preaching to the postmodern. Even more important, communication involves more than the use of words. What this means is the preacher must have both a text-driven and audience-centered sermon.

## Important Challenges

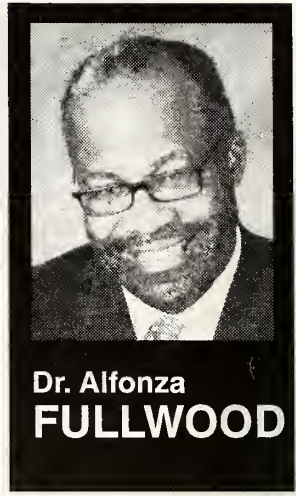
There are several challenges preachers face concerning preaching to the postmodern. First, preachers face the challenge of identifying speech/oral communication techniques or methods to effectively communicate to postmodern worshippers while remaining faithful to Christ-centered preaching. Second, preach-

ers have to deal with identifying effective preaching methods or approaches that faithfully honors the authority of scripture and the way postmodern worshippers listen. Finally, they face the challenge of underscoring the importance of being culturally relevant and biblically and theologically faithful, recognizing the tension that exists between contemporary culture and the culture of the biblical community.

## Practical Steps for Preaching to the Postmodern

Practical steps for preaching to the postmodern include but not limited to the following suggestions: First, preachers should try to be less controlling and non-authoritative. Second, preachers should develop oral communication techniques and approaches that are less direct but respectful. Third, preachers should focus on sermon relevance and practical application that speaks directly to the needs of the postmodern and their context in a way that help them live fruitful and productive lives. Fourth, they should use an inductive (narrative) or deductive (exposition) method that invites listeners' engagement, involvement, participation, offering a sense of ownership of the sermon. Finally, preachers should use drama, narration, imagery dialogue and audiovisuals shaped and guided by the Scripture. Considering these suggestions, further equip preachers when it comes to communicating effectively to the postmodern.

*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD

# Ushers Making a Complete Sacrifice

The Apostle Paul called us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice. God is not interested in those who present as a partial sacrifice. Partial sacrifices are fine with the world only. The world does not mind an usher going to church on Sunday, as long as that usher does not stand for righteousness and make waves during the week. The world does not mind ushers and leaders going to church with Bibles tucked under their arms as long as they do not take a stand publicly for what the Bible teaches. The world will go along with partial sacrifices, but God only accepts complete ones.

Paul said in his letter to the church at Philippi, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). Our minds will be renewed as we daily present our bodies as living sacrifices to

God. Little by little we will be transformed into the likeness of our Lord, and we will become less and less like the world.

Many ushers are struggling to know what God's will is for their lives. They do not realize that until they place themselves on the altar of surrender, they will not know God's perfect will for themselves. The more consistent we are in keeping our bodies at the altar, the more conformed we will be to Christ and the more we will be able to discern what it is that God intends for us.

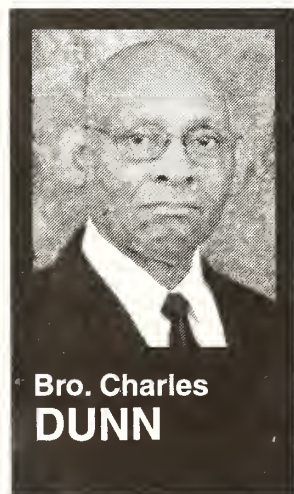
"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

There are no shortcuts with God. Oh the joy when we prepare and present the worship offering that is pleasing to God, holding nothing back. We place our all on the altar. It is then that we will experience God transforming and renewing work in our minds and hearts. It is then that we will know and joyfully do his will. The more we die to self the more alive we be-



come to God and this is a continuous process. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." (Psalm 24:3-4).

*Reach Bro. Dunn at justicem@bellsouth.net.*



Bro. Charles DUNN

# 2013 Mid-Year Session of the General Baptist State Convention convenes May 7 in Fayetteville

(continued from page 1)

251 – 500 Members = \$75.00 = 5 Messengers  
501 – 750 Members = \$100.00 = 6 Messengers  
751 – 1000 Members = \$125.00 = 7 Messengers  
1001 or more Members = \$150.00 = 8 Messengers

You are entitled to send the number of persons indicated above based on the size of your Church and your representation fee. Each person listed on your registration form as a messenger is entitled to 1 badge and 1 registration kit. Additional persons may register for a fee of \$20.00 per person. In addition to the representation fees above, your Church is asked to send a contribution for State Missions. The amount to be sent for State Missions is left up to your Church to decide.

Persons who are not registered with a Church may register as an individual at the session. Individual registration is \$20.00 per person.

## TWO HOTEL CHOICES FOR MIDYEAR SESSION IN FAYETTEVILLE!

### WINGATE BY WYNDHAM FAYETTEVILLE

4182 Sycamore Dairy Road, Fayetteville, NC

For reservations at

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Rate is \$107.35 per night

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# GBSC

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### 2013 MID-YEAR SESSION

May 7 - 8, 2013

First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina

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

Church Membership:

PLACE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON ROLL IN BOX ABOVE

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

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

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

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION A: FEES

Representation (Based on size of congregation; see chart on back) \_\_\_\_\_

State Missions (A contribution of your choice is REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION B: MESSENGERS

| NAME    | E-MAIL ADDRESS |
|---------|----------------|
| 1 _____ | _____          |
| 2 _____ | _____          |
| 3 _____ | _____          |
| 4 _____ | _____          |
| 5 _____ | _____          |
| 6 _____ | _____          |
| 7 _____ | _____          |
| 8 _____ | _____          |

**N** Please refer to the chart on the back of this form for representation fees due  
**O** based on the size of your congregation. **IN ADDITION TO YOUR REPRESENTATION**  
**T** **FEE, please bring a contribution for STATE MISSIONS.**  
**E**  
**S** **PRE-REGISTRATION IS DUE NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013.**

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

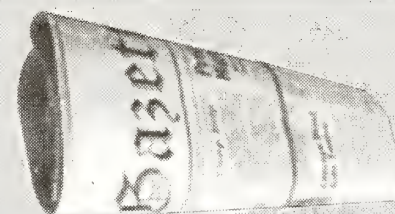
Clerk's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please don't miss a single issue of the Baptist Informer?**

The Baptist Informer Newspaper is a subscription-only publication of the  
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

**Please Renew Today!**

**Don't miss a single opportunity for faithful fellowship!**



# Fellow Laymen: Pick up the Cross and follow Jesus

By Roger Battle/For the Baptist Informer

The second annual Marshall-Morgan honorary awards banquet and Laymen's One Day Session was held at Mount Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina where the host pastor is Dr. J. Vincent Terry.

The keynote speaker for the banquet was Deacon Harold Simmons President of the Nation Baptist Laymen's Movement. His text for his speech was taken from Matthew 16:24: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." The people with the church is the men been disciple of Jesus. Jesus ask his disciples who do men say that I am? Jesus told Peter and the rest of his disciples upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

There are men working in the church but no cross. The purpose is about salvation. The cross is the only thing that separates us from other organization. The message from the church shouldn't be different from Calvary mission. The real Jesus came to make dead people live. The real Jesus was concern about the souls of the people. Cross with a ministry. You got to pick up your cross. We thanked President Simmons for the message "To be a Disciple."

Second Vice President NCLL Anthony Hagan and President NCLL Richmond Turner presented to Deacon George Turner the Marshall-Morgan award for Laymen of the Year from Sandy Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Joel D. Churchwell.

Rev. Thomas McCullers received the award for Laymen's Church of the Year, Pastor of Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

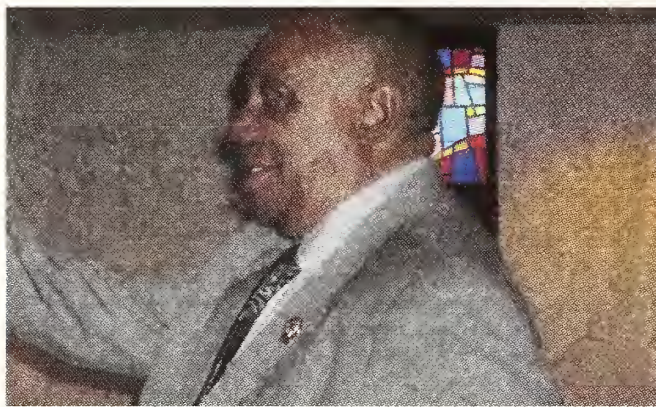
North Carolina State Laymen League One Day Session was held at Mount Peace MBC April 6, 2013. First Vice-President William Pointer presided over the session. The workshop facilitators for the session were Youth Coordinator, Samuel Teague for the youth; Rev. Anthonette Wright for the Wives/Women Supporters and President Harold Simmons of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement for the spiritual men workshop.

The objective of the Laymen's League is deploring men for Christ - been a disciple for Christ.

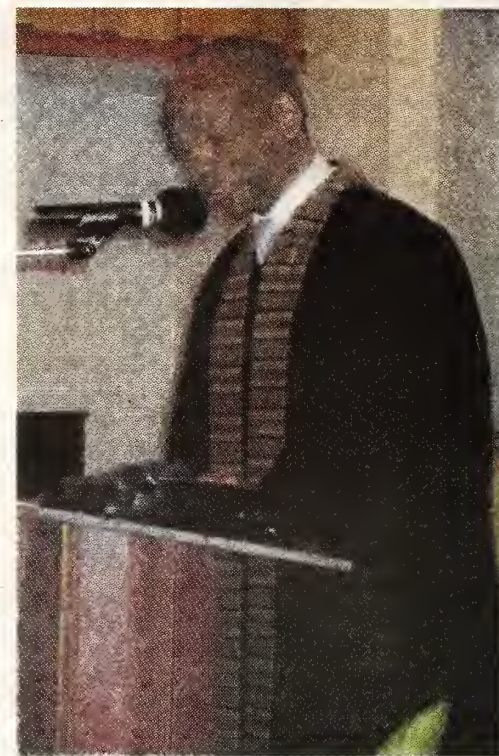
President Simmons stated we are "spending one hour on eternity and fifteen hours on the temporary of the world."

He continued: "Who's going to win? You know the answer. Are we doing what God ask us to do? Our purpose is to win soul / people to Christ. Not go to church and wait. Church for some is a temporary escape from what we are suppose to be doing. The church is totally necessary. Don't be ashamed to take about your broken-heartedness. We are to use men to redeem men."

Additionally, he encouraged all Laymen: "Be careful to treat your pastor right with an understanding of his situation at all times. Remember all preachers aren't Pastor. The difference is having a burden and carrying a cross. We have to get into the life of our people. We all got skeletons in the closet but there shouldn't be any meat on the bones. Baptist Churches should always be biblical. Come as you are but don't stay as you are."



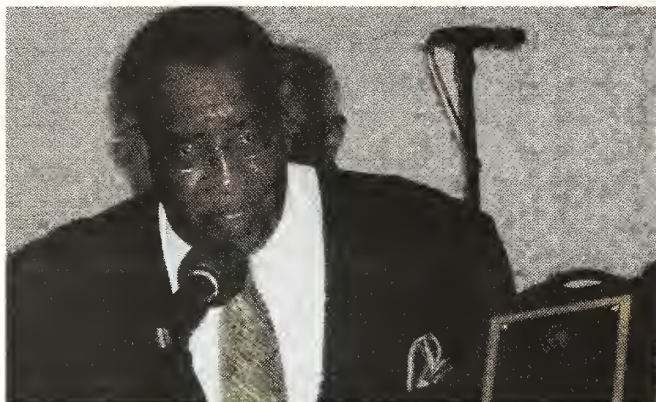
Laymen President Harold Simmons



Reverend Milton Batts



George Turner speaks with fellow Laymen



Reverend Thomas McCullers



Reverend Anthonette Wright

Women

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Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out season, correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. — 2T. rothy 4:2

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# Health Awareness Month Focus: High Blood Pressure

For years, high blood pressure or hypertension has plagued the world at large, especially minority communities. African Americans often develop high blood pressure at younger ages than other populations and are more likely to develop complications associated with high blood pressure such as stroke, kidney disease, blindness, dementia, and heart disease. It is suspected that a combination of genetic and environmental factors contribute to higher prevalence for high blood pressure. Important risk factors include:

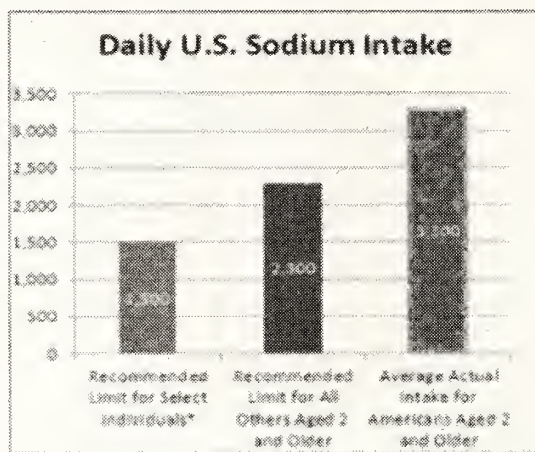
- Age
- Weight
- Family History
- Pre-existing Health Conditions
- Lack of Physical Activity
- Smoking
- Improper Diet

The month of May is recognized as National High Blood Pressure Education Awareness Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), high blood pressure leads to heart attack and stroke, two of the leading causes of death in the United States. Annually, hypertension is a primary or contributing cause of death for more than thousands of Americans. High blood pressure is also a major risk factor for other diseases such as congestive heart failure and kidney disease.

The amount of sodium one intakes can raise the risk for developing high blood pressure. Daily, Ameri-

cans eat more than twice the recommended sodium limit for most adults. A large amount of the sodium consumed comes from foods items that are processed, pre-packaged, or from fast food/restaurants. Some ways to reduce sodium intake include:

- Cooking at home with reduced or no salt
- Eating fresh fruits and vegetables

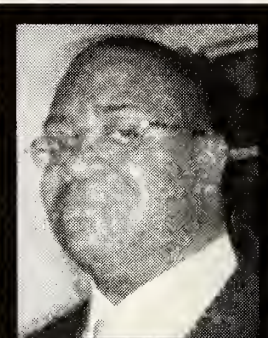


Decreasing sodium is one way to keep your blood pressure in check. Other ways include:

- Exercise regularly
- Maintain a healthy body weight
- Don't smoke
- Monitor/lessen alcohol intake
- Eat more fresh foods

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

HEALTH  
SPOT-  
LIGHT



Cornell P.  
**WRIGHT**  
MPA

For more ways to control and monitor high blood pressure, consult your primary care physician. To learn more about National High Blood Pressure Education Month, visit the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute website: [www.nhlbi.nih.gov](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov). For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

*Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a nonprofit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For information visit the website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.*

## Annual Laymen's Men & Boys' Retreat is July 12 13, 2013 in Raeford

The General Baptist State Convention Laymen's League Auxiliary sponsors The Annual Laymen's Men & Boys' Retreat. Our goal is 100 boys in attendance this year.

The theme for the event is "Preaching... Reaching... Teaching." — Mathew: 28:20

Retreat Dates: July 12 13, 2013  
Location: Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church,  
414 Pitman Grove Church Road  
Raeford, NC 28376  
Ph: 910-875-5744

General Baptist State Convention  
NC Laymen (Men and Boys)  
NC Laymen Supporters

On July 12-13, 2013, the Annual Laymen's Men and Boys' Retreat will be held at Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Raeford, NC, where Dr. Mathew Rouse Jr. serves as Sr. Pastor. We ask that each church coordinate the attendance and participation of your men and boys and Help us realize our goal of 100 boys in attendance.

Purpose: To provide Men and Boys the opportunity to participate in worship, Bible study, counseling, and recreation in a Christian environment.

Planned Activities: Bible study, Bible drills, worship services, talent show, basketball,

(swimming, Bowling, or skating), fellowship, meals and snacks, and board and other games.

What To Bring: Bible, pencil and paper, sleeping bags or blankets and pillows, personal hygiene. Please do not bring electronics or other valuables.

Schedule:  
Arrival: Friday – July 12, 2013 – 10:00AM  
Departure: Saturday – July 13, 2013 – 1:00PM

Registration Fee: \$30 per person.

Registration Policy  
Complete registration forms with required

fees must be either mailed to Baptist Headquarters on or before June 10th, 2013 or brought to the retreat site.

Make Checks or Money  
Orders Payable to:

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Laymen League

Mailing Address:  
General Baptist State Convention of NC  
603 S. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Ph: 9198217466

### LAYMEN'S MEN & BOYS' RETREAT • REGISTRATION FORM

Please detach the Registration Form and mail with check or money order payable to:  
General Baptist State Convention, 603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601.  
DEADLINE: JUNE 10, 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have any health problems? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, list \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# May is "Be Kind to Somebody" Month

As a child, my mother would prepare my lunch every weekday morning before sending me off on my walk to elementary school. She would also fix a lunch for Stanley, a skinny kid who lived nearby. Somehow mom knew Stanley didn't get enough to eat. So he knocked on our side door and grabbed his lunch bag each day enroute to school.

I learned kindness from my mother. Kindness is like that. It produces ripple effects, like a stone thrown into a lake. In our fast-paced, technological age, we easily overlook the individual worth of other people, especially the socially "least of these our brothers and sisters." But kindness recognizes the needs of others and helps us meet those needs.

"What is desirable in a man is his kindness" (Proverbs 19:22). The description of a virtuous

another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

A little kindness goes a long way. A smile, a hug, a kiss, an act of friendship, a minute of your time, or a hand of mercy, all go a long way toward making our communities and churches better places. A listening ear, a word of wisdom, a sympathetic embrace, a bit of food, or a cup of water, all make a difference in our neighborhoods without costing a lot of money.

So is May really "Be Kind to Somebody Month"? In my book it is. Every month should be kindness month. So, in honor of my mother—Delcie Susie Bell Cureton Johnson—I declare May as Kindness Month to the glory of God. No one may know about this special month but me and a few other readers, but I tell you, kindness has ripple effects. It spreads in all directions like one candle being lit in a dark room. No one can stop the spread of God's lovingkindness.

The story of a slave girl in Scripture (2 Kings) tells how she introduced Naaman to the Prophet Elisha and thereby to the God of Israel. Naaman—a Syrian military leader—had leprosy and went to Elisha for healing. He returned to Elisha's house after being healed saying,

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel" (2 Kings 5:15). The slave girl seemed so powerless and insignificant, but she bore the power of kindness in her heart. Kindness is an open doorway into the kingdom of heaven, for the slave girl's

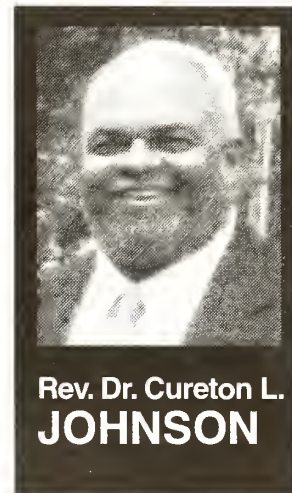
words of kindness are recorded for the ages in the Bible. Naaman came to believe in her God! What a ripple effect!

You too have much to offer to other people. You have a helping hand, a sign of hope, a gesture of healing, an act of peace, an offer of forgiveness; all go a long way. Maybe you have a little praise, or a little thanksgiving, or a little prayer, a little song, or a friendly joke. No money is required to be kind. It's a gift from God and your heart.

In our nation, so warped with divisions and hostilities, let us celebrate kindness in the month that we recognize our dear mothers. While others hold the power to destroy and ruin lives, we carry within us the power to uplift, encourage, affirm, and give great joy to others.

Use the holy power of "kindness" to unlock a multitude of blessings for other people, this month and forevermore!

*Dr. Johnson is pastor of the First Baptist Church—Moore Street in Fayetteville, N.C. and author of the book Bible-Based Spiritual Stimulus Plan (Winepress, 2010).*



**Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON**



**"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)**

woman in the same book of the Bible says, "On her tongue is the law of kindness" (31:26). So let us render "acts of kindness" whenever and however we can. Let us, while spring blossoms and summers warms our day, "be kind and compassionate to one

## Spring Branch Missionary Baptist Church

### Musician/Minister of Music

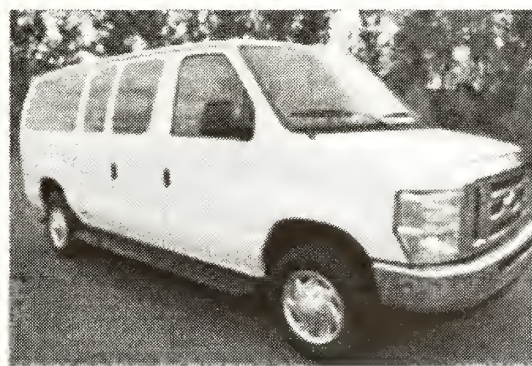
Spring Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. is looking for a musician/minister of music.

- Salary negotiable but will be based on level of education or experience
- Must have great organizational and administrative skills
- Must be willing to work with the Pastor to enhance worship
- Must have at least 3 years of experience or a willingness to attend necessary training
- Must have a working knowledge of music ranging from the contemporary to the traditional hymns and ability to train voices and teach songs

All interested persons may: 1) Apply in person at 21300 Old Wire Road in Wagram, North Carolina, Tuesday – Thursday between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2)

Email resume to: [sbbc@springbranchmbc.org](mailto:sbbc@springbranchmbc.org) or 3)

Fax resume to 910-369-2042 Attention: Personnel Committee



## Roll Call of Associations for Central Children's Home Van Project

**In 2012, the General Board approved a plan to purchase three vans for use at Central Children's Home over a three year period. The first van was bought in June 2012. The plan calls for the second van purchase to be made by June 2013.**

**Each Association in the state has been asked to budget a special gift of \$500.00 in 2012, 2013 and 2014 for the purchase of the vans. The 2013 gift will be collected during a special Roll Call of Associations on Tuesday night (May 7) at the Mid-Year Session in Fayetteville.**

**Churches who would like to give are asked to get their gift to the local Moderator before the Mid-Year Session on May 7.**

# Go Ye Therefore ...

**M**y fellow South Carolinian and sister-in-Christ Angela Hunter, a Christian author, speaker, radio podcast host, and blogger posted the following on her Facebook page: "The Cross...it is our order not an ornament. We are ordered, commanded, and instructed to GO - into all the world and Preach the Gospel. Not necessarily behind a pulpit, but by HOW we live. By how we love. By how we treat others. Christ in us...the hope of glory! #Christlike"

Hunter was right on time. Building God's kingdom is always on time. But Hunter, the creator of The Inspiration Room—a virtual place for spiritual uplift—and author of two Christian books, had just weighed in on the topic I had chosen for this month's column: our obligation to missions.

"God does not suggest; He commands," says my pastor, the Rev. Sterling E. Freeman. "Nevertheless, the tension of the divine-human paradox remains. That is when God says, 'Go', God still leaves us to respond. However, we must go, as a mission-minded people, because we serve a Savior of missions." Freeman's passion and commitment to missions has spawned inspiration and self-inquiry for me. I'm unafraid to share my beliefs and my knowledge (which is continually being expanded), but am I doing enough. How do we exercise mission work? Must we travel abroad or even at all, I asked?

Depends on your definition of travel. Racking up frequent-flyer miles is not necessary; rather, what is necessary is that we do it, first by living out our faith and being the role models that Angela acknowledges.

"The ways of going and serving are endless. It can certainly be anything from volunteering in schools and edifying our kids through mentorship to a myriad of

community involvements to speaking to issues that affect our fellow man. At the heart of serving is liberating and empowering people. And at the end of the day, the hope is God will use our service to bring people into community who commit to furthering the cause of Christ." said Freeman, who himself is involved in a full spectrum of work from addressing issues that cause health disparities among people of color to college preparation for young men in high school.

Freeman challenges us, as does the Biblical text, to go to all nations or people. "The radical content of the imperative in Jesus' day continues to resonate today. One true measure of our missions mentality is our capacity, courage and willingness to take the risk of crossing socially constructed boundaries for the sake of building the Kingdom."

Being mission-minded is not an option, Rev. Freeman says. The crux of the matter is that "if we are the church of Jesus Christ, if we declare that, then it follows that we are a church of missions. The word we get is Go, go ye therefore."

Precisely why I had to include Angela Hunter's Inspiration.

Freeman further asserts that pastors must take the lead in preaching and proclaiming missions and motivating, inspiring, and educating the church. Pastors must make disciples and put them in the mode of doing missions, which creates extensions of the pastor. Freeman says mission work requires not only commitment and good intentions, but disciplined study and learning so that as you act upon your faith, and be a model who teaches others. "We must beware of the centrality of preaching in the context of our worship, so it does not crowd out the mul-

tiplicity of venues for teaching and modalities for learning. Bring your mind with you so you can have faith seeking understanding."

He went on to say that Christians are often "good at coming" (to church and participating in religious programming) but we need to challenge ourselves to "do better at going." We must go to serve for the purpose of touching people's lives with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

"A mission mentality requires action; it is not a spectator sport," says Freeman. We must do what we can to make spiritual connections

"Jesus will meet them where they are," he said.

Just as importantly and luckily for us, He meets us where we are too.

"Jesus' hand extends beyond the boundaries that we put between one another," said Freeman.

That's the goodness of God. Who are we not to share that?

Contact Crystal Kimpson Roberts at [knowyour-carenc@gmail.com](mailto:knowyour-carenc@gmail.com).



**Crystal Kimpson ROBERTS**

**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.

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# Coming to God is a birth worth celebrating

I answered the telephone recently to a breathless relative: "The baby's here," she said. "His name is Jacob William. I'm so excited I can't stand it." Paula and her husband, Bill, had just become grandparents for the first time.

Paula went on to say she had been anxious to be in the hospital room the moment the baby was born, but lots of things seemed to get in the way. As Bill drove the two of them through Charlotte's rush hour traffic they encountered a passing ambulance that forced them to the side, a police car that trailed the ambulance and several bumper-to-bumper holdups that left them inching down the road. All along the way, their son-in-law sent updates to let them know the baby was racing closer to birth. With Bill dropping her off at the front door, Paula dashed into the hospital room just as her new grandson was crowning.

A birth in the family is usually a thrilling time, not only for the new parents, but also for other family members, as well. There are showers and celebrations and lots of happy tears. No matter how many times it

happens, a family's joy seems to burst open for the birth of each baby - God's new creation.

Just as our first birth brings excitement for the families we enter, imagine how overjoyed God and the heavenly host must become each time one of His children is reborn in Christ. Luke 15:8-10 describes it well: 8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

I imagine that showers and celebrations in heaven for the second birth far surpass the excitement of the first one.

Can't you just see it?

Angel 1: Things are looking pretty good down there. I think I hear praises being lifted up.

Angel 2: Do you think it will happen today? There were so many times when he came close before, but just couldn't do it. Things always seemed to get in the way, such as thoughts of what his friends might think;

that it would be too hard; or that he should wait until he is perfect.

Angel 3: I remember the time he even stood up to walk down the aisle, but then he just turned and pretended he was excusing himself to step outside.

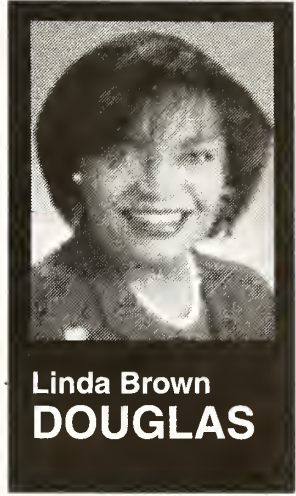
Angel 1: I tell you, it's looking good. I hear him praying. He's pushing himself to get up. Should we hold his hands?

Angel 2: Wait for me. I want to be there for this moment. I don't want to miss any part of it. Look! He's taking a step forward, and another one . . .

Angel 3: Yes! He did it! Praise God! Write down his name. I'm so excited, I can't stand it!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians: 5:17

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a regular family issues contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach her at Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*



Linda Brown DOUGLAS



## • • • WBSC BRIEFS • • •

WBHFMC Ministers' Wives Retreat • May -4-5, 2013  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Atlantic Beach, NC.  
For details, call Mrs. Annie Hewett at (910) 842-9951  
or Baptist Headquarters at (919) 833-4823.

WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY  
CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA  
Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.  
**ANNUAL SESSION**

July 28-August 1, 2013 • Raleigh Convention Center  
Dr. Audrey P. Battle, President • Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

### WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18 Institute Instructors Workshop, Baptist Headquarters, Raleigh  
June 1 Young Adult Retreat, Ocean View Association Headquarters, Shallotte  
June 9-14 Youth Bible Camp, Camp Dixie



### HOLY HAND ME DOWNS!

The 2013 Youth Department Missions' Project - "Recycle Your Blues" - is underway. Participants are asked to bring gently used blue jeans to the Annual Session in July 2013 in Raleigh, NC. For more information, please contact Minister Genetta Williams, Youth Supervisor, at wbcys1216@gmail.com or call the WBSC Headquarters at (919) 833-4823.

### SWADDLING DRIVE

Diapers, baby wipes, lotions and infant clothes are being collected by the 2013 Young Adult Missions' Project. Other needed items include baby shampoo, soap and toddler clothes. For more information, please contact Rev. S.L. Raines at sl\_raines@hotmail.com or call the WBSC Headquarters at (919)833-4823.

### FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

103 Church Street

Thomasville, North Carolina 27360

First Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
2. Strong knowledge of *Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure*.
3. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Credentialed from accredited college and/or Seminary school.
6. Strong skills in community ministries.
7. Teaching ministry; i.e. Bible study, Sunday school
8. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourages active participation.

A DVD or CD of a recent sermon would be appreciated.  
Please send resumes to:

The Pastoral Search Committee  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
103 Church Street  
Thomasville, N.C. 27360



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Volume 136, No. 5

# BAPTIST INFORMER

June 2013

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

## Annual Laymen's Men & Boys' Retreat is July 12-13, 2013

The General Baptist State Convention Laymen's League Auxiliary sponsors The Annual Laymen's Men & Boys' Retreat. Our goal is 100 boys in attendance this year.

The theme for the event is "Preaching...Reaching...Teaching."— Mathew: 28:20

Retreat Dates: July 12-13, 2013  
Location: Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church,  
414 Pitman Grove Church Road  
Raeford, NC 28376  
Ph: 910-875-5744

General Baptist State Convention  
NC Laymen (Men and Boys)  
NC Laymen Supporters

On July 12-13, 2013, the Annual Laymen's Men and Boys' Retreat will be held at Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Raeford, NC, where Dr. Mathew Rouse Jr. serves as Sr. Pastor. We ask that each church coordinate the attendance and participation of your men and boys and Help us realize our goal of 100 boys in attendance.

(continued on page 16)



Shaw University held its Commencement Exercise on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the J.S. Dorton Arena at the North Carolina Fairgrounds. Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers, Jr., President of Voorhees College and a Shaw University alumnus, delivered the commencement address "Rebuilding the African-American Community – One Institution/One Person at a Time."

## General Baptists Support Shaw University

### The Convention Contributes \$75,000.00 During Class of 2013 Baccalaureate Worship Service

Shaw University held its 2013 Baccalaureate Worship Service on Friday, May 10 in the Thomas J. Boyd Chapel on the campus of Shaw University in downtown Raleigh. The featured speaker for the event was Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Before delivering his sermon to the Class of 2013, Dr. Gray presented funds totaling \$75,000.00 to University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser-Yancy. Over his tenure as Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Gray has made a tradition of presenting a gift to the University during Commencement season from the General Baptists of North Carolina.

The Convention was established in 1867, two years after the founding of Shaw University. Some of the principals involved in starting Shaw were likewise involved in the creation of the Convention. One of the primary reasons for the Convention was to raise money from among the African-

American Baptist Churches in the state to support Shaw University. For more than 145 years, the Convention has been a key financial supporter of the University. A significant number of college-bound high school seniors in General Baptist congregations consider Shaw for their college experience.

Since becoming Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Gray has been the steward of more than \$1.8 million dollars for Shaw University and Shaw Divinity School. The Convention is noted as dependable financial supporter of the University and it regularly recognized as among the highest financial contributors each year. According to the last published report, the Convention was recognized for being a member of the "Board of Trustees Club" for contributing in excess of \$100,000.00 in the 2011-12 academic year.

The General Baptist State Convention was one of only three organizations to make the "Board of Trustees Club." The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) and



Dr. Haywood T. Gray leads the Shaw University Baccalaureate Worship Service

(continued on page 9)

|                          |   |  |   |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</b> | <b>P3</b> From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery | <b>P8</b> Highlights of Shaw University & Divinity School Graduation | <b>P14</b> Pre-Register Now for the WBH&FMC Annual Session to be July 28 - August 1 |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|

# Shaw University Divinity School



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## From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

### A Relevant Question:

## Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus the Christ?

To my brothers and sisters in the General Baptist "tie" that binds our hearts in Christian love: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV).

What a wonderful thought to know with assurance that God is merciful. God blesses us so through us, others will be blessed. The writer in Ecclesiastes noted that some things do change. There is a season for "every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1b). Change occurs frequently: from being born to dying ... from planting to uprooting ... from killing to healing ... from tearing down to building up ... from crying to laughing ... from loving to hating ... and so on. Some things do change.

For many who have seen a number of "getting ups and lying downs," dramatic changes have taken place. Many conveniences we take for granted today were

non-existent at the beginning of the 20th and 21st centuries. Change is constant. Some things do change! A time traveler from the early 1900's or 2000 would not recognize the world as it exists today.

And yet, some things do not change. When a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His head, Jesus' disciples became angry and complained (Matthew 26). They concluded the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus said the poor would always be around.

Some things do not change! We need food because we get hungry. We need comforting because we experience grief. We need guidance because we get confused. We need compassion and companionship because we get lonely. We need forgiveness and a Savior because we all sin. We need hope because at some point, we all die.

Some things do not change! God's grace, mercy, and love do not change. In Jesus, God's image is not stained and God's power is not weak. God is immutable. In darkness, God is light. In chaos, God is truth. In weakness, God is strength. In death, God is eternal life! Some things do change. God does not!



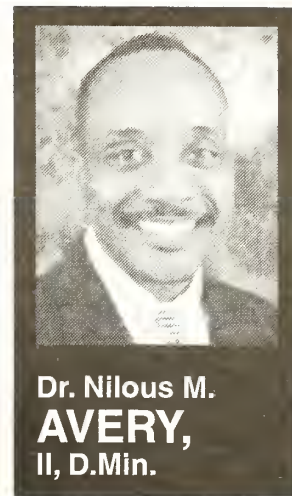
As disciples of Jesus the Christ who strive daily to give thanks and live thankfully, our methods may change, but the goal is still the same: "Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus the Christ? Our convention encourages, equips and empowers us to be helpers. Some things do not change: Our General Baptist State Convention needs your financial support and prayers, NOW! I believe the people of God in the General Baptist family will rise up to meet every challenge, every lion's den, every Red Sea, every flaming furnace, every wall, and every stronghold that attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.

Dr. Avery can be contacted at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com)



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## Restoring The Hearts of the Fathers

*"Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful days of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."*

— Malachi 4.5-6

PART ONE

The issue of fatherlessness is not a new narrative.

It can be traced back to slavery and the periods thereafter and as early as 1889, the great Booker T. Washington spoke out on this issue after observing the alarming increase of black men who were walking away from their children.

President Barack Obama spoke out on this issue in 2009, stating that, "We need fathers to

realize that fatherhood does not end at conception. We need them to realize that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child. It's the courage to raise one."

Even Roland Martin, a former contributor to CNN, wrote a scathing article in December 2011, proclaiming that black men "must reclaim" their children. In his article, he explored the tragic incident of former NFL standout Sean Taylor, who was killed by

two black men as he attempted to avert a robbery in his home. Martin asserted that the absence of male influence - and the exodus of fathers from the lives of so many young men - is the root cause of social ills afflicting urban America. I would not venture to go as far as Mr. Martin.

However, I agree that the absence of the father in the lives of their children impacts them in negative ways, especially their success and failures.

As many as, 24 million children grow up in America without a father in the home, according to some studies. In the African America community, nearly seven in ten children are born without a father in the home. What's worse is that seventy percent of all juveniles are fatherless.

The lack of a father in the home leads to increased poverty, drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, school dropout, incarceration, immoral behavior and a litany of other social ills. On the other hand studies show that children who grow up with a father in the home are least likely to drop out of school, join gangs, engage in promiscuous behavior and are more likely to avoid incarceration and even poverty.

I strongly advocate fatherhood and believe in fathers taking responsibility for raising their children, whether they're in the home or not. Needless to say, this topic needs to be discussed in an ecclesiastical context as often as possible.

In the Book of Malachi, the text adds perspective on restoring fatherhood to those who have walked away from this awesome responsibility.

In this passage, something is wrong in the culture. One might conclude that these ancient Hebrews had male abandonment issues themselves. However, this was

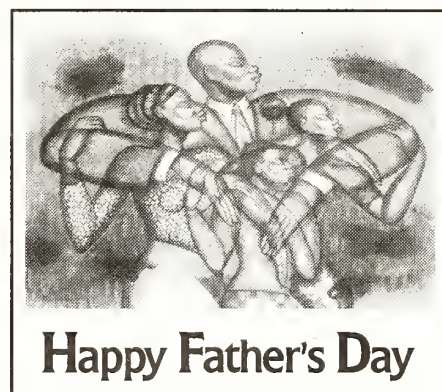
far from the case. Families during the time of Elijah were much more stable than they are now.

The men worked hard and took care of their children, wives and religious responsibilities. Fathers carried out a patriarchal system of teaching, guiding and loving their children that had lasted for centuries.

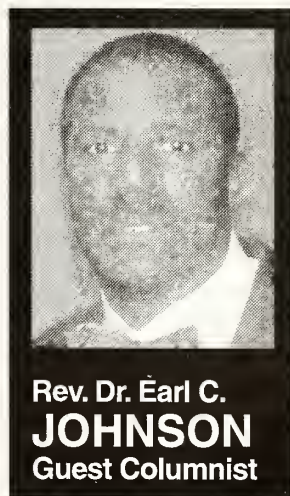
However, during this period of Babylonian captivity, there was a move away from traditional Hebrew values. Perhaps this was a period of historical amnesia. Because they were so engrossed in other people's culture and history, they neglected their own. Whatever the cause, a chasm between fathers and children in this Hebrew community was so deadly that God felt obligated to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children.

If we are going to "turn the hearts of our modern-day fathers" back to their children, we must work to eliminate many of the social ills in our community. We must fight for more two parent homes and work to restore dignity (and hope). Lastly, we must also start dealing with the root causes that contribute to the breakdown and demise of the black family.

*The Reverend Doctor Earl C. Johnson, a father of two daughters, is Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. You may reach him at [drecj56@aol.com](mailto:drecj56@aol.com).*



Happy Father's Day



Rev. Dr. Earl C. JOHNSON  
Guest Columnist



## After Evangelism, Then What?

*NOTE: As promised, the discussion on the strand of Evangelism will be concluded with a brief discussion on methods or style of Evangelism.*

standable terms, considering the language and thought-forms of that setting." The essential issues in evangelism are these: Is it faithful to the truth? Is it honoring to God?

Does it depend upon the Holy Spirit to produce fruit? Does it produce fruit? Any method that honors Christ and produce fruit is valid. God made each of us different. We need to respect, even treasure, those differences. The Holy Spirit has anointed countless different methods to be the means of spreading the gospel. Still, though the message can be communicated through many methods, we must not forget that it is a single message; belief in Jesus Christ. It is why He came.

Remember, the emphasis of evangelism is getting Christ to a lost soul, not having them join a particular Church. The Holy Spirit will place them in the Body (1 Cor. 12:18).

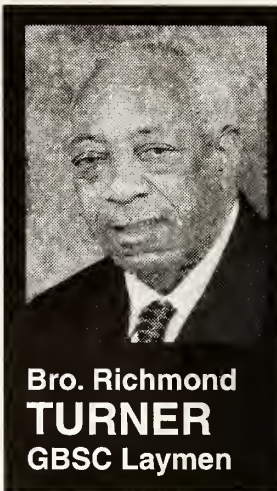
**NEXT - THE STRAND OF DISCIPLESHIP.**

Discipleship involves: Making disciples, training leaders, developing accountable relationships, teaching people how to live effective Christian lives (2 Timothy 2:2).

According to Charles Finney, "Everyone has the great responsibility to win as many people as possible to Christ. This is the great privilege and the great duty of all disciples of Christ."

The great mass of people professing to be believers seem never to have been impressed with this truth. The work of saving souls is something they feel they can leave to ministers. Many believers suppose it belongs only to those who are called to preach the gospel as a life work. They fail to realize that are called to preach the gospel, that the whole life of every believer is to be a proclamation of glad tidings."

Reach Bro. Turner at [Itturn60@aol.com](mailto:Itturn60@aol.com)



**Bro. Richmond TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

### METHODS OF SHARING FAITH

No one method of evangelism is more valid than another. Francis Schaeffer once commented: "Each generation of the Church in each setting has the responsibility of communicating the gospel in under-

## The Source of Power Are we taking a stand for Christ?

(Acts 4:29-31)

When Peter and John were released, they did not mope about in self pity. They returned to the fellowship of the praying Church. There, they joined in jubilant prayer. When God's people really have their backs up against the wall of this world's hostility, we always know that God is still in control and that He opens unseen doors of hope and opportunity for us. He releases that power through the person of Jesus Christ and the presence of His Holy Spirit.

Prayer is our link with God's power. The early Christians did not pray for safety or security. "And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus" (Acts 4:29-30). They prayed first for perspective, the ability to see their present difficulties and perils in the light of God's purpose and power. Human difficulties take on a new look when we see them from



**Dr. Ricky L. BANKS**  
Second VP, GBSC

the vantage point of God's designs.

These early Christians prayed for boldness and courage to be faithful to their witness to the gospel. Are we faithful to that witness today? Are we really bold in taking a Christian stand in our community crises? Where is the real battle line for Christ in your



community? Is in in the area of human relations, in the sphere of local government, or in the area of the public schools? Where is Christ trying to get a foothold in your community through your bold witness? Then these early Christians prayed for power to bless others through the gospel.

And when they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and "spoke the word with boldness" (Acts 4:31). When Christ's Church opens its heart to the coming of the Holy Spirit, He comes as a disturbing and empowering Presence. He prepares the Church to boldly witness for Christ in a hostile world.

There are several times in the book of Acts when men are said to be filled with or full of the Holy Spirit.

Notice the purposes or the results:

- For speaking (2:4, 4:8; and here).
- For serving (6:3).
- For shepherding (11:24).
- For rebuking (13:9)

Reach Dr. Banks at [pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com)

## • • LAYMEN • • • • CALENDAR • •

North Carolina State Laymen's League of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

### 2013 Calendar of Events

**June 22 - 27, 2013 – Annual Youth Conference, Location TBA**

**August 12 -16, 2013 – Annual Session, Washington, DC**

**"National Baptist Convention" September 2 - 6, 2013 – National Baptist Laymen's League, Charlotte, N.C.**

**September 14, 2013 – Study Commission – Savannah MBC Fayetteville, N.C., Piedmont Region**

**October 4 -6, 2013, Walter Cade Jr., Regional Workshop, South Carolina**

**December 14, 2013 – Study Commission – Greater New Hope MBC, Oxford, N.C., Central Region**

# Living Faithfully Amidst Political Kryptonite

Part I of a series

God told the prophet Habakkuk that “the righteous will live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4, NIV). What a simple yet most powerful word from the Lord. Indeed, we need dynamic faith amidst the Kryptonite-like political atmosphere in the United States as dark forces attempt to destroy President Barack Obama and the voices of progress in North Carolina.



Kryptonite was the only deadly material that could destroy the mythic character called Superman. Today’s Kryptonite—racism and class-ism—again threaten to weaken our nation as right-wing political leaders unpatriotically damage our country for the sake of bringing down the nation’s first black president.

Despite the dire appearances to the contrary—when evil forces appear to have the upper hand, or when economic woes, political woes, and social injustices appear to prevail—we can trust that God remains in control and that his sovereign purposes are being worked out.

We know that God has said, “The just shall live by faith.”

This profound word of faith from the Lord gave

Habakkuk the strength to trust God fully and to foresee a better day ahead despite his current circumstances. “I have heard all about you, Lord, and I am filled with awe by the amazing things you have done. In this time of our deep need, begin again to help us, as you did in years gone by. Show us your power to save us. And in your anger remember your mercy” (Hab. 3:2, NLT).

Right here in North Carolina our citizens face the forces of political evil whereby the state legislature in Raleigh has rejected unemployment benefits for 165,000 people, defunded 500,000 Tar Heels from Medicaid, while giving tax breaks to the rich and powerful. Add to that the defunding of education and an assault on voting rights. Also, the General Assembly wants to invite payday lenders back into North Carolina to prey on the poor and financially desperate citizens of our state. The list of bad legislation in Raleigh is appalling and pits the rich against the poor.

From 612 to 588 BC, Habakkuk rose up to speak to the people of Judah during one of the most hopeless eras in Hebrew history. Assyria was the dying world power and Babylon was the ascending giant. Habakkuk recognized the deep problems in the political, economic, moral, and religious life of his country and its capital, Jerusalem.

So he offered up a powerful prayer for his people: “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” (More on this verse next month in part 2 of Living Faithfully).

The message is clear—trust in the Lord over the long haul! Though the hounds of hell in our nation want to diminish the power of students, African-Americans, Latinos, and women, we must fight for justice, know-

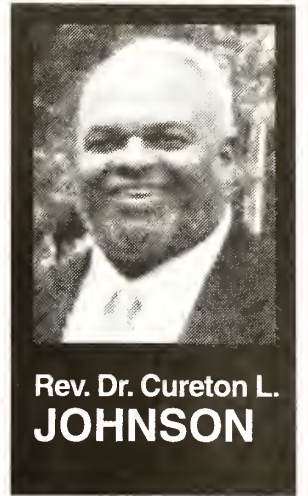
ing that the “arc of the universe bends toward justice,” and that God is a lover of justice.

Support Rev. Dr. William Barber and the N.C. NAACP as they courageously fight the forces of evil aligned against the poor and working class people of our state. Pray for this modern-day prophet; and support the NAACP financially, physically, and prayerfully.

Let us look for opportunities to be men and women of faith in a broken world. Team with other Christians to serve others. Take ample time to pray and to work for justice in America! Go into the forgotten areas of America and serve as soldiers of the cross of Christ. The church must go everywhere to rescue the perishing, the lost, the hurting, and the hopeless people around us. As we sacrifice for the good of all, God will bless us, and keep us, and provide for our needs.

Surely, the righteous—God’s people—must live through hard times by faith! Faith is an action word. So be doers of the Word of God and defend the poor, the widow, the homeless and hungry, the unemployed, the poorly educated, the least of these our brothers and sisters. Turn your faith—trust and belief in God—into action on behalf of other people in need of your prophetic voice in today’s Kryptonite-laced world.

*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, is a regular columnist for the Baptist Informer.*



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON

## Is The Recapitulation Theory at Work in Government?

There is a theory that says in effect that we, as humans, are prone to repeat the behaviors that were practiced by a previous generation. It infers that we seldom seek new ways to behave but rather we tend to retrace history. To the extent that

one accepts that theory, one might wonder whether the present trend of law making may be traced back to an earlier model.

One model that comes to mind is that led by the Tokugawa Ieyasu who rose to power in Japan in 1600. Ieyasu established his supremacy but bringing the various feudal lords together in Edo (now Tokyo) and forcing them to accept his point of view before they were allowed to go home

to their respective families. It is normal that if a man is held by his most pressing desire being at risk, his

heart and soul will soon yield to the pressure.

It seems that more and more decisions that affect us are being made by fewer and fewer of the people. The means of controlling the decision makers are a throw back to earlier times when to disagree assured one of receiving severe punishment. They may fail to get appointments to important committees and boards or to be heard on important issues. While this does not replicate the Bakofu government under the Tokugawa, we have given a lot of power to a few people. In so doing, we have virtually silenced the voices of varying points of view,

So what can we do? Our Minister of Music, Rev. Ronzel Bell, uses an expression that really resonates with me. When we non-musicians are confused by some of the music that he presents to us, he urges us to “sing something.” I believe that each of us can DO SOMETHING.

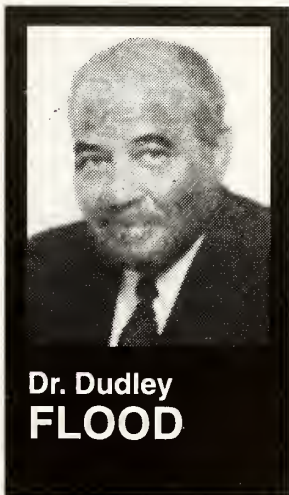
Several of us have organized a movement, which is called “The Flood Group.”

Our mission is to help empower parents and others to help our youth to become more successful students and thereafter more productive citizens. We do not suggest that we have all the answers needed for achieving that objective, but we know that we can do some-



thing. We invite anyone who cares about ALL the children to join us. Together, we can overcome some of the results of flawed decisions that impact our progress.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Reach him at [floodspeaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bellsouth.net).*



Dr. Dudley FLOOD

# A Call To Faithfulness: Be Thou Faithful Unto Death

**W**e must stand up and bless the Lord and be a channel that our Lord can work through. II Timothy 2:21 states "If a man changes himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes made holy, useful to the master and prepared to do any good work."

This is one of the highest calling in life. Every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift for this work. Our lives are blessed and enriched by God as we bless others, ministering to the needs of God's people. This is one of the best remedies for self-centeredness and joyless living. Our ministry to others depends on what we have received and experienced from God. We can never give out spiritual nourishment until we have first taken it in ourselves.

Our experiences of suffering can be used to equip us to help others who suffer as we do.

Difficulties can either make us bitter or they can fill us with compassion and sensitivity for the hearts of others. People who are hurting can sense when we really understand and care for them through Christian love.

Our Lord is seeking representatives who realize their insufficiencies but are working to be a channel filled with his power and love. That's the vessel he can use. Can He use you? We are of little value to our Lord if we do not produce fruit for Him. Regard-

less of the task, we have been called by God whether great or small. We will receive His promised blessings when we serve faithfully and with sincere motives. Representing Christ and serving others must become a normal happy lifestyle as we carry the sunshine where darkness is rife.

We must stand up and Praise the Lord our God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Many excellent opportunities to witness for the Lord are present each day but sometimes with groups we remain silent.

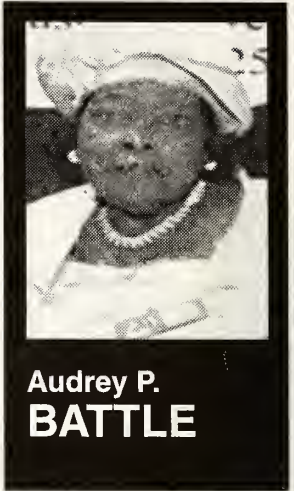
How tragic that our Praise on Sunday often leave us during the week when they are needed most.

"Ye call me Master and obey me not,  
Ye call me Light and see me not,  
Ye call me way and walk not,  
Ye call me Life and desire me not  
Ye call me wise and follow Me not  
Ye call me Fair and love me not  
Ye call me rich and ask me not  
Ye call me eternal and see me not  
Ye call me noble and serve me not  
Ye call me mighty and honor me not  
Ye call me dust and fear me not

Stand up and bless the Lord

The mission of each Christian is to proclaim and live the good news of the gospel and to urge Christians everywhere to have a personal relationship with God.

*Audrey P. Battle is President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC.*



**Audrey P. BATTLE**

**YOUTH BIBLE CAMP • DATE CHANGED!**  
Due to the late school closing for summer, the date and location for Youth Bible Camp has been changed to June 23-28. Camp will be held at Haw River State Park at Brown Summit, NC near Greensboro. Please contact the office at (919) 833-4823 for further information and camp application.

## Comforting the Mourning: The churches' response to hurting congregants

*"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

**T**he foundation a comfort ministry is based on the singular act of Jesus Christ who wept upon hearing of the death of his friend Lazarus.

Christ's spirit of compassion and caring exemplifies the basic Judeo-Christian ethic: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Old and New Testament teachings and

practices also support the idea of showing compassion for those who have experienced loss or distress.

There still seems to be a tremendous echo of loss that has vibrated through the hallowed walls of the beautiful edifice of the Missionary Baptist Churches. The sense of losing the emotional attachments of life has brought about stalemate in lives of the spiritually-strong, as well as the spiritually-weak parishioners.

The stalemate often comes from the fear of life after losing a loved one to death, a fear of spiritual weakness during the grieving period or the fear of losing one's sacred path of worship because of grief.

The theology of dealing with a person's emotional

experience of grief from a traumatic experience of loss of a loved one is not usually dealt with within the realm of the church ministries. The approach used by most Baptist Churches is more of a "help ministry- if needed" than a systemic procedural ministry that helps people cope with the trauma of death and the loneliness that follows. The church members and leadership are extremely strong in visiting a critically ill person while in the hospital and going to someone's house upon death. But, the family is often left to deal with the death alone upon the completion of burial.

The challenge facing Churches is to provide a sacred path to healthy grief for its membership. To help the members understand that counseling, whether from the Pastor or a consultation from the Pastor or an outside agency does not reflect on their spirituality and mental stability. There should be a ministry with the intention of giving the membership spiritual freedom from grieving through a systemic path of addressing the emotional feelings that are suppressed because they have never dealt with them.

This ministry must be established with total confidentiality of all team members without exception. The training of each Ministry members must happen before becoming active with the ministry. Spiritual leaders in the church and professionals in the grief community such as Hospice management, etc. should conduct the training and the ministry should consist

of a contact team, communication team, courtesy team and nurturing.

**Contact Team Purpose:** It is to establishing contact with family member(s) and conduct the initial assessment of the needs of the family. To determine if any service is desire or needed while determining the ministry needs. The contact must make the member feel the ministry is not forcing them but are available for service.

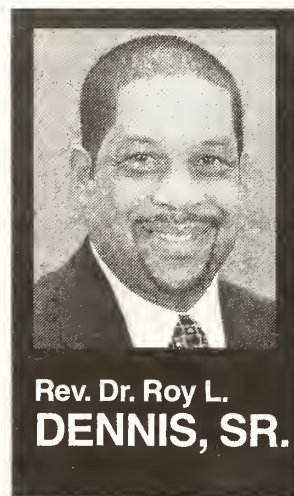
**Communications Team Goal:** To serve through the means of effective communications the love, encouragement, support and care as demonstrated by Jesus Christ. The team will reach out to the bereaved on special times such as anniversaries and holidays.

**Courtesy Team Goal:** This team will assist in providing any transportation, assistance to appointments or providing sitting services.

**Nurturing Team Goal:** To portray the love of Jesus Christ as ministry ambassadors of comfort, uplift and caring. This team will provide spiritual relationships. This group will provide a meal or stop by just to provide spiritual friendship. These services are based solely on the desire of the church member.

Is there a ministry within your church family that systematically deals with grieving members in post-funereral life?

*The Reverend Dr. Roy L. Dennis, Jr., Pastor of Blue-stone Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, NC, is a frequent contributor to the Baptist Informer.*



**Rev. Dr. Roy L. DENNIS, SR.**





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## Shaw's Lolia Kienka Named CIAA Woman of the Year

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) recently named Shaw University student Lolia Kienka its 2013 Woman of the Year in a ceremony held at the Marriott City Center in Newport News, VA.

"This award recognizes a student-athlete who has distinguished herself throughout her collegiate career in academic achievement, athletic excellence, community service and leadership," said Tonia Walker, President of the CIAA Senior Women's Administrator Association.

Kienka, who served as a Student Assistant Coach for the Shaw tennis program this season and was a member of the tennis team from 2009-2012, graduated summa cum laude from Shaw on May 11 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and a minor in Accounting. She finished her studies with a 3.91 grade point average.

In the classroom, Kienka - who began her collegiate studies at the age of 16 - was the recipient of numerous awards, including: the Shaw University President's Award for Superior Academic Achievement; the Female Student-Athlete Highest GPA Award; the 2012 Business Department Student of the Year and the 2013 Student of the Year for the Social Sciences Department. She also served as the President of the Shaw University International Students Association, as well as President of the Shaw chapter of Working to Educate, Build and Develop. She also served as Secretary of the Shaw Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for three years and as Vice President for the Shaw University Honors College Association. Additionally, she was a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

On the tennis court, Kienka was named CIAA Women's Tennis Player of the Year in both 2010 and 2012 as well as tournament MVP during those two seasons. She was a three-time member of the All-CIAA Women's Tennis Team and she led the Lady Bears to conference titles in the 2010 and 2012 seasons. In addition, she claimed CIAA Women's Tennis Rookie of the Year honors in 2009 and received the conference's Female Student-Athlete Scholar of the Year Award in 2012.

"I am beside myself with happiness," said Kienka. "To think that I was seen fit to receive this award is very humbling and I am very grateful."

Active in the community, Kienka participated in a variety of engagement activities, including campus clean-up projects, a Make-A Wish Foundation fundraiser, as well as performing community service hours at Shaw's Center for Early Childhood Education, Development and Research. She also participated in drives by the National Bone Marrow Association and the Red Cross.

Kienka will attend the University of St. Andrews in Scotland this fall to pursue a postgraduate degree in international business.

## Shaw Selected as a Flagship Campus for NYU Project

Shaw University has been selected as a Flagship Campus for the project "A Network for Understanding the New Europe" at New York University (NYU) the University announced today. The University and 19 other Flagship Campuses will sponsor faculty members to serve as Institutional Ambassadors for faculty development seminars. Shaw faculty members

Dr. James Kirkley (Religion and Philosophy) and Dr. Carmen Walker (Political Science/ International Relations) will participate in the seminars.

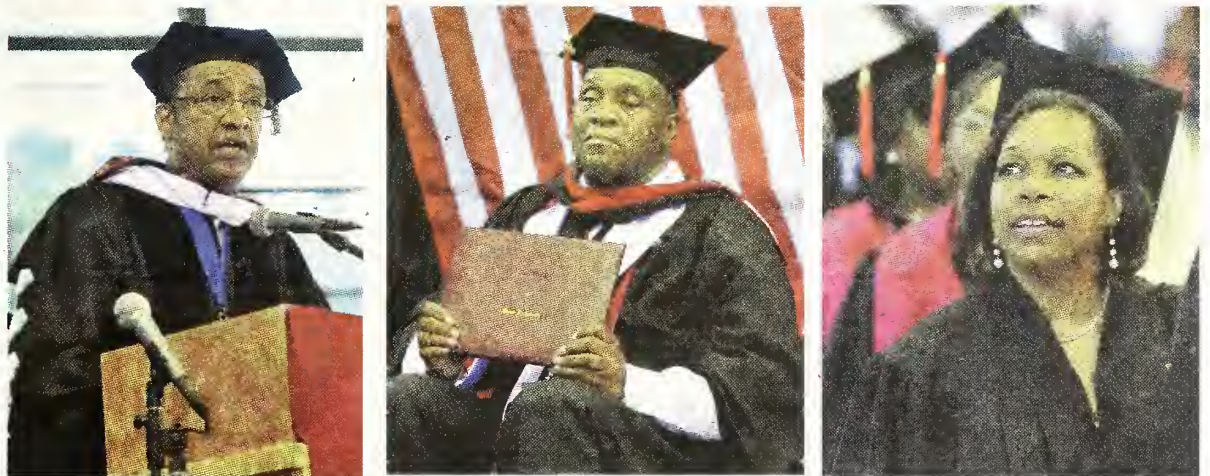
The Faculty Resource Network (FRN) at NYU, in partnership with NYU's Center for Global Affairs is sponsoring this innovative project. The stated goal of the initiative is "to raise awareness about European Union (EU) policies and institutions, the EU's role as an international actor in the economic and political field, and the value of the EU-US relationship." As such, the New Europe project will work to promote greater knowledge of Europe both in the New York metro area and throughout the U.S. at FRN member institutions. Campuses participating in the project will be required to develop a plan for hosting outreach events about Europe in their own communities.

At the center of this project are three faculty seminars, each focusing on an issue of crucial importance in contemporary Europe. The first seminar, to take place in June 2013, will examine the question of immigration, and its socioeconomic and political effects

on the whole of Europe. The second, which will take place in Athens, Greece in January 2014, will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about the history, structure, and politics of the European Union while residing briefly in an EU country. The third, scheduled for June 2014, will focus on Europe and its role in the world economy. These three seminars will provide participants with a strong foundation from which to build public programs on Europe in their own communities.

The project began in January 2013 with a competitive process to select institutions from FRN membership that were committed to becoming Flagship Campuses in the project. These 20 Flagship Campuses have agreed to send faculty members as Institutional Ambassadors to the three faculty development seminars based on the faculty member's area of expertise.

## SHAW DIVINITY SCHOOL GRADUATES



# Shaw University Graduation Ceremonies

(continued from page 1)

the College Fund/UNCF were the other two members of the "Board of Trustees Club" for 2011-12.

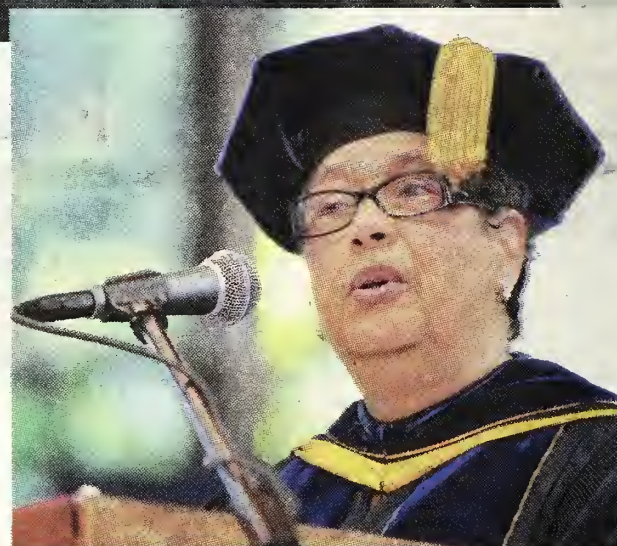
The Convention makes regular contributions to Shaw throughout the year. In March, the Convention donated \$10,000.00 for the United Negro College Fund Scholarship Gala. Thomas J. Boyd Chapel, Shaw Divinity School and the University Concert Choir (among others) have been previous benefactors of Convention-generated funds. The Baptist Headquarters acknowledges that the lion's share of the annual Commencement Season gift to Shaw University is derived from the Annual Shaw Day effort of Union Missionary Baptist Association. This year's Shaw Day effort in Union generated in excess of \$60,000.00. The Reverend Mark A. Rowden is Moderator of Union and Dr. Matthew Rouse, Jr. is Union Association's Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Executive Secretary-Treasurer Haywood T. Gray presents \$75,000.00 to Shaw University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser-Yancy during the 2013 Baccalaureate Worship Service on Friday, May 10.



Executive Secretary-Treasurer Haywood T. Gray presents \$75,000.00 to Shaw University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser-Yancy during the 2013 Baccalaureate Worship Service on Friday, May 10.



Member of the Class of 2013 during Baccalaureate Worship. Shaw graduated 311 students on Saturday, May 11 at Commencement.



Shaw University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser-Yancy addresses the crowd.





Members of the Shaw Class of 2013 gather in Boyd Chapel for the Annual Baccalaureate Worship Service.



## • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

### Funeral Services for Former Baptist Informer Editor

The Reverend Dr. Isaac Baynes Horton, II, 84, of 802 Poplar Street, Goldsboro, peacefully passed away at Kindred Hospital in Greensboro on Saturday, April 20, 2013, following an extended illness.



He was born in Raleigh on June 4, 1928, and was the third of five children born to the late Reverend Avery and Leasie Dunn Horton. Dr.

Horton was a graduate of the Wake County Schools, earned the A.B. Degree from Shaw University in 1955, the B. D. Degree from Shaw Divinity School in 1958. He also earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest in 1979. He also received and was granted numerous certificates, and honorary degrees.

He served on various committees on the Local, State and National levels of the Lott

Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention and the General Baptist State Convention of N. C., Inc., past President of Wayne County Ministerial Association, past President of Afro-American Ministerial Association, past Editor of The Baptist Informer, official publication of the General Baptist State Convention of NC.

Additionally, he held several offices with the Bear Creek Baptist Association, Shaw Divinity School, Board of Directors American Cancer Society of the Wayne County Unit. He was a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., NAACP, and was also affiliated with the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons.

He served as Pastor the following Missionary Baptist Churches in North Carolina: Juniper Level, Wake County; Perry's Chapel in Centerville; First Baptist, Chadbourne; Friendship, Whiteville; First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro. First African is the Mother Church of Eastern North Carolina and the birthplace of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

He was twice married, first to Thelma Lea Compton Horton and to this union six children were born. Dr. Thelma C. Horton, a past president of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N. C. died on April 22, 1993. His second marriage was to Burna Moore Horton of Wilmington, who survives.

Dr. Horton leaves to cherish the memory of his life, his wife, Burna Moore Horton of Goldsboro; six children, Dr. Isaac Byron Horton, III of Raleigh; Thelma Linette Horton of Chapel Hill; Bernardeane Horton Moton of Statesville; Bernardette Horton Davis of Durham; Esther Horton McCloud of Bristow, Virginia; Joseph S. Horton of Richmond, Virginia.

(continued on page 10)

### BAPTIST INFORMER

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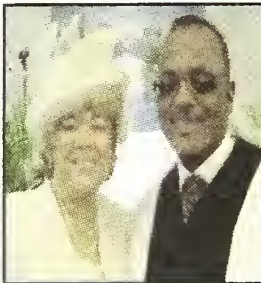
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Nwrightgbsc@aol.com

## • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

(continued from page 9)

Celebration of Life Services were held on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. at The First African Baptist Church, 803 Harris Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina with Rev. Dr. Louis S. Leigh, Jr., officiating. Interment was at Carolina Biblical Gardens in Garner.

### Malaby's Crossroads Celebrates Women



The Reverend Doctor James S. Utley and Lady Michele Utley of Malaby's Crossroads in Knightdale, N.C. recently celebrated its Women's Day and honored mothers.

The Women's Conference theme was 'Breaking every Chain' and the scriptural text was Isaiah 54:17. Interactive

workshops explored the factors that repeatedly hold people back such as brokenness, shame, grief, domestic violence and everyday hardships.

Conference speakers included Dr. Carolyn S. Love, Professor Emeritus, North Carolina State University and the Reverend Anthonette Wright, Senior Pastor of Community of Hope Baptist Church, Raleigh. On Sunday, May 12, the Women's Day Speaker was Minister Kia R. Hood, Youth Programs Director, Union Baptist Church, Winston Salem, NC.

The Mother's Day Celebration was a concentrated effort to worship God in spirit and truth and more importantly, gave insight for a unique strategy for getting you where you want to be. To God We Give Glory!

— Submitted by Kaye Russell, Church Secretary

### Rev. Horne Receives Minority Fellowship Award



The Reverend Robert A. Horne, a doctoral student at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., has been named a 2013 Minority Fellow by the National Board for Certified Counselors. He is among the nation's first recipients of this honor, which brings a \$20,000 award. Only 24 doctoral students nationwide received 2013 Minority

Fellowships from the national board, which received its first MFP grant award in August 2012 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant is awarded to reduce health disparities and improve health care outcomes for traditionally underserved population.

Rev. Horne's commitment to Christ, the Church, and the community's underserved populations are demonstrated in his work. He is active in local and foreign mission work, most notably in South Africa where he and his wife Stacey, will return in October to conduct research.

Rev. Horne, a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist, is a former pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Church in Fuquay-Varina.

# How to ruin a sermon (or not)

## Wire Reports

Good preaching comes in a myriad of forms in a multitude of settings. Don't let anyone fool you: there is no one way to preach a sermon, as the diversity of styles that have developed over the last 2,000 years attest. There are, however, common traits that mark excellent preaching regardless of style or setting.

Ask nearly any group of congregation members who regularly listen to sermons what they appreciate most about good preaching. Go ahead, if you dare. Most ministers are afraid to ask, for fear that what we deliver on a weekly basis is missing the mark.

You might find something at the top of the list that is neither threatening nor insurmountable. Heading the list in most of these types of surveys is not doctrinal purity, accurate biblical exegesis or intellectual insight.

While all of these are important components of excellent preaching, what most often tops the chart is something more human. It is the ability to inspire.

To inspire is, literally, to breathe life into something. Good preaching breathes life into individuals, groups and congregations. Good preaching motivates and encourages us to act. Good preaching empowers us, under the leadership of the Spirit, to aspire to become more of the person God intends us to be.

It may be shouted, or whispered. It may be lengthy or brief. It may be delivered in an academic gown or by someone wearing tennis shoes. The preacher may have multiple degrees or still be in high school. The variables are endless.

Good preaching is no easy task in our culture. Congregational life is demanding and time-consuming, leaving little time for adequate preparation. Clergy get weary in their well-doing and relegate preaching to left-over time and energy.

What can a church do to encourage their ministers toward excellence in the pulpit?

One exercise that might help is a technique called TRIZ, a hard-to-pronounce Russian acronym for inventive problem solving.

A TRIZ conversation begins with this question: "What can we do to reliably get the very worst results imaginable?" Participants then brainstorm imaginative and effective ways of producing something horrible.

Using this method, imagine gathering a group of church members together and asking: "What are some

things we can do that would virtually assure that we would have terrible preaching on a weekly basis?"

I would imagine a top-10 list might include items such as:

- Complain. Regularly. About anything and everything.
- Do little to no planning for a cohesive service.
- Never allow your minister to read, pray or spend time studying Scripture.
- Insist that your minister attend to every minor administrative or pastoral detail during the week.
- Come to worship unprepared, weary and distracted.
- Critique your pastor's sermons harshly, as you leave.
- Unfavorably compare your pastor constantly to your favorite preacher.
- Require sermons that are at least 10 minutes longer than their content merits.
- Have regular HVAC issues, problems with the sound system and a variety of other technical problems.
- Make sure all cell phones are on and actively used during the sermon.

Now, with your list in mind, try asking: "What can we do to promote more positive results?" Again, I can imagine something like:

- Create an expectation that your pastor devote substantial time to sermon preparation, even if it means they cannot attend to all aspects of administration.
- Work hard to create coherence in the worship theme and coordinate all elements of the service.
- Invite your congregation to expectantly approach worship as a divine encounter, in prayerful humility and awe. Come expecting to be inspired and changed.
- Pray for and affirm your minister.
- Allow and pay for your pastor's time away for continuing education and conferencing that energizes.
- Prepare the space and facility so that worship is enhanced by its surroundings, never forgetting that the agenda is the worship of God, not décor or technology.
- You get the idea. Inspiration doesn't just happen. It is the powerful mix of a dynamic God, a willing earthen vessel, and a congregation that hungers for the Word of Life. When those come together, it makes for an inspiring day of worship.

Bill Wilson is president of the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C. His "Vital Signs" column appears regularly at ABPnews.com.

## • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • •

### NC has fourth highest African American unemployment rate

North Carolina may have seen improvement in the state's overall unemployment rate over the past few months, but minority workers are continuing to lag behind, according to a new brief from the Economic Policy Institute.

Specifically, the Tarheel State has the fourth highest African American unemployment rate in the nation and has suffered disproportionately from job losses and budget cuts during and after the Great Recession. Despite seeing the state's overall unemployment rate drop below 9 percent for the first time since 2009, North Carolina's job gains are not being evenly distributed across segments of the workforce — and minorities are being disproportionately left behind. In Ongoing Joblessness in North Carolina: Unemployment rate for African Americans fourth in nation, more than double the state's white rate, EPI researchers Douglas Hall and Mary Gable make the following disturbing findings:

African American unemployment rate in North Carolina was 17.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, more than two-and-a-half times that of the white unem-

ployment rate of 6.7 percent.

Though the state's Hispanic unemployment rate of 7.4 percent is not nearly as high as the African American unemployment rate, it is still higher than the white unemployment rate.

Federal and state budget cuts have exacerbated the effects of the recession and disproportionately affected African American and Hispanic workers in the state. Because African Americans have historically been overrepresented in public-sector employment, state and local public-sector job losses have hit them the hardest.

The long-term decline in manufacturing in North Carolina, which has the second highest rate of manufacturing job loss since 1995 among all states, has dealt a serious blow to workers — white, black and Hispanic — statewide.

"As the state's overall unemployment rate continues to slowly improve, we need to make sure that all our workers experience the benefits of job creation and economic growth," said Allan Freyer, Public Policy Analyst with the Budget & Tax Center, a project of the North Carolina Justice Center. "African American unemployment is unacceptably high, and state budget cuts have only made the problem worse."

## Health Awareness Month Focus: Men's Health Matters

### Wear Blue Day this month!

Most men have a love/hate relationship when it comes to health. We also have an, "if it is not broke, don't break it" approach to the way we go about maintaining our health and engaging in consistent contact with health professionals.

Outside of last resort doctor visits, it is often rare to see willing male participants in medical environments without the prodding of family and friends. There are many factors that contribute to this realistic reluctance but whatever the individual resistance, we have to do better.

Recently, I have rededicated myself to working out more and making better health decisions across the board. When you look in the mirror and realize that you aren't getting any younger, you tend to get the urge to do better. My "light bulb moment" came to me right after the birth of my first child. I knew that I want to be around to enjoy all the special moments of life and share them with my family for as long as possible, so changing my lifestyle was a must.

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), shows that women are more likely to visit their physician than men. According to the American Journal of Public Health, the waiting time involved in going to visit a doctor for a routine check-up is the main reason why men don't eventually end up at the doctor. Some only go when they are extremely ill, while others perceive themselves to be healthy enough or tend to use natural and holistic measures of treating themselves.

While these obstacles are often common among men, we have to find ways to break down these barriers in order to usher men to better health resources and practices.

Throughout June (Men's Health Month) and espe-

cially the week leading up to Father's Day (Men's Health Week), men are encouraged to take ownership of their health and help others do the same. The purpose of Men's Health Month/Week is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. This month gives health care providers, public policy makers, the media, and individuals an opportunity to encourage men and boys to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury. According to the Men's Health Network (MHN), men die at higher rates than women from the top 10 causes of death - heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, accidents, pneumonia and influenza, diabetes, suicide, kidney disease, and chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. Men are dying at high rates from preventable health issues that can be managed or treated if found in early stages.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is very important for men and this can be achieved by eating properly, drinking more water, increasing physical activity, managing stress, and curbing harmful behaviors, such as smoking and excessive alcohol/sweetened beverage consumption. Raising awareness to others around you is also another way to ensure that men's health remains a priority not only in June but throughout our everyday lives. Look as June as the start date for the rest of your life as you prepare to build a healthier you.

#### Ways To Engage

There are many ways for men and other to participate in the celebration and awareness of men's health. CDC and other health organization have suggestions that include (but are not limited to):

Wear Blue Day, visit [www.wearblueformen.org](http://www.wearblueformen.org) for

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

event planning ideas

Volunteer/Participate in educational events, health fairs, presentations, and health screening activities

Encourage men to commit to seeing a doctor at least once a year regularly and anytime health issues come up

Increase physical activity

Become familiar with your family health history

Make better dietary decisions

Connect to a health-related cause

For more information about Men's Health Month and Men's Health Week, please visit [www.menshealth-month.org](http://www.menshealth-month.org) and [www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org). Also check with local health agencies, organizations and other community groups to participate in Men's Health activities in your area. For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

### Spring Branch Missionary Baptist Church

#### Musician/Minister of Music

Spring Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. is looking for a musician/minister of music.

- Salary negotiable but will be based on level of education or experience
- Must have great organizational and administrative skills
- Must be willing to work with the Pastor to enhance worship
- Must have at least 3 years of experience or a willingness to attend necessary training
- Must have a working knowledge of music ranging from the contemporary to the traditional hymns and ability to train voices and teach songs

All interested persons may: 1) Apply in person at 21300 Old Wire Road in Wagram, North Carolina, Tuesday - Thursday between 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 2)

Email resume to: [sbbc@springbranchmbc.org](mailto:sbbc@springbranchmbc.org) or 3)

Fax resume to 910-369-2042 Attention: Personnel Committee

### Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Attention Pastor Search Committee  
P.O. Box 281  
Havelock, NC 28532

The Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. Be Married. Single Pastors will be considered.
2. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
3. Strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
6. Credentialed from accredited college and/ or Seminary school. With Bachelor to Masters in Divinity preferred.
7. Strong skills in community ministries.
8. Teaching ministry; ie Bible study, Sunday school
9. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourage active participation.

# The Golden Rule Always Applies

**N**ot only do I believe that we should treat each other the way we want to be treated, but that we should help each other to the best of our abilities. I may not have the financial resources of others, but philanthropy takes on many forms. For example, I can share a piece of information or do a small deed that could ultimately change someone's life in some form or fashion—for the better.

In late April, a Congressman to whose Face book page I subscribe posted a very simple note. He said, "Praying for Nation Hahn." Further research informed me that Nation's wife, Jamie, had been stabbed by the couple's friend—yes, friend—who was the best man at their wedding and who had grown up with Nation.

I met Jamie and Nation during a strategy meeting about two years ago. They were a power couple who used those powers for good. They worked for politicians whose platform and commitment was helping others. Nation quoted Mister (Fred) Rogers during Jamie's service: When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." Nation told us that he would need a lot of help as he settled into life without his wife, who was always helping someone.

Nation and Jamie's story is all familiar in these days and time. Evildoings, treacherous storms and weather

events at the hands of Mother Nature, and a culture of "anything goes" grieve me as well as countless others I'm sure. Jamie's death illuminated her life. But the violence and senselessness of it all shook me—again. I talked to my pastor about Jamie's death. I shared with him that I wasn't questioning God, but I did wonder why such things happened to people with good intentions and compassion for their fellow man.

There are so many opportunities to help others who cross our paths or about whose toils we know. If nothing more than putting someone in touch with a person or organization that can meet a need, we can help. If nothing more than a phone call to check on another, we can help. By sharing our gifts and talents with each other, we help. And the Bible—from Matthew to Corinthians and in between—tells us what to do.

I am in prayer constantly for I have learned that anger and bitterness is destructive. God's voice in the still of the night not only gives me peace, but answers. The Bible tells us how to respond to Nation's plea for help through his grief (Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ") and how to give what you have. A search of the Bible for scripture that addresses helping others turned up nearly 90 references. Here are a few:

Hebrews 13:16—"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing

to God."

Philippians 2:4—"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." And in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Matthew 5:16—"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

One of my favorites is Ephesians 2:10, which reads, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

If we are all created in God's image, we have no choice, do we? Our free will is not meant to be abused. Here's to being the helpers that others are seeking.

Contact Crystal Kimpson Roberts at [knowyour-carenc@gmail.com](mailto:knowyour-carenc@gmail.com).



**Crystal Kimpson ROBERTS**



## North Carolina Mutual and Our Baptist Churches

*Building strong churches and communities together.*



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**North Carolina Mutual**

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

800.647.2114

[www.ncmutuallife.com](http://www.ncmutuallife.com)

## Lott Carey

The news of the recent tornados in Oklahoma continues to amaze us. The devastation of the storms and the tragedy of loss pulls at our hearts. The response of volunteers has been overwhelming, and one governmental and community leader recently stated that “what we need now is prayer.”

Lott Carey is communicating and coordinating with our Disaster Response Partners to ensure that our resources are targeted to the places and people who will need it most. Our experience internationally and domestically teaches us that resources will be abundant for some, but there are always people who live in marginal settings without access to the people and processes to bring them relief and to help them recover. This is where Lott Carey consistently targets our support – at the margins where people are most vulnerable.

You can make an impact in the lives of people at the margins who will be struggling to recover from the storms. Our disaster response mantra is: “Helping people rise again.” That is what we will do for our siblings in Oklahoma.

You can make an online contribution at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org) or with a check designated for “Oklahoma disaster response.” You will help keep someone from falling off the edge.

### IN OTHER NEWS:

The 59th Annual Lott Carey Youth Seminar convenes on the campus of Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia June 22-27, 2013.

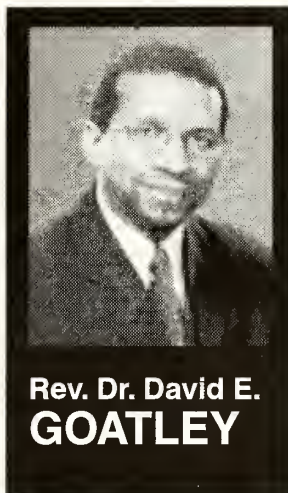
The Youth Seminar is a week of serving, learning, worship, and fellowship through which our International Youth Development Ministry helps churches nurture new generations of leaders for the world. This year’s theme is “Sharing the Life of Christ” (Matthew 25:31-46). The missional and educational thrusts throughout the week will focus on poverty.

Seminar attendees will have in-depth immersion experiences and opportunities to share in the life of Christ by feeding the hungry, giving drink to those who thirst, visiting the sick, providing shelter to the homeless and advocating for those who are imprisoned in the confines of human-trafficking and insufficient education. Participants will be equipped with practical tools and knowledge that they can implement in their own communities and through which to support Lott Carey partnerships and projects around the world.

Attendees will also experience inspirational worship designed to stimulate spiritual growth and connectivity with Christ. Those that desire to minister in the worship services through music, drama, mime, step and/or dance are encouraged to participate and bring the requisite items to the seminar. Fun fellowship opportunities have been planned for each day in order to offer an upbeat holistic experience and help attendees to connect with each other.

The cost is \$350 per participant. For additional information, visit [www.lottcarey.org/youth-development](http://www.lottcarey.org/youth-development).

*Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott Carey can be reached at [degoatley@aol.com](mailto:degoatley@aol.com).*



Rev. Dr. David E.  
**GOATLEY**

## Fathers: Noble, gracious, kind

Fathers are like great big, wonderful giants and heroes to their families. Kids believe that dads can slay dragons and make all the bad things go away. This is the case where fathers love God and love their families. They spend time in prayer and work on their spiritual lives. My Dad, the late Rudolph V. Kirk, I (1912-1983), was the first African American Deputy Sheriff in the State of Louisiana since Reconstruction.

He was an amazing individual who, by his carriage and faith, signified such profound love and respect for God and others that people could not help but show him respect. Once I overheard a group of teen boys, who had been acting out, say, “man, cut it out, here comes Mr. Kirk.” The longer God blesses me to live, the greater appreciation I have for the role of my father, and of all fathers in the lives of families.

Healthy, balanced fathers are noble, gracious, kind. Fathers not only sire children, they participate in their nurture and care. They are best friends with their spouses, and are willing to work to support the family. Good fathers recognize the need to create a safe home environment and to have God as head of the household; that prayer, spiritual reading and sharing are important for wholeness and wellbeing. Fathers show up for their children’s academic and extracurricular events. Fathers who love and like themselves recognize that

there is more to life than work, and that it is important to be an empathetic listener. Society has socialized men to be fixers. Sometimes spouses and children do not need to be fixed, they need dads to listen and affirm them where they are.

Not everyone has been fortunate to have a loving father/dad. Some who become dads were wounded as children, thus they react and cause harm of out their own pain. As people of faith, it is critical that we teach and model healthy relationships and ways of communication and conflict resolution. We need to provide the room for men to know that it is a good thing to be in touch with their feelings, and that it is never appropriate to beat up on their family members to exercise control. We celebrate fathers as they honor this blessed divine gift of fatherhood as ministry.

*Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women’s Studies at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, NC.*



Rev. Cheryl  
**KIRK-DUGGAN**

### Pastoral Vacancy Announcement

New Christian Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

2283 S NC Highway 11

Rose Hill, North Carolina 28458

Accepting resumés March 4, 2013-June 3, 2013

The New Christian Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking God’s choice for the position of pastor.

#### Qualifications:

- Must have pastoral experience.
- Must be a Licensed, Ordained Minister in accordance with Baptist Doctrine and Procedures.

Candidates must submit the following items:

- Letter of intent (Cover Letter)
- Current Resumé [family background included] [summary of relevant ministry professional and educational experience]
- DVD or CD of a sermon, if possible.

All correspondence must be postmarked by June 3, 2013 and sent to the following address:

New Christian Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

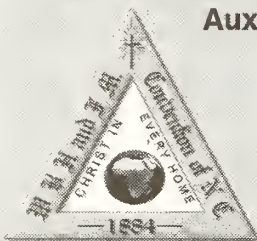
P.O. Box 970

Rose Hill, NC 28458

Final candidates must submit to a thorough background check.

**PRE-REGISTER TODAY!**

**WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NC**  
Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.



**ANNUAL SESSION**  
**JULY 28 - AUGUST 1, 2013**  
Raleigh Convention Center

Dr. Audrey P. Battle, President  
Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Complete Registration Forms can be found at: <http://www.wbh-fmc.org>

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

**NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION — FOR SENIOR / YOUNG ADULT - \$25.00 — FOR YOUTH - \$15.00**  
PLEASE SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR ALL NAMED PERSON WHO DESIRE TO PRE-REGISTER. DUPLICATE THIS FORM IF NEED. RETURN FORM WITH FUNDS TO: WOMAN'S BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION (WBSC), PO BOX 1818, RALEIGH NC 27602. DEADLINE TO BE RECEIVED IN OFFICE: BY JULY 10, 2012

**NOTE: CONTACT PERSON IS REPOSIBLE FOR ALL TICKETS.**  
(EACH ATTENDEE MUST HAVE A TICKET TO ENTER AN EVENT REQUIRING A TICKET)

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

(Church circle, Auxiliary, Union or District Conference)

Pre-Registrant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ SENIOR \_\_\_\_\_ Y. ADULT \_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH

1. Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Sunday, July 22 6:00 pm Free Concert • Monday, July 23 8:00 am Registration • 6:00 pm Banquet**

**ADVANCE HOUSING RESERVATION**

**MARRIOTT CITY CENTER HOTEL**  
You may visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) to make reservation online. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate.

(DOUBLE/KING): \$134.00 PLUS TAX  
500 Fayetteville Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
(800) 228-9290 / (919) 833-1120

**SHERATON RALEIGH HOTEL**

You may visit [www.Sheraton.com](http://www.Sheraton.com) to make reservation on line. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate.

(DOUBLE/KING) \$134.00 PLUS TAX  
421 S. Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Sheraton (800) 325-3535

Reservations are being accepted now for rooms. Please contact your choice hotel for accommodations at one of the 800 numbers above. Rooms are reserved under the name Woman's Baptist State Convention, Annual Session.

\* Please remember to get your confirmation number once reservations are made and take with you when you check-in at the hotel of your choice.

**FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

103 Church Street

Thomasville, North Carolina 27360

First Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
2. Strong knowledge of *Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure*.
3. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Credentialed from accredited college and/or Seminary school.
6. Strong skills in community ministries.
7. Teaching ministry; i.e. Bible study, Sunday school
8. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourages active participation.

A DVD or CD of a recent sermon would be appreciated.

Please send resumes to:

The Pastoral Search Committee  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
103 Church Street  
Thomasville, N.C. 27360

**Cornerstone  
Missionary Baptist Church**

Greenville, NC

**Senior Pastor Position**

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, NC is seeking a Senior Pastor with transformational leadership skills and excellent preaching and teaching abilities. The Senior Pastor should possess evidence of strong administrative, organizational and community leadership gifts. Applicants should demonstrate personal and theological maturity with a commitment to Baptist doctrine and principles. Candidates should possess a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary and a minimum of five (preferably ten) years of pastoral experience. Salary and benefits are commensurate with education and experience.

All interested persons should submit resumes  
by Aug 1, 2013 to:

Kiplan Clemmons, CMBC Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 8623  
Greenville, NC 27834  
or Email: [CMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com](mailto:CMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com)

# SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School **April 7-10, 2014.**

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School's accreditation may send an email to

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu)<mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>

or may contact ATS directly at:

**The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada**

The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110

Telephone: 412-788-6505 | Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more<<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>> about Shaw University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

## Annual Laymen's Men & Boys' Retreat is July 12 13, 2013 in Raeford, NC

(continued from page 1)

Purpose: To provide Men and Boys the opportunity to participate in worship, Bible study, counseling, and recreation in a Christian environment.

Planned Activities: Bible study, Bible drills, worship services, talent show, basketball, (swimming, Bowling, or skating), fellowship, meals and snacks, and board and other games.

What To Bring: Bible, pencil and paper, sleeping bags or blankets and pillows, personal hygiene. Please do not bring electronics or other valuables.

**Schedule:**

Arrival:

Friday – July 12, 2013 – 10:00AM

Departure:

Saturday – July 13, 2013 – 1:00PM

Registration Fee: \$30 per person.

**Registration Policy**

Complete registration forms with required fees must be either mailed to Baptist Headquarters on or before June 10th, 2013 or brought to the retreat site.

Make Checks or Money Orders Payable to: GBSC  
On Memo Line of check or money order: Laymen League

Mailing Address: General Baptist State Convention of NC  
603 S. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Ph: 9198217466

### LAYMEN'S MEN & BOYS' RETREAT - REGISTRATION FORM

Please detach the Registration Form and mail with check or money order payable to:  
General Baptist State Convention, 603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601.

**DEADLINE: JUNE 10, 2013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any health problems? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, list \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
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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,  
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Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
and State Missions since 1967.

06/09/14 5 2 P 11 # 169  
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Volume 136, No. 6

# BAPTIST INFORMER

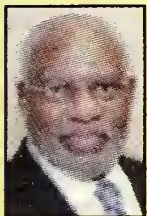
July 2013

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

## National Baptists Session Slated for Queen City; GBSC-NC to be showcased during Annual Event



President Dr. Parker



Dr. Jones, Sr.

The 133rd Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. will convene September 2-6, 2013 in Charlotte, N.C.

Friendship Baptist Church on Beatties Ford Road, where former GBSC-NC President, Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. (1993-1997) serves as Pastor, will be the Host Church for this major business meeting of the boards, auxiliaries and member churches of the Convention. The meeting is expected to attract 20,000.

Volunteers are still needed for registration, golf outing and fellowship, exhibitor booths, community service project, pre-convention musical and more. For more information, please call 704-391-6636 or visit [www.2013nbccarolinas.com](http://www.2013nbccarolinas.com)



Photos by Roger Battle, Jr.

## Laymen's League Study Commission: Winning Souls for Christ

Dozens of Laymen from across the Tar Heel State gathered at Providence Missionary Baptist Church in June for the Commission, which highlighted workshops and trainings. Speakers included Dr. Ricky Banks, GBSC Second Vice President (at podium), and Laymen's President Richmond Turner, who discussed "Biblical Manhood and Discipleship." The National Baptist Laymen's movement theme is "Biblical Watchman in Solidarity with the Savior: Watching and Warning Through The Word." Other highlights included a homily given by the Rev. Dr. Robert Sessoms, Pastor of Roanoke Salem MBC of Garysburg, N.C., who preached on the topic, "A Strange Request," taken from the Book of Acts. See More on Page 6

## Richmond's Painful Legacy: Slavery's blot still stains city, panel says

**150** years after the Civil War, racial reconciliation remains elusive in the former capital city of the Confederacy.

Like many American cities, Richmond, Va., has reduced the more visible signs of rancor among different races, but racial reconciliation remains elusive, said a panel of activists and observers of Virginia's capital.

The panelists shared their views at the close of the May 20-22 annual meeting of the Baptist History & Heritage Society, which focused on the theme, "Faith, Freedom, Forgiveness: Religion and the Civil War, Emancipation and Reconciliation in Our Time."

The former capital of the Confederacy was an appropriate venue to address themes which continue to plague the nation itself, said John Moeser, senior fellow at the University of Richmond's Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, who moderated the panelists.

"There may not be another city in the nation whose history is as deeply troubled," Moeser said.

In the 19th century, Richmond was one of the largest

slave-trading centers in the United States, generating tens of millions of dollars and creating fortunes for some white families.

"It was for the protection of this industry that caused the South to break away and to make Richmond the capital, leading to a war that killed more Americans than any other war," Moeser said. "But praise be to God, there is another chapter in Richmond's history, one of the triumph of the human spirit, of emancipation and freedom. This is the chapter we need to discuss more often and with great candor."

Some of that chapter may be difficult to discern, panelists agreed.

**Michael Paul Williams**

"If Richmond considers itself on a path of reconciliation, it is on a shortcut that it can't take to get there," said Michael Paul Williams, a columnist for the Richmond



Times-Dispatch. "There is less rancor visible now than the past. But lack of overt conflict and rancor doesn't indicate we have been successful at reconciliation, unless that reconciliation manifests itself as a just and equitable community without the gaping chasm of poverty and the imbalance in education."

Baptist minister Valerie Carter warned against complacency in the church. "The church is too fluffy in terms of race relations," said Carter, associate pastor for global ministries at Bon Air Baptist Church in Richmond.

"We think that if we have more people of color come in we've done a great job and been successful. That allows us not to deal with issues," Carter said. "Just to say we have black people in our church isn't a way to reconciliation."

(continued on page 4)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE :**

**P2**

**Jesus Swag: Youth at First Baptist Witness for Christ**

**P6**

**Highlights of the Minister's Wives Atlantic Beach Retreat**

**Join Us!**

**TODAY! See Page 12**  
**WBH&FM Annual Session Registration**

## An Interlude into Discipleship

As we attempt to link the “three strands” of the Great Commission, it is important that we have a good grasp on the terminology used so that we will hold all things in common as God’s people.

Our aim is becoming a Great Commission Christian. Becoming is defined as change or transition. The definition of becoming suggests a deliberate or an intentional process. This connects appropriately with the NCLL statement of purpose: To transform Christian men into mature devoted disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional discipleship training. In order to “become,” we must be disciplined.

Discipline: In the Holy Bible, discipline has a positive and essential place in the lives of God’s people. God has prescribed a way life for His people. They had to learn how to be obedient. The process by which God’s people learned obedience was the “discipline of the Lord.” (Deut. 11:12 NIV)



### The Strand of Discipleship

Discipleship involves making disciples, training leaders, developing accountable relationships, teaching people how to live effective Christian lives (Timothy 2:2).

Jesus called twelve men to be His disciples.

Through this call, He established a Master-Learner relationship. As they lived and worked with Him, Jesus disciplined them in His understanding of what God wanted.

The Great Commission places the responsibility for disciplining disciples in the hand of the church. The believers are to teach them “to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). “To observe” is much more than simple knowledge. Observation is to live in obedience to the commands of Jesus. Learning and doing what Jesus wants requires a process, a discipline. Becoming like Christ, is the result of the discipline of the Lord Jesus Christ exercised in and through His Church. Hence, churches

throughout their history have sought to teach their members the way of the Lord through “church discipline.”

The concept of discipline appears most prominently in the ethical teachings of Paul and the letter to the Hebrews.

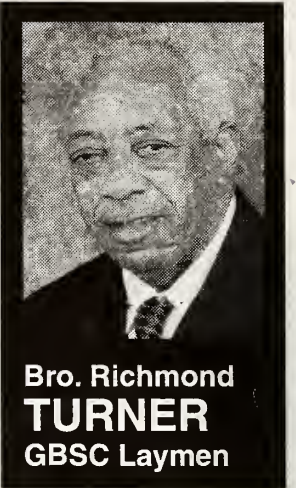
The writer of Hebrews pictures God treating the faithful as sons (Hebrews 12:7).

As a loving Father, God disciplines the believing Community. Such discipline is evidence of His love because the end result of such action is blessing (Heb. 12:10).

Discipline, biblically understood, results in blessing.

God’s people learn how to serve Him. Through praise and correction, their lives are shaped into a pattern of consistent obedience and love. Within “the discipline of the Lord,” expressed in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, one can live the kind of life which is pleasing to God and of benefit to others.

Reach Bro. Turner at: [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com).



Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## JESUS SWAG: Youth at First Baptist Witness for Christ

Last October, the Youth of First Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC hosted a Youth Day as a way to celebrate the renewing of their faith and to testify about how their attendance at the J.J. Johnson summer Bible Camp helped to strengthen their commitment to follow Christ.



The First Baptist Church Youth in Raleigh, N.C. made new friends and became closer to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during the 2012 Bible Camp at Camp Dixie in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

As in previous years, the talent show consisted of singing, dancing, the spoken word and other talents displayed by the camp’s attendees. Last year’s camp also Minister Emanuel Williams from Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Williamston, N.C. A rising junior from Washington High School in Washington, N.C., he delivered the Word and touched the hearts of the camp attendees.

As we reflected upon the camp experiences, the

Youth of First Baptist founded Jesus S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace). The goals of S.W.A.G. are to participate in community service, plan mission trips, spread the gospel to other youth and hold an Annual Youth Day celebration to help demonstrate their commitment to Christ.

The First Youth Day took place on October 14 with the entire service planned and implemented by the youth. The scripture focus was First Timothy 4:1 which states, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Minister Emanuel Williams, 16, Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Williamston, NC was a guest at the Youth Bible Camp

As Jesus S.W.A.G. President, I am excited to see where this ministry will go in the future. With

God’s help, we will bring many youth to Christ. So far, we have helped 5 youth accept Christ and be baptized with many more on the way.

Below is a copy of the Occasion of First Baptist Church Youth Day read by Briana McManus, President of Jesus S.W.A.G. and Lauren Howell, Vice-President.

Briana: God is good! All the time! And all the time, God is good. Good Morning church family and friends! It gives me great honor to stand before you on this beautiful Sunday morning to reflect on our occasion.

Lauren: As you know today we are celebrating Youth Day, a day when we call upon First Baptist Youth to participate in our worship service. But this

service is about so much more than that. Most of our youth group has known each other since cradle roll. We have grown up together, sang, ushered, and have participated in numerous programs through the years.

Briana: A few short years from now, many of us will have moved on to institutions of higher learning, the service, or even joined the work force. We might find ourselves close by, or thousands of miles from home. But regardless of where we are, we are the future of the church. Not just First Baptist Church, but Christ’s church. We are training to carry on his message and his Ministry.

Lauren: With this in mind, each of us has re-committed to building our youth program. Our New Youth Program Jesus S.W.A.G. stands for Jesus Saved with Amazing Grace. In alignment with the goal of our church, we are committed to Evangelizing and Edifying God’s ministry and his word to youth and adults alike.

Briana: Our Officers are Chadd Hockaday as Sergeant-at-arms; Jillian Overman as Treasurer; Meredith Howell as Secretary; Lauren Howell as Vice President; and me Briana McManus as President.

Lauren: As we move forward, we have plans to sponsor programs, fund raisers and other efforts to help us achieve our purpose. On some occasions we may reach out to you for support.

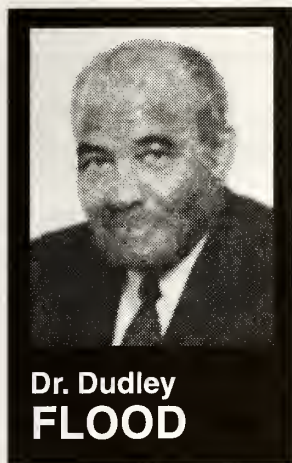
Briana: We trust that you support our efforts to build this ministry and that you will continue to pray that God will lead us towards this goal. Thank you and may God’s richest blessings continue to shine upon each of you.

Submitted by Briana McManus and Lauren Howell, First Baptist, where Dr. Dumas Harshaw is pastor.



# In Pursuit of Wisdom

During the rare periods in human history when people lived together in harmony with each other and with nature, they were led by wise leaders. In today's world, wisdom is a rare commodity, and where it exists, it seems to be frowned on. The road to wisdom is cluttered with our lack of appreciation for thinking and reasoning as a way to address human problems. We want action so badly and so quickly that reasoning is seen as procrastination and compromise is viewed as weakness.



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**

With the exception of Solomon, to whom God granted the gift of wisdom, we know of no other person who obtained instant wisdom. The progression toward wisdom begins with the acquisition of information. Information may be acquired through formal and informal education, through experience and through observation and conversation. When information becomes internalized to the point that it is applicable in solving life's problems in a way that can be repeated, then it can be classified as being knowledge. When

knowledge becomes seasoned so that it is readily available for use in dealing with adversity, it has become wisdom.

One of the greatest manifestations of wisdom is patience. Sometimes patience is seen as tolerance, but the two are not related. Patience is the ability to be quick without rushing; to think through things while listening; to encourage without condoning; and to advise without being demanding.

In ancient Asian culture, there was a philosophy known as the Cuckoo Theory. Its rationale was that there was some essence to the cry of the cuckoo. The three levels of perception of how to resolve issues were:

Level one: If the cuckoo does not cry, we will wait until it cries.

Level two: If the cuckoo does not cry, we will make it cry.

Level three: If the cuckoo does not cry, we will kill the cuckoo.

If one were to subscribe to level one of this theory, patience would be the prime ingredient in the process. It would not mean that we do nothing. It would mean that we give our efforts the needed time in which to show results. If we select level two, we would result to force and coercion as our prime stimulant. If we choose level three, we would willingly resort to violence and terror.

A favorite piece of art work is the statue titled



"Flight from Pompeii" which depicts a young man fleeing Pompeii when it was being consumed by the eruption of the volcano, Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. As he ran, he carried on his back his elderly father and by his side his young son. It is clear that he could have run faster had he thrown off both these burdens. Yet, he knew that on his back, he was carrying the wisdom of times gone by, and by his side was the future for which he was running. We must carry both as we run, for to do so is wisdom.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, is a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, and serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Reach him at: [floodspeaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bellsouth.net).*

# Protecting the church from violence

## WIRE REPORTS

*With intentional thought and preparation, pastors and congregations can still be the salt and light in the world.*

With multiple incidents occurring over the past year in churches of all kinds, what is the responsibility of local church leaders in order to protect their congregations from random acts of violence?

This question is not strictly an academic exercise. In October 2012, a single gunman killed a congregant during a prayer service being held at a megachurch in Atlanta. In December of 2012, a gunman killed a member of a small congregation in Frankstown, Pa. In April, a man went on a stabbing spree in an Albuquerque, N.M., church, injuring four people.

I was called to serve as pastor of a church in St. Louis in 2004 that had lost its former pastor to violence perpetrated by the hands of a member of the congregation. The congregant attacked the pastor while he was alone in the building, robbing him, stealing his car and leaving him in a coma. Ironically, I was serving as a police officer during that time and the church was located in my area of patrol.

I cannot say that these attacks are evidence of a

growing trend of violence being perpetrated at churches, but when incidents like these occur, they can serve as catalysts for pastors and members to begin thinking about, and planning for, their safety while at their facilities.

Practical steps can be enacted by churches of all means and sizes in order to prepare them to avoid becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.

First, pastors and congregations should be realistic about the fact that violence can occur, whether the church is located in an urban or suburban area. Violent offenders prey on kindness. If you have any type of ministry that serves the public, you are likely serving some people who have ulterior motives for coming.

With this reality, be on the lookout for people who may not fit.

That is not to say that every outsider that comes to your church is a suspect. The skin color, social status or financial standing of a person does not make them questionable.

But how they act while they are present in your office or facility can be a sign of their intentions. If a person is acting like something is wrong, specific attention needs to be paid.

Second, pastors and congregations should begin to prepare for potential situations of violence. Talk publicly, from the pulpit, church websites and in church bulletins, about your

intentions to prepare the church. Proactively develop a plan of response.

The following examples can be used as a foundation:

- Communicate with staff members when visitors are present in your facilities, sharing their anticipated locations and timeframe expected for their visit.
- Office doors should be left open, preferably at all times.
- Install and regularly use an intercom system to let people into the building.
- Develop a firearm policy for your church that takes into account state and local laws. Post the policy to the church website, bulletins and in the church office. Include information that states where the law was located and basic points outlining rights and restrictions.

Third, engage law-enforcement professionals that have a presence in your local community. Public affairs officers from local police departments regularly conduct safety meetings and training free of charge when asked by community groups. Inform your local law-enforcement agency when the church intends on having a special event that may draw a large crowd, and ask them to increase patrols in the area.

The unfortunate reality is that we face potential situations that Christ and his disciples probably never imagined. But, with intentional thought and preparation, pastors and congregations can protect themselves while still being the salt and light in the world.

*Terrell Carter serves as interim pastor at Webster Groves Baptist Church in St. Louis. He previously served as a police officer for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for five years.*



# Living Faithfully

Part Two

The prophet Habakkuk said “the righteous will live by their faith” (Habakkuk 2:4, NLT). He saw a vision of judgment upon Judah and punishment upon Judah’s enemies. Yet, the end of his short Old Testament biblical prophecy ends with a triumphant prayer of faith and trust in God.

“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail and the field yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.” (3:17:18).

Surely our nation is in a bitter season of political fighting and turmoil. Good jobs are still needed in our land yet harsh rhetoric abounds. Tempers are flaring and racism raises its ugly head as right-wing extremists come out of the closet to undermine the U.S. government and its first black president. While state and national governing bodies ignore the poor and jobless people around us, more and more middle-class citizens sink into poverty.

Yet, for Habakkuk (and for us), there is something eternal in the righteousness of God’s faithful people that evil men and women cannot destroy. Indeed, Christians work-

ing for justice and righteousness will survive these hardships because an “eternal element” lives within them.

The church is the custodian of this eternal element known as faith. The church is the repository of Christ’s victory over death, hell, and the grave. The church’s vision of victory is one that the world did not give to it and the world cannot take away. As Christians, we may get crushed by the weights of the world, but we are never destroyed, said the Apostle Paul.

We will never be saved eternally by our local, state, or national governments and leaders. Yet, God is still transforming the lives of people everywhere by the power of the Spirit of Christ at work in his worldwide church. This Spirit of faith is the eternal element burning within us that will create spiritual revival and renewal in our land.

“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation” (3:18). Despite hardships and trouble, Habakkuk affirmed his hope by rejoicing in the Lord. So let us affirm our hope in the power of God to save us amidst our nation’s political struggles. Prayer quickens our faith and helps us take our eyes off of what seems impossible just long enough for us to see the hope of God. “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Heb. 11:1, NIV).

Job once said, “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him” (Job 13:15). The apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day” (2 Cor. 4:16).

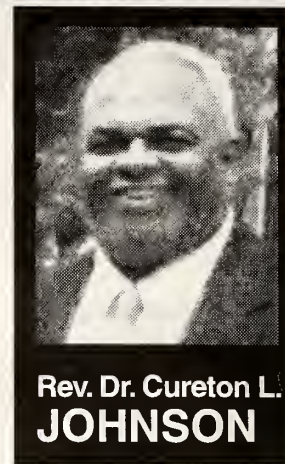
The holy yet in Scripture is a word of expectation.

Though the fig tree may not blossom, YET Jesus is the first fruit of our salvation. Although the olive tree shall fail, YET Jesus Christ is our oil of anointing. Even though the fields shall yield no grain, YET Jesus is the final offering for our sins. Though the flock shall be cut off from the fold and no herds appear in the stalls, YET Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd who redeems us and returns us into the safe keeping of the Almighty.

Habakkuk tells us to trust the Lord. We have not yet reached our full potential. God will restore our nation if the church grows in influence and offers justice, love, mercy, hope, and faith to all people. We will become a better America as Christians fully submit to the mighty hand of God and more faithfully connect other people to Jesus Christ.

The Creator wonderfully crafted and filled us with unique potential. We are God’s masterpieces, “created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (Eph. 2:10). So, let us not grow weary in well-doing, for we shall reap good things if we do not faint. For the righteous shall truly live by their faith!

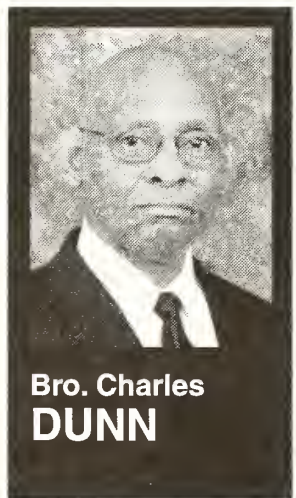
Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: [cjohnson035@nc.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson035@nc.rr.com).



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON

## Faith

# The 10 Commandments for Doorkeepers



Bro. Charles DUNN

Moses and the children of Israel left Egypt for the Promised Land. They were on their way to a land that the Master described as one that “flowed with milk, honey, prosperity, potential and promise.” On the way to their blessing, they stopped at Mt. Sinai. It was here that God instructed Moses to go up this mountain to receive further instruction and direction.

Once there, God gave Moses “Ten Commandments.” These were not 10 suggestions, 10 recommendations or 10 ideas. They were the rules for the people of God to live by and set themselves apart from the rest of the world.

As Ushers, we also have “rules” to go by. These are the “Ten Commandments for Ushers.”

- (1) Thou shalt be on time. An on time “GOD” deserves on time ushers.
- (2) Thou shalt pay attention during the entire service.
- (3) Thou shalt pray for people and not against people.
- (4) Thou shalt be in the proper uniform.
- (5) Thou shalt wear comfortable, not cute, shoes.
- (6) Thou shalt be professionally tactful, knowing how to talk to people who are church and

unchurched.

(7) Thou shalt be prepared mentally for everything and everyone.

(8) Thou shalt be able to smile, even when one doesn’t feel like smiling.

(9) Thou shalt be faithful because faith without works is dead.

(10) Thou shalt not run out of bulletins.

As you serve God with joy, try to keep these rules posted on your heart. They will guide and keep you through the service. As you serve God with joy, understand the importance and necessity of humor, honesty, holiness and humility. God blessings upon your ministry of hospitality, grace and hope.

Submitted by Rodney McComick, Assistant Dean of Ushers.

## Richmond’s Legacy ...

(continued from page 1)  
Hank Chambers

Neighborhoods that remain segregated are another barrier to reconciliation, said Hank Chambers Jr., a professor at the University of Richmond’s T.C. Williams School of Law.

“To the extent that we try to work close to where we live and attend church close to where we live, our lives are centered around where we live,” Chambers said.

“Unless you take care of housing segregation, it will be hard to truly get everyone together. There’s not enough intentionality for people to leave where they are comfortable. Often it’s the schools.”

“We have to think hard about where we live,” he said. “Are we getting there? Maybe.”

Valerie Carter

Carter suggested a vocabulary change when discussing issues of race and justice.

“I don’t really like the word reconciliation, because it implies we were once together and are now coming together again,” she said.

Rob Corcoran

Rob Corcoran, director of Hope in the Cities, a Richmond organization which advocates for healthy communities, acknowledged that “reconciliation” is a tricky word.

“It’s a journey,” Corcoran said. “We need to see the connection between personal and social transformation. You can’t get to long-term structural change without change in the hearts of people. But you need change in structures to get change in hearts of people.”

Jim Somerville

In a closing summary, Richmond pastor Jim Somerville offered observations “toward a theology of forgiveness.”

“Reconciliation means to become friendly again,” said Somerville, pastor of First Baptist Church in Richmond. “Maybe we weren’t friendly in the first place. Maybe we need to become friendly for the first time. How do you do that?”

He suggested four ways:

- Regard the potential friendship as enriching, not as a mission project.
- Take the first step.
- Let go of things like fear, anger, bitterness and resentment.
- Talk less and listen more.

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Application

**W**hat is the most important element or component of the sermon? Is it the interpretive (exegesis) question? Is it the exposition question? Is it the theological content question? Is it the illustration question? Or is it the structure/form question? The most important component of the sermon is the application question.

While it is true that the other areas of the sermon are crucial in crafting a sermon and should never be cast aside as unimportant, without application the sermon fails. It fails because a sermon without application will have little effect on the life of the listeners. It is similar to a farmer, during planting season, who prepares the fields for planting. To this end, he carefully plows the field, and with great skill makes long straight rows with the right amount of fertilizer underneath. But he fails to put seeds in the well-cultivated soil. A sermon without application is like a well-cultivated field without seeds. And, if there are no seeds there can never be a fruitful and productive life or harvest. In this sense one writer says, "preaching begins with the application phases of the sermon."

Today, such imagery is visible across the landscape

of some of our pulpits. We have the barns to store our crops and the vehicles to transport the harvest. Just as important, the farm equipment is "top shelf," and the land rich and fertile. Ditches have been neatly cut through low areas to carry or channel the water out of the field in case of a storm. All of the signs and trimmings of a farm life is in place. But there is no crop and no harvest. Our preaching must never be reduced to "all cultivated fields" and "no planting." A sermon without application is like having cultivated fields but no planting of seeds.



What is application? Application is the "so what question." It answers the question, "what does what is said in the text and sermon have to do with my life?"

Application is the actual work critically linking divine truth contained in the text and sermon with the contemporary situation and need of the listening congregation. In doing so, the text is in dialogue or conversation with the pew. Thus, it meets the pew in residential or neighborhood context for the purpose of practical instructions and even more important "practical demands it makes upon them." Application acts as a GPS intended to find the actual location of the listener. Why is this important? It is important because the instructions applica-

tion offers and demands it makes are not of the preacher but of God. Application allows God to speak to the peculiar needs of those whom God called according to his sovereign will and purpose.

Therefore, we cannot be general but particular in our application of the gospel to the current situation of the pew. To achieve relevance and particularity in our application we need to determine listeners' location. Not only listeners' location, but we should locate the sermon on the "premises" of where listeners live. Even better, we should get on the "front porch of their house." Better still, our ultimate goal should be to take the gospel and "get in the house" where they live. In the next article I will discuss the crucial step to achieve a balance in the application phase that includes attention to the listener's location and expounding upon the biblical text.

*Dr. Fullwood, is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: [RHBC@bellsouth.net](mailto:RHBC@bellsouth.net).*



## Buncombe Baptist Church

### Pastor Vacancy

The Buncombe Baptist Church, Lexington, North Carolina is seeking a Senior Pastor. We are a well-established, traditional faith based Missionary Baptist church; rich in legacy and family/community values. We have a membership of approximately 125 members. The chief responsibility of the Senior Pastor is leading the church to accomplish the mission of loving God, loving others and making disciples. Preferably a minimum of a master's degree in divinity from an accredited seminary and preferably with a minimum 5 years work experience; will consider less.

Must be licensed to preach, ordained as a minister of the gospel, and must be willing to follow the ordinances and doctrines of the Missionary Baptist church. Character qualities should include being: humble, self-controlled, joyful, action and goal oriented, caring, approachable, trustworthy, faithful, of ethical/strong moral character, willing to grow, devoted to his marriage/family and willing to persevere in God's work. The pastor must be capable of proclaiming God's Word, teaching, leading, equipping leaders, role modeling the church's mission, devoted to prayer, assuring care and mobilizing resources.

Send inquiries to Pastoral Search Committee, P. O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293 by August 15,

## Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a servant for the music ministry. Please review the job overview below.

**Musician-Organist/Keyboard** -Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Wadesboro, NC.

### Job Description:

To develop and lead the worship music ministry for Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, in consultation with the senior pastor, director of music and other team members, in a way that is consistent with our mission, values, and theology.

### Qualifications:

- Authentic relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Ability to direct and train other musicians.
- Musical skills and competence.
- Strong love for God and desire that lost souls be won to Christ Jesus

### Musical Competencies:

- Ability in wide range of styles including Christian classics (hymns) but with a focus on contemporary music.
- Ability to lead worship and to train others as individual and team worship leaders.

### Salary

### Consummate with experience

For more information please contact the Church Office @704-694-4720.

# Minister's Wives Retreat



Photos by Dr. Linda Bryan

**SISTERS-IN-CHRIST** — A successful Minister's Wives Retreat, held under the leadership of Mrs. Annie Hewett and Mrs. LaVern Parker, took place in May 2013 in Atlantic Beach, N.C. The annual event featured various workshops and speakers, including President Dr. Audrey Battle (pictured in blue), Dr. Linda Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Mattie Breeden and Mrs. Jane Newel-Byrd, who delivered inspirational keynote addresses.



## SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School April 7-10, 2014.

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School's accreditation may send an email to

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu) <mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>

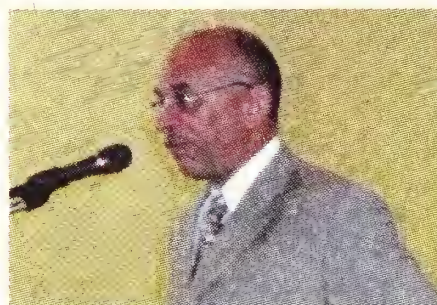
or may contact ATS directly at:

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada  
The Commission on Accrediting  
10 Summit Park Drive  
Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110  
Telephone: 412-788-6505 | Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more <<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>> about Shaw University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

## Laymen League Study Commission

(continued from page 1)



Speakers for the Laymen event included (top - bottom, left - right) Moderator Rev. Dr. James Harris of Roanoke MBA; Rev. Dr. Robert E. Sessoms, Pastor of Roanoke Salem MBC; Rev. Dr. John Shannon, pastor of the host church Providence MBC; and Rev. Anthonette Wright.



## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

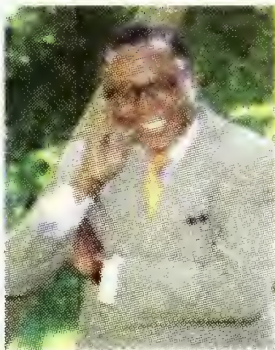


The Reverend Curtis O. Donald, Sr. will celebrate his 10th Anniversary on Sunday, July 7, at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Beaufort, North Carolina. The program begins at 4 p.m.

With heartfelt sympathy from GBSC-NC.

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

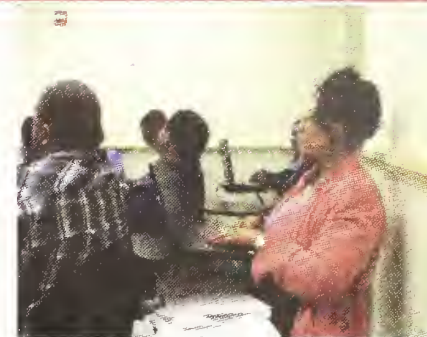
The Reverend Stacey L. Frazier, Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., was funeralized on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at the church, 1317 Cherry Street.



Mr. Aquilla Jones, the father of Mrs. Angela Jones Williams, Executive Director, Central Children's Home, in Oxford, N.C., was funeralized on June 16, 2013 at Saint Matthew Baptist Church in Oxford.

Mr. Levi P. Moss was funeralized on May 4, 2013 at Greater Solid Rock Baptist Church in Riverdale, Georgia. He was the uncle of former General Baptist State Convention President Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr.

## Shaw University Divinity School



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Nwrightgbsc@aol.com

# Let's Be Real: How well do you know your family's health history?

**H**ave you ever been asked a question that you really did not know the answer to? For me, it is usually when I go to the doctor and I am asked, "Do you have any known allergies?" or "Do you have a family history of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert random health issue)." Most times, I truly do not know the answers to these very important questions but I should. Knowing your family health history is just as important as knowing your credit score, but the only difference is that the credit score is easier to obtain, in most cases, especially within minority communities.



## What Is Family Health History

Family health history, as defined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is a written record of a family's health. The history contains information about a family's medical conditions, lifestyle habits and where and how family members grew up. Family health history can be used to see if you, your children, or your grandchildren might face an increased risk of developing serious health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), family members share genes, behaviors, lifestyles, and environments that together may influence their health and their risk of chronic disease. Most people have a family health history of some chronic diseases (e.g., cancer, coronary heart disease, and diabetes) and health conditions (e.g., high blood pressure and hypercholesterolemia). People who have a close family

member with a chronic disease may have a higher risk of developing that disease than those without such a family member.

## What Should We Do

For years in minority communities, it has been somewhat taboo to speak about family issues, including health-related concerns. The reasoning for such practices is limitless but some of the more common cultural explanations involve the perceptions of strength and weakness, both individually and collectively. Historically, society has adopted the "survival of the fittest" ideology but that definition has also been skewed to the point where we think that ignoring health issues will help us survive long enough to reach our goals. By putting our own health on the back burner and not discussing the history of one's family health, we unintentionally set up ourselves and future generations to suffer unnecessarily.

## What Should We Collect

To get a better understanding of your family health history, you have to ask family members and track the information that you gather. Organizations like Genetic Alliance specialize in transforming health through genetics and promoting an environment of openness centered on the health of individuals, families, and communities. They also suggest that you collect certain important measurable such as:

- Name/Relationship/Gender
- Date of Birth and Death/Place of Birth and Death
- Race/Ethnicity/Family Origin (also include family stories)
- Health History (include all health conditions and lifestyle habits and behaviors)

## How Should We Do It

There are several ways to get a hold of the information involving your family's health. A great deal of the infor-

**BAPTIST  
INFORMER**

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



**Cornell P.  
WRIGHT**

mation can now be found online (birth certificates/web-sites) and in family documents (family trees, photos, baby books, etc). Other ideas to get you started include:

- Starting the conversation (find a way to communicate to family the importance of understanding its total health history).
- Collecting the information (Take advantage of family functions/events to help gather information, using a toolkit or survey).
- Keeping updates (periodically update information).

Hosea 4:6 KJV states "My people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge..." and the same can be true to those of us that do not know our family health history. This summer, take the steps to charge better charge of your health but getting a better understanding of your family's health history.

*For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.*

## Piney Wood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

### Musician

Piney Wood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church located on US Hwy 13 approximately 6 miles south of Ahoskie, NC is seeking a musician.

- Must be willing to work with the Pastor to enhance worship
- Must have great organizational and administrative skills
- Must have at least 3 years of experience or willingness to attend the necessary training
- Must have a working knowledge of music ranging from traditional hymns to the contemporary songs and ability to train voices and teach songs
- Must be able to play the main keyboards of the church

Salary is negotiable and will be based on level of experience and education.

All interested persons should send a resume to:  
Piney Wood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
PO Box 235 Powellsville, NC 27967  
Attention: Kathleen W. Wright

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KELFORD

- Seeking God-Sent Pastor for our congregation.
- Should be biblically grounded, spirit filled, and mission minded. Formal theological education is required.
- May be ordained or not ordained.
- Must be able to build up church spirituality & have a good rapport working with all age groups.
- Must live within a 100 mile radius of Kelford, North Carolina.

Interested parties please email a copy of your letter of interest, resume, transcripts, and 3 reference letters to:

[firstbaptistchurchofkelford@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistchurchofkelford@gmail.com) & send hard copies to:

First Baptist Church of Kelford, POB 145, Kelford, NC 27847.  
Background checks will be conducted.

# Worshipping God is about loving God

**D**anish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, once stated that if people understood how radical it is to claim to be Christian, they would utter those words with “fear and trembling.” Most times we have no idea of how radical Jesus, the Palestinian Jew was, and how amazingly radical Jesus the Christ is. Jesus was an ancient Osama bin Laden, an enemy of the state. While we theologize that Jesus died for our sins, historically, Jesus was humiliating executed because he threatened the Roman state. Given who Jesus was/is, who are we to be as Christians?

When we only focus on inside the church (worship, tithing, and Christian education), we live a nasty lie: we think we are saved

and already have residence behind “the pearly gates.” Yet, scripture indicates Jesus did most of his preaching/teaching in fields, outside where people were. Jesus said the most important law or the key to eternal

life is to love God with heart, mind, body, soul, and love our neighbor as ourselves. To worship God is about loving God. We come together and do corporate worship; that is important. Daily worship means we love God through helping others help themselves.

Daily worship means we all must do evangelism and outreach: this work is not the sole responsibility for missions and outreach ministries. Training and activities for missions and outreach needs to span all age groups, from nursery to seasoned saints. This work needs

to be integral to the entire church ministry. Clergy staff and Board of Christian Education (with representatives from all ministries), need to come together, pray and fast about what it means to embody the Great Commission (Matthew 28), in each church. In the process, we might all come to experience true love of God, others and ourselves, know profound salvation, and no longer need to live “a nasty lie.”

*Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women’s Studies at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, NC. Reach her at: [cduggan@SHAWU.EDU](mailto:cduggan@SHAWU.EDU).*



**Rev. Cheryl KIRK-DUGGAN**



## Fun in the Summertime: Consider a Back-to-Bible Study Bash

**W**ith the summer season upon us, many churches have suspended weekly Bible study activities. This gives families time to travel and enjoy local, state, national or international attractions. However, it can also be a time to motivate faithful attendees, new church members, and community people seeking knowledge of God’s Word for their day-to-day life living for Him.



**Dr. Brenda K. WILLIAMSON**  
Guest Columnist

If your church is looking for ideas, consider sponsoring a “Back-to-Bible-Study Bash.” The event might be spearheaded by a Christian Education ministry in conjunction with those who facilitate Bible study classes. During the planning process keep in mind that the purpose is to “study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 –

KJV). As one continues to study the Word, one will gain knowledge of the Scriptures and ways to apply the Word to day-to-day life. If considering having the event, here are some suggestions:

Set date for the Back-to-Bible-Study Bash.

All facilitators’ should review, select curricula with needed materials and plan 5 minutes or less overview to be presented and set up a give-a-way table on content to be taught.

Two-weeks prior to the event advertise the event.

The culinary ministry may provide light refreshments.

Review formats and responsibilities the week prior to the “bash.”

A planning team should meet no later than one week after event to evaluate implementation for the next year.

Should challenges arise during your Bible program, look toward the Scriptures for answers, knowing that God is with you through it all. Yearning to hear God’s voice – read His word. In need of direc-

tion – read His word. Longing to be loved – read His word. God’s Word will reveal truths, direct your path, comfort and fulfill you.

*Dr. Brenda K. Williamson, an education consultant, holds a doctorate of philosophy in early childhood education from Walden University. She’s a member of Blue-stone Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, N.C., serving as an advisor for Christian Education Ministry. Reach her at: [bwilliamson2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bwilliamson2001@yahoo.com).*

### Mitchener Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

911 Blount Street  
Smithfield, North Carolina 27577  
919-989-6426

Mitchener Memorial Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor who is a spirit-filled man of God who is a licensed, ordained minister. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. A minimum of 3 years experience as Pastor or Associate Pastor.
2. Strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine and procedure.
3. Credentialed from accredited college and/or Seminary school.
4. Spiritual maturity with a caring attitude and the ability to deal with a diverse congregation of all age groups.
5. Strong skills in community ministries and administrative skills to increase total church growth.
6. Teaching ministry: Bible study, Sunday school, etc.

Please send resumes to:

Mitchener Memorial Missionary Baptist Church  
PO Box 2710  
Smithfield, NC 27577

The Pastoral Search Committee  
911 Blount St.  
Smithfield, NC 27577



# Fatherhood: A Legacy of Love and Commitment

Part Two

The issue of black men who walk away from their children is really an issue of abandonment and disintegration of the black family. These topics should be on the minds of every family today because it reflects a generation that is trying to explain the prevailing pathologies that continue to plague our community.

Studies show that until the 1950s, black children were more likely to live with two parents than were white children. Prior to 1964, 78 percent of black children lived with both parents. Today that number is an appalling 38 percent, according to Census Bureau statistics.



Last year 72 percent of all black children were born out of wedlock, compared to 22 percent in 1960. This is important when the poverty levels among blacks are analyzed. Today, nearly 35 percent of black children live in poverty. But when this figure is measured against children living with married parents, the rate is only 11 percent. With such numbers, it is not difficult to see the challenges that face our children.

It is no secret that many teenage mothers still do not complete high school. The children of teenage parents are twice as likely to be abused, usually from members of their own household, and often end up in foster care.

Adding to these problems is not just the disintegration of the black family. Rapid individualism, high crime and poverty rates, mass incarceration and the high rates of recidivism among black youth are all linked to a lack of male influence.

Some might argue that black male abandonment is not the real issue. They point out that black male abandonment is a myth, an exaggeration, a fabrication and a misrepresentation of black men. A recent study conducted by Professor Rebekah Levine Coley questions the issue of black male abandonment.

Her research asserts that "black fathers who aren't in the home are much more likely to sustain regular contact with their children than absentee white fathers, or fathers of any other ethnic group." She also points out that black men are no worse than any other men when it comes to supporting their children.

While that statement might validate one's position regarding sustainable relationships, and show that men of other races are just as likely to abandon their children, it doesn't go far enough in disproving the truth about black male abandonment. There are far too many accounts, I might add, of those who are willing to tell their side of the story about growing up without a father in the home or in their life period.

I agree that some men are determined to raise their children and to be there for them, regardless of their circumstances. However, the fact remains that, not enough of them do. When a father fails to take care of his children, all of society suffers. Marriage and family stability ensure that our children will have a loving home and a well-defined future. We must hold ourselves, and our brethren, accountable in taking care of our children. We must also be willing to lend a hand to a brother who needs help raising his children. We must.

Reach Dr. Johnson at: [drecj56@aol.com](mailto:drecj56@aol.com).



Rev. Dr. Earl C.  
**JOHNSON**

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# Being available to run for someone else's win

Like most parents these days I have spent my share of time at dance competitions and sporting events such as swimming, track and volleyball – sometimes all on the same day – and I only have one child. After years of sitting in the stands, you start to appreciate the willingness of the young athletes to make sacrifices for their teammates or to step up whenever they're needed. Especially when there's a championship on the line, worn out kids beg for an opportunity to give more of themselves for the good of the team.

At a track meet in Greensboro one recent weekend, I watched as one of my daughter's teammates, Brittney, sat resting off a quarter pound hamburger and french-fries. Brittney had completed her races for the day. That was when an assistant coach motioned for her to come down out of the stands. It turned out no one was scheduled to run against the women's 4 x 400 relay team, but the team needed a chance at a faster time to be able to advance in the standings, and that was less likely if the athletes ran without competition. The coach decided to grab four girls from earlier races to run against the relay team as motivation. Without even thinking about that heavy meal weighing down her stomach, Brittney bounced out onto the practice field and began warming up. And when the time came she

bolted as hard as she could to push her fellow team members to approach top speed. Afterwards, when asked how that hamburger felt going around the track, she just smiled and said, "I felt every bit of it."

The truth was that Brittney knew it wasn't about her at all, because she had nothing to gain from the race. She was sacrificing her own comfort for her teammates, and she did it with heart.

The scene reminded me of the Rev. Milton Brunson's popular single, "Available to You."

The chorus:

Lord, I'm available to you.  
My will I give to You.  
I'll do what You say do. Use me Lord  
To show someone the way,  
and enable me to say  
My storage is empty, and I am available to You.



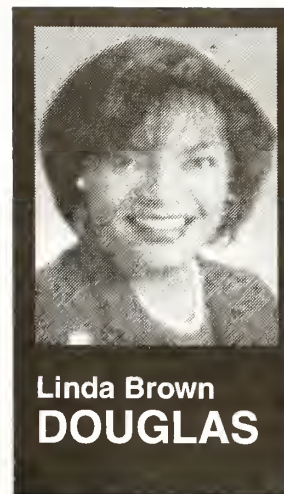
The song highlights the tools God has given us in the form of our hands, ears, voice and eyes, and it expresses a willingness to set aside the things that crowd our lives so that we can be available to help someone else. It expresses a heartfelt desire to be used by God.

How many times have we asked to be put in the game, but when God called us to come in from the sidelines, we said the time wasn't right? Maybe we only wanted to participate when we had something to gain, and running an extra race so that someone else could win didn't make sense to us. Maybe we failed to understand that the right kind of motivation from us could make the difference between another person's success and failure.

Just as the athletes make themselves available to the team when it seems their gas is all burned out, we can find the energy to do more to help others in this life race. Paul says we should "not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." [Galatians 6:9, KJV]

What we can learn from the young athletes is that sometimes we have to run hard for a win that is not for ourselves, but for somebody else.

*Linda Brown Douglas, is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

## Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Attention Pastor Search Committee  
P.O. Box 281  
Havelock, NC 28532

The Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. Be Married. Single Pastors will be considered.
2. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
3. Strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
6. Credentialed from accredited college and/ or Seminary school. With Bachelor to Masters in Divinity preferred.
7. Strong skills in community ministries.
8. Teaching ministry; ie Bible study, Sunday school
9. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourage active participation.

## Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

Greenville, NC

### Senior Pastor Position

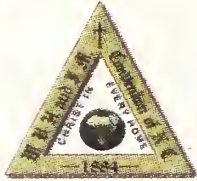
Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, NC is seeking a Senior Pastor with transformational leadership skills and excellent preaching and teaching abilities. The Senior Pastor should possess evidence of strong administrative, organizational and community leadership gifts. Applicants should demonstrate personal and theological maturity with a commitment to Baptist doctrine and principles. Candidates should possess a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary and a minimum of five (preferably ten) years of pastoral experience. Salary and benefits are commensurate with education and experience.

All interested persons should submit resumes by Aug 1, 2013 to:

Kiplan Clemmons, CMBC Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 8623  
Greenville, NC 27834  
or Email: [CMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com](mailto:CMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com)

**PRE-REGISTER TODAY!**

**WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NC**  
 Auxiliary to General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.



**ANNUAL SESSION • JULY 28 - AUGUST 1, 2013**  
 Raleigh Convention Center

Dr. Audrey P. Battle, President • Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Complete Registration Forms can be found at: <http://www.wbh-fmc.org>

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

**NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION — FOR SENIOR / YOUNG ADULT - \$25.00 — FOR YOUTH - \$15.00**  
 PLEASE SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR ALL NAMED PERSON WHO DESIRE TO PRE-REGISTER. DUPLICATE THIS FORM IF NEED. RETURN FORM WITH FUNDS TO: WOMAN'S BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION (WBSC), PO BOX 1818, RALEIGH NC 27602. DEADLINE TO BE RECEIVED IN OFFICE: BY JULY 10, 2012

**NOTE: CONTACT PERSON IS REPOSIBLE FOR ALL TICKETS.**  
 (EACH ATTENDEE MUST HAVE A TICKET TO ENTER AN EVENT REQUIRING A TICKET)

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

(Church circle, Auxiliary, Union or District Conference)

Pre-Registrant(s)

\_\_\_\_ SENIOR \_\_\_\_\_ Y. ADULT \_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH

I. Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Sunday, July 22 6:00 pm Free Concert • Monday, July 23 8:00 am Registration • 6:00 pm Banquet**

**ADVANCE HOUSING RESERVATION.**

**MARRIOTT CITY CENTER HOTEL**

You may visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) to make reservation online. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate.

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 500 Fayetteville Street  
 Raleigh, NC 27601  
 (800) 228-9290 / (919) 833-1120

**SHERATON RALEIGH HOTEL**

You may visit [www.Sheraton.com](http://www.Sheraton.com) to make reservation on line. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate.

(DOUBLE/KING) \$134.00 PLUS TAX  
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 Raleigh, NC 27601  
 Sheraton (800) 325-3535

Reservations are being accepted now for rooms. Please contact your choice hotel for accommodations at one of the 800 numbers above. Rooms are reserved under the name Woman's Baptist State Convention, Annual Session.

\* Please remember to get your confirmation number once reservations are made and take with you when you check-in at the hotel of your choice.

# BAPTIST INFORMER



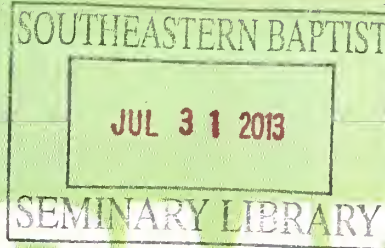
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# BAPTIST INFORMER

August 2013

Volume 136, No. 7

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

## From the Desk of the Vice President-at-Large

*"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" (Romans 1:7, NIV). As we press on with the awesome God-ordained assignment for Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching, I continually pause to thank God for all of you, "because your faith is being reported all over the world." (Romans 1:8b)*



Dr. Avery

Our storied convention does indeed stand on the threshold of abundant blessings through the power of God and divine provisions through God's people. Our mountaintop view of promised-land possessions must not result in a stagnant spirituality. God has promised empowerment for those who are faithful. General Baptists, we can experience and express the power that is ours in Jesus the Christ.

Power is a word that is used often in our world. We are familiar with "power plays," "power dunks," and  
*(continued on page 3)*



The 2013 James F. Wertz Oratorical Conference, hosted by Pastor Dr. Terry Henry and Macedonia Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC., attracted more than 800 people to the three-day annual event for youth from across the State of North Carolina. In this photo, nine Senior Division contestants are Aniya Bradsher, Jamal Dogdell, Julian Cuthberston, André Elliott, Jr., Evan Haynes, Caymon Kerr, Valerie Odugba, Arthur Ratliff and Haniqua Smith. (See more on page 8.)

## 2013 Oratorical Conference sets record attendance

By Ruth Johnson, Oratorical Director

The 2013 James F. Wertz Oratorical Conference hosted by Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington, N.C. attracted about 800 people from across the Tar Heel State to the three-day event.

Highlights included Dr. Earl Sheridan, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Wilmington, and a professor of political science at UNC-Wilmington, and Commissioner Jonathan Barfield for New Hanover County who welcomed attendees and thanked them for bringing a youth conference of this magnitude to the Southeastern part of the state.

Shannell Barren, the National Contestant from Winston-Salem, N.C., gave the essay that she used to represent the

state of North Carolina during the National Oratorical Contest in St. Louis on June 19, 2013.

Host Pastor Dr. Henry was the 2013 Conference Preacher and his text was "Can Any Thing Good Come Out Of Nazareth?" He was introduced by Dr. Jasper Reed, a former General Baptist State Convention President, who served from 1998-2002.

Conference class instructors included Mrs. Edna Byrd, Mrs. C. Trumilla McDowell, Dr. Roosevelt Baxter and Dr. Jamale Johnson. Other highlights included motivational period presented by Congress Secretary the Reverend Antonio Scott, followed by the 2013 GBSC Oratorical Youth Conference Choir Concert under the direction of Congress Music  
*(continued on page 8)*

## Middle Class America: Life and health under the Affordable Care Law



### PRESS REPORTS

President Obama recently delivered remarks to discuss how the Affordable Care Act is putting money back into the pockets of over 8.5 million Americans. The President was joined by families who have benefited from a provision in the health care law that ensures insurance companies spend the majority of premium dollars on medical care and health care quality improvement, rather than on administrative costs. A broad coalition of community groups who will be working on the ground across the country to help enroll Americans in the new

Health Insurance Marketplaces this fall also attended.

One of the many parts of the health care law already benefitting middle class and working Americans is this provision that requires that insurance companies spend at least 80 percent of premium dollars on medical care and health care quality improvement, rather than on administrative costs and overhead. If they don't, the insurance companies must provide a refund to their customers.

Recent reports show us that this policy is working – it's holding insurance companies accountable and putting money back into the pockets of millions of middle class  
*(continued on page 11)*

|                          |           |  |           |   |            |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|---|------------|--|
| <b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</b> | <b>P3</b> | Share Your Story: This Cancer Journey with Faith | <b>P8</b> | Highlights of the Oratorical Conference in Wilmington | <b>P16</b> | 133rd Annual Session National Baptist Convention Sept. 2-6 |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|---|------------|--|

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## From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

(continued from page 1)

"power formations" in athletics. We eat "power bars" for energy while on the go. We install power locks, power brakes, power windows, power engines, etc. in our automobiles. We use "power points" in professional presentations. Our churches apply the word power to add punch to our ecclesiastical gatherings.

How does the word power apply to our spiritual lives? In the New Testament, there are two forms of the word power:

Dunamis: the ability, the force, the energy to do or act. It literally means powered by power, transforming power. The focus of this word is the transformation (change) that comes in order to glow, grow, and go when this power is present! (see Acts 1:8)

Kratos: the power that is able to overcome resistance (see Hebrews 2:14). This also refers to overcoming the power of death. This word indicates that God's glorious might is needed for growth as a result of the many challenges that confront our spiritual advancement.

In others words, our power from and through Jesus the Christ must become tangible and visible in our lives in order for us to glow, grow, and go in the will, witness, and work of Almighty God!

God provides us with Power to Know (Ephesians 1:17-20; 3:18-19), Power to Walk (Colossians 1:11), and Power to Serve (2 Thessalonians 1:11). We are called to be fruit-bearers of God through Jesus the Christ. True fruit-bearers possess inward divine power, which transforms lives and overcomes obstacles to ministry.

Our opportunity to be witnesses of God's transforming power is available through our convention's objectives, specifically Missions. Missions is who we are, Missions is what we do! Without Missions, our ability to be agents of transfor-

mation is limited. Without your generous contributions and loyal support, there is no Missions!

Your constant prayers and financial support are tangible proof that God's power transforms lives and overcomes obstacles. My beloved General Baptist family, we are in position to impact our world like

never before. Accept the challenge today.

I am asking all Pastors, Laity, Churches, Moderators, Associations, and those who love God to prayerfully and generously build up our capacity to do missions by fulfilling the following Power Points:

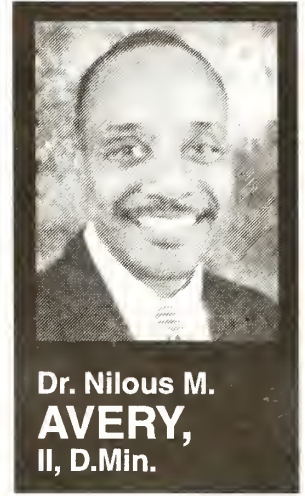
(1) Begin, Continue and Increase your monthly financial support;

(2) Subscribe, renew subscriptions, and enlist others to subscribe to the Baptist Informer

(3) Pledge to ceaselessly pray for and stand with our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, our President, Dr. Howard Parker, and all auxiliaries of our convention.

Send your prayers up and your financial support in for the kingdom work of Missions today! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.

Reach Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min. at [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.



## Share Your Story

**"Renew a right, persevering, and steadfast spirit within me"**

— Psalm 51:10 AMP

Do you have a poem, story or other artistic expression about a "faith journey" with illness or other type of adversity?

Share it with the Baptist Informer.

Submissions (300 words max) are due by the 10th of each month.

Send it to [informeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informeditor@yahoo.com)

## This Cancer Journey With Faith

by Juanita Singleton

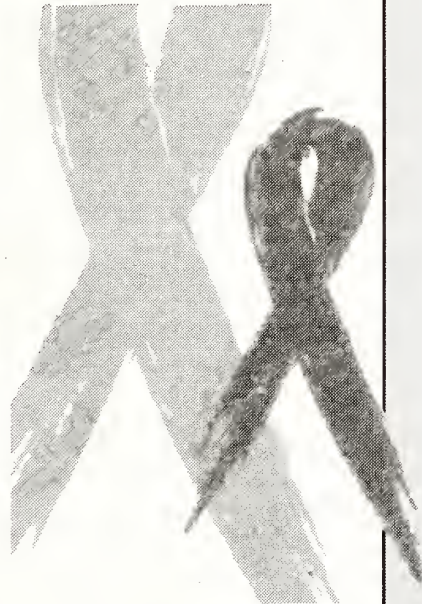
The doctor that gave me my first cancer diagnosis asked me the question: "Why turn it over to God if you are going to worry about it?"

The Scripture that came to mind was 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind." We don't realize how powerful our mind is in trying situations such as this. Your mind can will you to live and it can will you to die. Which would you prefer is the question to ask when this question is posed to you?

To encourage other people travelling on the "cancer journey," I often share some of what got me through two cancer diagnoses: Do not worry about any situation that you cannot control and pray about it and turn it over to God.

God will give you a peace that passes all understanding. When you embrace this journey you will have such a serene peace about you that others will wonder how you are managing to keep your head up and a smile on your face. Surround yourself with family and friends who will keep you laughing and find humor in this journey. Share your journey with others. You never know how what you are going through will impact someone else. Let your light so shine so that others may see God in you.

Mrs. Juanita Taylor Singleton, a cancer survivor, is the mother of two and a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

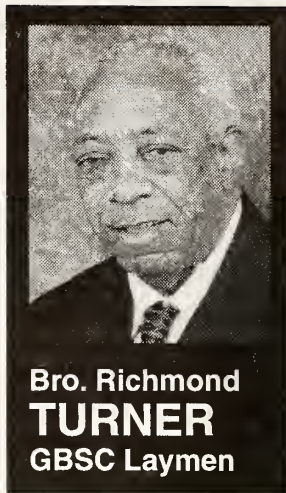


## Lord Why Me

By Juanita Singleton

Lord, sometimes I just don't understand why you chose me to travel on this Cancer journey  
See my life's a bit too busy to be sick and tied down  
Because running this race will surely have me bound  
"I chose you, my child, because I knew you would prevail  
And you're life's testimony you would never fail to tell  
My Grace and Mercy is sufficient to see you through  
Look in the sand, my child, you see one set of footprints instead of two  
I carried you before, I carried you then and I will carry you after  
This journey comes to an end  
So run on my child. I died on Calvary  
Not for you to suffer, but for your victory  
This is why I chose you so you'll help others you see  
Because this journey is going to help you bring others closer to me"





Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

# Discipleship: Spiritual Multiplication

A Gallop poll recently showed that 84 percent of Americans believed Jesus is God or the Son of God. Sixty-six percent said that they have “made a commitment to Christ.” When asked if they are evangelical or have had a “born again” experience, the number decreased to 38 percent. Why the discrepancy? Here are four reasons:

1. Many Christians don’t understand our duty to become disciples. We seem to think that we can pray a prayer, receive Jesus as Savior, gain a ticket to heaven, and then live our lives as we please. God inspired men to write the Bible as the most relevant blueprint

for right living and He did so for a reason. “All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the men of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). He wants Christians to be properly equipped to live good lives.

2. Many Christians do not understand our duty to make disciples. Just as we are saved by grace (Eph. 2:



8-9), we should live by grace (Colossian 2: 6). This means trusting completely in Christ and His Power and not trying to live for Christ in our strength alone. He will give you the strength to do His work. If the church were to consistently follow this advice, it would expand geometrically as well-taught believers would teach and commission others.

3. Most Christians don’t maximize their labor through spiritual multiplication. “Spiritual multiplication” is God’s method for reaching the world. “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will

also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2). Sometimes we will only make sheep, but we should always strive to make shepherds.

The difference between spiritual addition and spiritual multiplication is the difference between reaching your neighborhood and reaching the whole world. If you disciple one person each year for 40 years you would have 40 disciples. On the other hand, if you

disciple only one person who made a commitment to disciple one other person teaching him to similarly disciple another, you would have 1,048,576 disciples in twenty years—all from your first disciple.

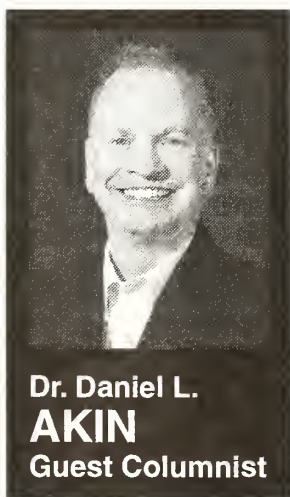
The sad reality, of course, is that not only do most Christians not understand spiritual multiplication or spiritual addition. How many Christians have forty disciples at the end of their adult lives? How many have even four? We are to make disciples of our families, our associates, our friends, our neighbors, our Church, our community, and the whole world. Not only do we pour truth into them, but we challenge them to reproduce their lives into others

4. Most Christians don’t understand that to make disciples we must become diligent students of the Bible. We cannot reproduce what we do not understand. Our lives must become a live model of what we believe. As a wise person once, “we teach what we believe; we reproduce what we are.”

Reach Bro. Turner at [ITURN60@aol.com](mailto:ITURN60@aol.com).

## A Ride Down Prostitution Row: Why Nations Cry For The Good News of Jesus

Several years ago my wife Charlotte and I were in Southeast Asia spending a week with brothers and sisters in Christ who are faithfully serving King Jesus. While we did our best to encourage them in their divine assignments, Charlotte and I were the ones who were most encouraged. We heard story after story of how the gospel is tearing down the strongholds of the evil one and setting free those who had been captive to sin and false idols. Even in the midst of personal tragedies and sorrows, they praised our King for His grace, mercy, and faithfulness.



Dr. Daniel L.  
**AKIN**  
Guest Columnist

Later we had almost the opposite experience. As Charlotte and I were taking the group to a restaurant, our driver suddenly turned down a street where, on both sides of the road, for at least a half of a mile, hundreds of prostitutes lined the sidewalks. Some could not have been more than eleven or twelve years old. While they were dressed in seductive schoolgirl uniforms, the faces of these little girls bore nothing but sadness, emptiness and hopelessness. Some forced smiles, but they lacked any sense of genuineness.

Later I learned that most of these girls and young women had been basically kidnapped. Sex slave

traders prey on unsuspecting parents, especially in rural areas, promising a better life for their children in the “big cities.” Do these parents have any idea what has happened to their precious daughters?

I also heard a story of some believers who walked down this prostitution row giving out more than 15,000 pieces of Christian materials. Women would chase after them, not to pull them into a “massage parlor,” but to receive materials telling them about Jesus. The smiles of the women stood in stark contrast to the angry glares of the men who were there to take advantage of them. Satan, it seems, took a serious hit on that particular night!

The lostness and darkness of a world without Christ came home to me in a new and unexpected way the night I was taken down prostitution row. The need for the church to get radically serious about the gospel and the Great Commission never seemed more urgent. The nations are crying out for hope, and we have it. The nations are crying out for deliverance, and we have it. The nations are crying out for life, and we have it. The nations are crying out for salvation, and we have it. Will we go and give all of this to them?

*Dr. Akin serves as the President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. and is a Professor of Preaching and Theology. Reach him at [dakin@sebts.edu](mailto:dakin@sebts.edu).*



## • • • LAYMEN CALENDAR • • •

North Carolina State  
Laymen’s League  
of the  
General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

### 2013 Calendar of Events

**Spiritual Men in Solidarity  
with the Savior by  
“Preaching...Reaching...Teaching”**

August 12 -16, 2013 – Annual Session,  
Washington, DC

“National Baptist Convention”  
September 2 - 6, 2013 – National Baptist  
Laymen’s League, Charlotte, NC

September 14, 2013 – Study Commission –  
Savannah MBC Fayetteville, NC, Piedmont  
Region

October 4 -6, 2013, Walter Cade Jr., Regional  
Workshop, South Carolina

December 14, 2013 – Study Commission –  
Greater New Hope MBC, Oxford, NC,  
Central Region

# Rock of Ages: God's Wondrous Creation Restores Our Weary Souls

**A** cock crows loudly at 5 AM sharp on July 3 in the dry coolness of Castle Valley, Utah. Softly back-lighted buttes and mesas give way to the first light of sunrise casting a spectacular array of colors upon the stone monoliths surrounding the town.

Then, just before our very eyes, a delightful pair of hummingbirds play tag at a sugar-water feeding tube dangling from the edge of our hosts' front porch. A breathtaking kaleidoscope of red, pink, orange, and tangerine—sprinkled with shades of green—dazzle the valley's steep stone walls. The La Sal Mountains

adorn this natural sanctuary. Millions of stars emerge on clear black nights, far outshining any Sistine Chapel artwork done by human hands.

Surely, many people—including me and my wife—are blessed by this valley's ministry of silence and solitude. The Psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (19:1, NKJV). And here we find that the created order of God reveals His purpose and power. According to Psalm 19:1, all creation is silently singing the glory of its Creator. To say that the universe happened by chance is ridiculous. The design, intricacy, and orderliness of this world point to a personally involved Creator.

As you look at God's handiwork in nature and the heavens, take time to thank the Lord for the beauty He has created. When you look at the mountains, the seas, and the clouds gathering in the sky; when you look at the flowers and the trees around you, the animals and the bees, be reminded of our Maker and Savior!

The Apostle Paul supports the Psalmist when he tells us in Romans 1:20 that "since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...." Paul says that everyone knows about God because nature proclaims God's existence and power.

So, just take time this summer to be blessed by the handiwork of God. It's a great time to take a vacation and be renewed. So, take time to visit a nearby lake, a park, a stream, or forest...look around and behold the glory of God. In Utah we have seen a black swan which is rare! Also, I had never smelled the stink of a

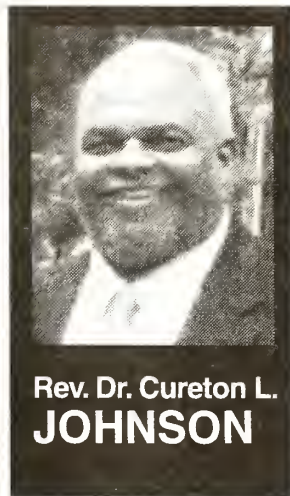
skunk. But one night the two dogs in the backyard of our hosts' house came back smelling awful after chasing a skunk. What a world God had made! That let me know that "OFF!" was made in nature by God long before any man-made spray called "OFF!"

When you take time to observe and praise God through His creation, the experience calms your heart and soul. In the beauty of creation, listen to God speak to you from his earthly handiwork. All of this is done without speech or words, said the Psalmist. No one hears their chorus audibly—the stars and the moon—yet their message of praise goes forth throughout the world.

My wife and I surely praise God that a young-at-heart, environment-sensitive, retired couple—our longtime friends Bill and Susan—invited us to visit southern Utah during our fortieth wedding anniversary this summer.

From the delicate sandstone rings of Arches National Park to the deeply carved Canyon lands around Moab, Utah; from Negro Bill's Canyon Trailhead to the fourth of July sunset dinner along the winding Colorado River, our week of basking in nature's beauty surely allowed us to keep silence long enough for the Creator to restore our weary souls.

*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: [cjohnson035@nc.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson035@nc.rr.com).*



**Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON**



(Spanish for salt) peak skyward in the southeast, offering a spiritual reminder: "Look to the hills" and sense the very presence of God!

This town of 300 residents should be called Rock of Ages Cathedral because it is indeed an outdoor worship center. The rapid bush, salt bush, cottonwood and juniper trees, pinyon pine, wildflowers, cheat grass, sagebrush, and tumbleweed tapestries

## The ABCs of Testing: Beware of Unannounced Competition

**T**he question has been raised by the North Carolina General Assembly as to whether too much school time is spent on testing the students. Long before that group took notice, I have contended that the manner in which tests are sometimes used may not be in the best interest of students.

My first concern is that student test scores are often used to compare one student to another. Sometimes they are used to compare one teacher to another. Such a practice encourages competition among students and between teachers. All the research of which I am aware leads to the conclusion that students do better when they work in concert with other students. The research also

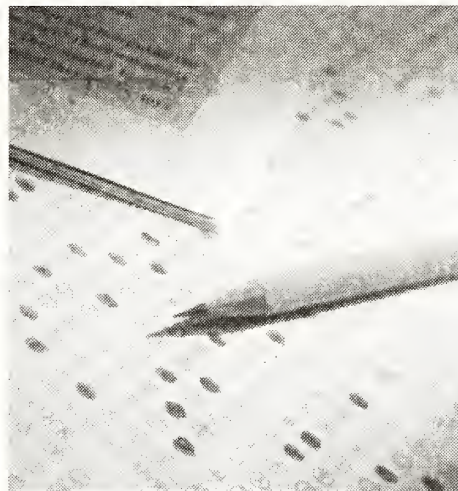
indicates that teachers are more effective when they work in a collaborative manner. When people perceive themselves as competitors, they are less likely to collaborate.

More importantly for students, many of them do not recognize that they are in a competition for

grades, positions and even status in the school. On a personal, note, when I was in high school, I had a friend with whom I walked home from school every day. Generally, when we would near our destination, he would announce "the last one home is a rotten egg," and he would take off running as fast as he could. Initially, he would always win those races. Later, I began to realize that his advantage was in the fact that I was not aware that there was to be a race. After that, I began to prepare for the race and I would call out before he had the chance to do so. With that simple change, I began to win more often than not. I did not get any faster; I just got better prepared to compete.

We do live in a world in which competition is ever present. To not be prepared for it is to be handicapped when it manifests itself. However, I am not convinced that excessive testing is the solution. I do know that when rancher wants to fatten his livestock, he doesn't weigh them; he feeds them. Then the weight will take care of itself. Were we to spend more time effectively teaching our youth, we would need far fewer tests to

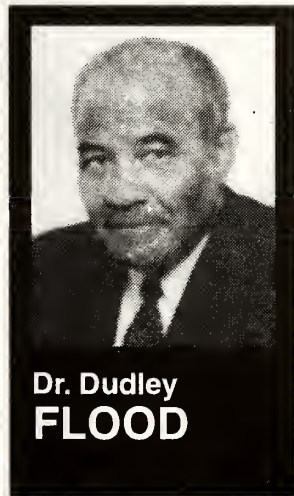
determine their level of proficiency. It would be reflected in its application to daily behavior, including their school work.



Effective tests are diagnostic in nature. They help us to know what a student needs as we move forward. They should not be punitive not sure we invoke a fear factor around testing. Students must see test as something that we do FOR them, not TO them. They should receive immediate feedback about the results of their tests and a plan for correcting or improving any deficiency that has been detected. Most importantly, the results should be held in strict confidence between the student, the parent and the professional community. If this were done, stu-

dents would virtually demand to be tested rather than to dread or fear that practice.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, is a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, and serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Reach him at: [floodspeaker@bell-south.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bell-south.net).*



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Application

In the previous article a question was raised concerning the most important phase of the sermon. The answer to such a question was this: The application phase is the most important part of the sermon. This article continues the conversation concerning application but focuses on crucial points to remember in order for the sermon to achieve a balance in the application phase. Achieving such a balance, the sermon should properly expound on the biblical text and attend to the hearer's situation/needs, in that order.

Have you ever tasted a slice of sweet potato pie or chocolate cake and determined immediately something was missing? It was either too much of one thing or not enough of another. Perhaps the pie was sweet but did not contain enough spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg. Or perhaps the slice of cake had the right amount of eggs but not enough butter. A great tasting pie or cake contains the right amount or balance of essential ingredients. Likewise, a great "tasting" sermon contains a proper balance of ingredients of audience and text attention. A sermon can focus too much on the audience and too little on the text. On the other hand, a sermon can focus too much on the



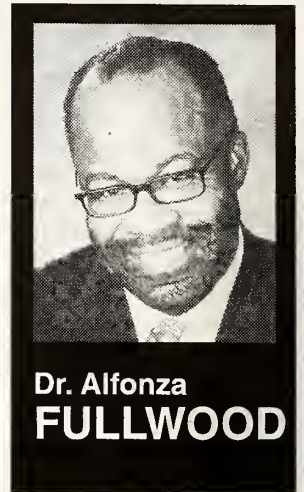
text and too little on the audience. Each situation results in an impotent sermon caused by an imbalance in essential ingredients. In this regard, Gardner C. Taylor correctly states, "One must get out of life and into the Bible, but there are also times when one must get out of the Bible and into people's lives." In this sense, preachers should stitch together a "garment" of text and listener.

The first crucial point to follow in preaching Scripture is not just for the interpretation but application. Remember, if you interpret the text you should also apply it to the "now" of people's lives in ways that call them to some area of action. The sermon becomes personal and "custom fitted" (customized) for the ears, eyes, minds and hearts of the hearers, regardless of their peculiar profile. When the preacher customizes his/her sermon it actually helps the pew "practice what is preached. Application is helping people practice the sermon. It is not enough for them to understand the biblical principles or biblical teaching of the sermon. Like some people who love the game of football, not only do they love the game but they know and understand the game. Even more, they love to play "Monday morning

quarterback." But the only problem is they never played the game. Application helps people play the "game" of a fruitful and productive life for the exalted Christ.

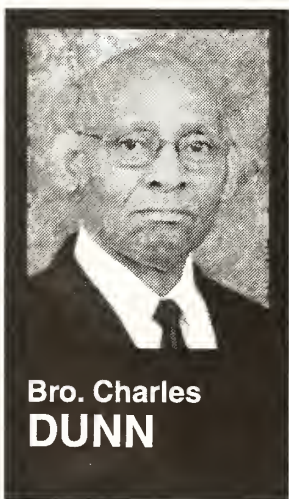
Finally, it is important that you remember application is not just dispensing biblical information nor is it about pop-psychology. Proper application carries specificity (specifics) of biblical information, not generalities. Have you ever purchased a toy for your kid that you had to put together? Of course you relied upon the instructions to guide you through the process. Such instructions were very specific and user-friendly. General instructions are usually not helpful depending on the perplexity of the item. Application is a set of specific instructions that guide the individual in putting his or her life together according to biblical truth. The preacher will do well to remember to be specific and particular when it comes to application.

*Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

## Good Hearts People: Standing in God's Presence Without Fear



**Bro. Charles DUNN**

The more I learn about God and what he did for us through Jesus Christ, the more amazed and appreciative I am of Christianity. Since Adam and Eve in the Garden, religion seems to have been a safety net keeping us at a safe distance from God.

I call it a "just in case distance." Just in case I mess up or just in case I come short I'll stay at a

safe distance so as to avoid divine retribution.

Within this safe distance religion has "In the box gods" that are kept tucked away in the safe havens of idols and sacred statutes. Israel even had a box for God and dared not look into it for fear of death. The temple had sections reserved for certain people which restricted others from entering.

God had a room, The Holy of Holies, which the high priest alone could enter once a year. These boxes, section and divisions were designed to maintain a safe distance between God and man. Sin was

the primary culprit behind this separation and it dominated us until Jesus. "And then came Jesus!" The phrase sounds like the beginning of a rescue story, and it is.

As described in the gospels, after Jesus' resurrection, God was out of the box. Sin's power over us was destroyed. The church became a place where everybody is welcome. God's presence, peace and power are available to all who are "justified by faith."

Because of this unheard of spiritual position presented by Paul, everybody is eligible for entrance into the church. Everybody can become a disciple of Christ. Nothing separates us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We have peace we did not work for and a position with God that we don't deserve. Paul calls it "Access by faith into this grace."

We can go in and talk to God. We can stand without fear in his presence. We are a people whose existence needs relationship to thrive and God offers us a relationship of faith, hope and love through Jesus Christ. When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are right with God. When Jesus is the life of our hearts, we are in the right position with God.

*Submitted by the Reverend Marvin Clowney, Dean of Ushers.*



# Spiritual and Healthy Grieving: Death is not an end, but a beginning

The Christian's hope is based on Jesus Christ being raised from the dead and on the abundance of life as given through the forgiveness of our sin by Jesus Christ.

We strive to be like and follow Jesus Christ. Therefore, the entire community of faith can draw strength in a stressful time of need if there is a solid foundation of grieving that is linked into Jesus Christ relating to his grief while he walked this earth.

In the book of John eleventh chapter relates that Lazarus, a dear friend of Jesus, lived in Bethany had died. There were many Jews that came to Martha and Mary his sister to provide comfort in a time on need. But when Jesus showed up, "Martha said unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been

here, my brother had not died." The feeling of "why and where were you Jesus is not just unique to Martha. There are many that grieve today that have not raised that question of "where were you", to Jesus in time of death. Jesus already knows our heart and our heart can start healing through open dialog with Jesus. Notice, people were all around Martha for

comfort but she craved an answer from Jesus to bring comfort to her situation. There will be lonely times as we transition through the loss of a loved one but Jesus will bring relief at the right time. Jesus came to where Lazarus laid and verse 35 says, "Jesus wept." Jesus came to Lazarus and people were grieving because of Lazarus death. But Jesus brought comfort to the people. The same Jesus brings comfort to us today through the knowledge of eternal life. We can see that grieving is real and we may even weep but there is healing through the knowledge that Jesus is with us. The grieving process is real but you are not alone because Jesus is with you and prayerfully the church has a ministry for the people.

I have a strong theological belief that the church has a spiritual obligation to the membership to be available to them through grief. I believe there are numerous members that cannot worship freely because they are still dealing with death of loved ones.

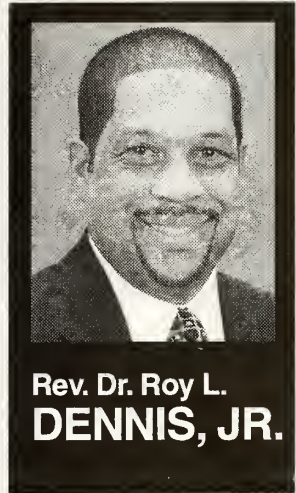
To have a ministry with a systemic approach that is available to the congregation will mean introducing a new concept to the church environment that many

people rather not approach. Most people are not comfortable discussing the death of their loved one or themselves. It is easy to discuss your thought of living but when you talk about death, people usually shut down. Although, the Bible consistently talks about dying, as well as living, some Christians can talk about living but internalize their thoughts about death. This can lead to an unhealthy life and suppression of holistic Christian living.

I know that death means going from life to eternal life. This means that death is not the end of living, but that it starts our living process in the spiritual realm. I feel when someone comes to the reality of death in the spiritual realm that death never occurs. It takes on a different meaning that allows more people to be open to discussions about death. This will allow the grieving person to build coping skills and talk about keeping their loved ones in their memories.



*The Reverend Dr. Roy L. Dennis, Jr., Pastor of Blue-stone Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, NC.*



**Rev. Dr. Roy L. DENNIS, JR.**

# Missions: Growing and maintaining the Church's relevancy

Missions has always been a central theme in the Christian story. God served as the first missionary when God left heaven to walk in the Garden of Eden looking for Adam and Eve after their fall from grace. God's first words to the bible's first recorded sinners are, "Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9) God's response to their transgression was to point out the consequences of their actions while also providing for their most immediate need, sustainable clothing (Gen. 3:21, KJV). Christ's most prominent role was that of a missionary.

While some may disagree and indicate Christ's most prominent role is that of the Savior, I suggest the power of salvation is meaningless if not delivered to those who need salvation. Christ was sent as a missionary to humanity, because humanity was unable to obtain salvation without Christ's grace. Likewise,

churches and Christians who desire spiritual growth and development, as well as continued relevancy in the community must also emulate God and Christ's behavior of instituting missionary programs which empathically and non-judgmentally address physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

Historically, the largest church growth has occurred during times of great adversity and challenge. Therefore, this is one of the greatest opportunities in history to add to the Church. Churches and individual Christians are affected by the impact of crime, poverty, drugs, lack of health care, depression, job insecurity, and "family drama."

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) reports 1 in 4 Americans has diagnosable symptoms of depressions, and two of the most prescribed drugs in America are painkillers and anti-depressants. Prescription drugs are the most often abused drugs in America. Among African American males, 1 out of 3, is expected to spend time in jail, and 85% of those who are released will be re-arrested for committing new crimes. Approximately, 72% of African American children are born to single mothers. Currently, 1 out of 2 first marriages and 2 out of 3 second marriages end in divorce.

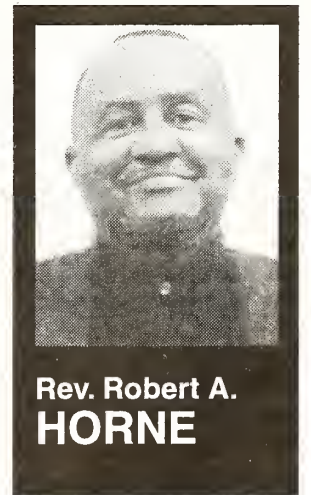
In order to grow a church spirituality, demonstrate its relevance, and increase membership participation a church might consider: adopting local missions programs which work with community programs that address some of if not all of these needs. In many cases churches simply need to express their willingness to en-

gage with community experts who will manage and operate community programs with little or no expense to the church.

Programs such as alcoholics and narcotics anonymous, parenting classes, ex-offender re-entry programs, employment training services, and tutoring programs could provide the foundation for local mission programs invite new people into the church where the Gospel can be seen and experienced, not just heard. Furthermore, they reinvigorate current church members by breaking the monotonous routine of worship service, Bible study, prayer meeting, and Sunday school. They also introduce congregants to new ideas, experiences, and opportunities to share their faith and learn from the faith experience of others.

In order to develop a successful local missions program the church, like Christ, must address the needs of those they serve. In doing so we must believe God will leave no good work undone or unsupported.

*Reverend Robert A. Horne, a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist, is active in local and foreign mission work, most notably in South Africa where he and his wife, Stacey, will return in October to conduct research. Reach him at revahorne@gmail.com.*



**Rev. Robert A. HORNE**



# 2013 Oratorical Conference

(continued from page 1)

Director, Minister David Eggleston.

The conference ended with the announcements of awards and closing remarks by the Oratorical Director Ruth Johnson and GBSC Congress President, Dr. Frank Byrd.

Oratorical Director, Ruth Johnson, and Assistant Director, Mary Irving would like to commend all youth, parents, guardians, church members, officers and Pastors for their presence, prayers and financial support, as well as the entire Congress staff and Baptist Headquarters staff members that were on duty until the end.

We look forward to seeing all of you June 23-25, 2014 at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Salisbury, N.C. where Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, will serve as host pastor. The oratorical topics will be the same for 2014.



Senior Winner, Evan Haynes with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Barry Haynes, Raleigh, NC

Photos by Dr. Frank Byrd,

President of Congress of Christian Education.



Shannell Barren was a National Contestant from Winston-Salem, N.C.



Ruth Johnson, Oratorical Director and Mary Mitchell Irving, Assistant Director.



13 Junior Division Contestants (grades 9-11): Dacaria Adams, Casaundra Allen, Sasha Arrington, Shanasia Casiamo, Madisyn Elam, Jyrek McCall, Sarah McMillan, Tyana Morris, Antonio Morrison, Fatima Pone, Tylah Robinson, Candace Spencer, Devin Williams



Junior Winners: 1st Place: Candace Spencer, Malaby's Crossroad Missionary Baptist Church, Knightdale, NC; 2nd Place: Madisyn Elam, Northeast Missionary Baptist Church, Durham, NC; 3rd Place: Sarah McMillan, Livingston Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Hamlet, NC.



12 Preparatory Division Contestants (grades 6-8): Simeon Armstrong, Nile Harvey, Dasia Hester, Amara Leak, Deijah McQueen, Nicole Morrisey, Matthew Owens, Deja Ross, Sydney Smth, Autum Torain, Devon Waterman, Thomas Young



Preparatory Division Winners: 1st Place: Nicole Morrisey, Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC; 2nd Place: Amara Leak, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Murphy, NC; 3rd Place: Simeon Armstrong, Craven Corner Missionary Baptist Church, Havelock, NC.



President of Congress, Dr. Frank Byrd and Senior Winner, Evan Haynes, 2014 GBSC Delegate, National Baptist Congress Convention, Dallas, TX.



Senior Winners: 1st Place: Evan Haynes, First Baptist Church-Raleigh, NC; 2nd Place: Jamal Cogdell, Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC; 3rd Place: Shaniqua Smith, Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Raeford, NC.

# Missions trip performed by members of Bazzel Creek MBC

Several youth and adults from Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church participated in the church's first missions trip through World Changers Inc., July 15 - 20, 2013. The team traveled to Brunswick, Georgia for construction and community projects to help bring healing and hope to a community affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The trip was organized by the Rev. Bryan Hayes, an Associate Minister at Bazzel Creek MBC, located in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., where the Pastor is the Reverend Latonya L. Agard. During the trip, 22 houses were worked on, 156 people were evangelized and three youth from Bazzel Creek re-dedicated their lives to Christ.



The Mission of World Changers ...

World Changers seeks to provide Christian youth and adults with opportunities to serve a community physically and spiritually through practical learning experiences that teach servant-hood and a personal commitment to missions.



## Active summer tick season brings health risks for children

Wire Reports

Tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and others, pose a special health threat to children, particularly during the peak tick-activity months of June and July, said Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, child and family health consultant and adjunct professor at the Gillings School of GI. "Children are at special risk for tick bites because they like to play outside, and they depend on adults to take precautions for them such as ensuring they wear long pants tucked into their socks, and putting on insect repellent," said Herman-Giddens. They also like to play with family pets, which may bring in ticks from the outdoors, she added.

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that North Carolina cases of Lyme and RMSF have increased over the past three years, to 127 and 598, respectively, in 2012. But many cases of tick-borne illnesses do not get reported, Herman-Giddens emphasized, even though they are becoming more common. Wake, Guilford and Haywood counties have been declared by the CDC as endemic for Lyme disease, meaning the illness is firmly established there.

Fatalities are rare, but between 1999 and 2010, North Carolina led the nation in the number of deaths from

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (now called Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis) - nine - according to the CDC. A Black Mountain, N.C., child's recent death was blamed on RMSF from a tick bite.

Ticks hitch rides on young human hosts via bare heads, feet, arms or legs and attach themselves to areas that may be difficult for children themselves to inspect closely, such as the scalp, groin or buttocks. The arachnids - ticks are not insects, but part of the eight-legged spider family - are well-engineered to make a meal of their hosts' blood, first injecting an anesthetic into the skin so the bite is painless. Then, their barbed mouths and the chemical cement they secrete keep them well-anchored to human skin and difficult to remove, Herman-Giddens said.

"Children may try to take off ticks with their bare hands, which can also expose them to the illnesses ticks carry," Herman-Giddens warned. They should be taught to get adult help if they find an embedded tick.

She described the following process to remove a tick as safely as possible: Use only narrow-tipped tweezers, gripping the tick as close to the skin as possible and slowly pulling it away, then clean the bite area thoroughly. Tape

the tick onto an index card, which kills it but still makes it available should later identification be needed, and record the date and the part of the body on which the tick was found.

Monitor the child for 30 days for rashes and/or fever or flu-like symptoms such as muscle aches or headaches, she added. If any symptoms occur, take the child immediately for medical care.

At the site of the bite itself, there may be itching, redness and some swelling, though this varies with the kind of tick. There also may - or may not - be a rash. "Rashes can be tricky," said Herman-Giddens. "There may be no rash at all, but no rash does not mean no illness."

North Carolina has 25 species of ticks, of which only five feed on humans: the Lone Star tick, American Dog tick, Brown Dog tick, Deer tick (now often referred to as the Black-legged tick) and the state's newest arrival, the Gulf Coast tick. Different species are associated with different diseases but there is overlap. Herman-Giddens cautioned that it is difficult to determine by sight which species of tick has bitten someone, and impossible to know at the time whether the tick carries or has transmitted diseases.



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## Outdated practice of annual cervical-cancer screenings may cause more harm than good, study finds



### WIRE REPORTS

For decades, women between the ages of 21 and 69 were advised to get annual screening exams for cervical cancer. In 2009, however, accumulating scientific evidence led major guideline groups to agree on a new recommendation that women be screened less frequently: every three years rather than annually.

Despite the revised guidelines, about half of the obstetrician-gynecologists surveyed in a recent study said they continue to provide annual exams – an outdated practice that may be more harmful than helpful, said Drs. Russell Harris and Stacey Sheridan of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Screening is not the unqualified good that we have advertised it to be,” they wrote in an editorial titled, “The Times They (May Be) A-Changin’: Too Much Screening is a Health Problem.” The editorial accompanied a research study reviewing physician practices around cervical-cancer screening and vaccination for human papilloma virus (HPV), which has been linked to cervical cancer.

The study, “Physicians Slow to Implement HPV Vaccination and Cervical Screening Guidelines,” was published July 9 in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

“Screening for cervical cancer and other cancers such as breast and prostate, has clear potential for harms as well as benefits, and these must be carefully weighed before a rational decision about screening can be made,” wrote Harris and Sheridan, who are profes-

sor and assistant professor of medicine, respectively, at UNC’s School of Medicine. They also hold adjunct appointments at UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health.

The study noted physicians said they were comfortable with longer testing intervals, but were concerned their patients might not come in for annual check-ups if Pap tests, the screening test for cervical cancer, were not offered. The problem, Harris said, is that annual Pap tests produce more abnormal results leading to additional, invasive testing that itself bring risks.

“Many women have ‘abnormal’ [Pap test] findings that are not cancer, but may be a ‘cancer precursor.’ We know that the great majority of these abnormal findings would never progress to actual invasive cancer, yet these women are referred” for further, more invasive testing, Harris said.

One such test, called a “colposcopy,” [cohl-PAH-scoh-pee], involves examining the cervix for possibly cancerous lesions, followed frequently by a biopsy, i.e., taking a small sample of the lesion, which can cause pain and bleeding, as well as potential psychological harm. “The screening test itself can raise concern about dreaded cancer; a positive screening test heightens this worry; finding a cancer precursor, even one of uncertain importance, just increases worry further,” they wrote.

The authors recognize the important benefit of screening for cervical and other cancers, but “screening every three years [for cervical cancer] retains about 95 percent of the benefit of annual screening, but reduces harms by roughly two-thirds.” Less-frequent screening also reduces costs significantly in terms of patient and physician time and laboratory testing supplies and other resources.

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR PASTOR

MOUNT CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
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Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist is currently accepting resume’s for the position of Pastor. Mount Calvary is a member of the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

#### Potential Candidate Qualifications:

- Must be led by the Spirit of God in all matters and perform pastoral duties according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be ordained and licensed with strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist doctrines, policies and practices.
- Must be willing to conduct worship service on a weekly basis.
- Three to five years of prior pastoral experience preferred.
- Seminary degree from an accredited school or equivalent education preferred.
- Ability to teach God’s word and carryout administrative, strong leadership and counseling duties.
- Ability to communicate and work with all age levels. Participate in outreach ministries (including, but not limited to, youth and senior ministries).
- Must be family and community oriented.
- Must be a positive role model of moral and ethical conduct.
- Must be willing to teach and/or attend Sunday School, Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; visit the sick and shut-in, participate in administering Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in and support church functions.
- Must have vision for the spiritual, intellectual, physical and financial growth of the church.

#### Along with your resume’, potential candidate must provide:

- Four references: 2 professional; 2 personal. References must include name, address and telephone number.
- Name, address and telephone number of previous or current church affiliation. Please include pastor’s name if applicable.
- Proof of religious credentials (license/ordination).
- Proof of degree for confirmation or transcript of completed courses if degree has not been conferred.
- Must provide mission statement for the church.

This list is certainly not inclusive, but serves as a snapshot of what we expect of a pastor as we build Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church into a church that will serve all of God’s children.

If you feel God is leading you to answer this call, please submit your resume’ to:

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 13594  
New Bern, North Carolina 28561-0341

DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by midnight October 31, 2013

## Diet additions may help youth with Type 1 diabetes keep producing own insulin

Adding foods rich in specific amino and fatty acids to the diets of youth with Type 1 diabetes kept them producing some of their own insulin for up to two years after diagnosis, said researchers at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

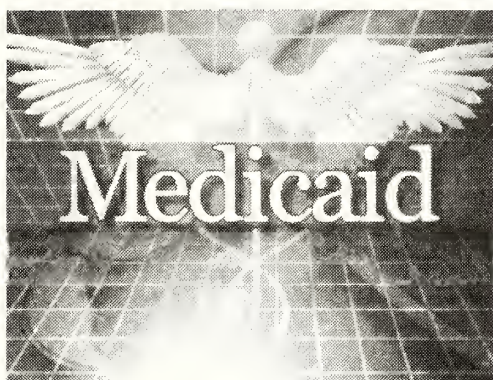
The youth still required supplemental insulin, but they may have reduced risk of diabetes complications by continuing to produce some of their own insulin, said Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, professor of nutrition at Gillings and medicine at UNC’s School of Medicine, who led the study of more than 1,300 youth. “This also opens the door for a new approach that could really benefit the lives of these children.”

# Under the Microscope: North Carolina's Rejection of Medicaid Expansion

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed legislation that rejected major components of the federal health care law on March 6, 2013. One of the most significant parts of that legislation included the rejection of the federal expansion of Medicaid. When the Affordable Care Law was taken to the Supreme Court, their ruling allowed for individual states to decide whether or not to opt out of expanding coverage without penalty.

## What Is Medicaid

Medicaid is the United States health program for families and individuals with low income and resources. The Health Insurance Association of America describes Medicaid as a "government insurance program for persons of all ages whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care." Medicaid is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with low income in the United States. Medicaid provides health coverage to more than 50 million children, families, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This program is jointly funded by the state and federal governments and managed by the states. Currently, each state can determine who is eligible for its implementation of the program. Medicaid recipients must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and may include low-income adults, their children, and people with certain disabilities. Poverty alone does not necessarily qualify someone for Medicaid.



## Reasons for NOT Expanding Medicaid in NC

As reported by multiple media outlets, Governor McCrory and NC GOP leaders/appointed officials have expressed several concerns on why the state decided not to expand Medicaid under the new Affordable Care Law. Some of the reasons for not expanding included:

- current system not "prepared" or having signs of concern
- inability to absorb new participants
- state audit showed "mispending and administrative system troubles"

The current NC Medicaid Director, appointed by Governor McCrory, expressed recently that an expansion program would not help the uninsured get better care and

argued that low-income people can continue to access free clinics, health departments, rural health centers, and other health facilities within the entire system of care. State GOP Lawmakers that are currently opposed to the expansion would reconsider the state's position if future changes are made to the current state Medicaid system and if the federal government softens its rules for expansion. Without accepting federal monies for expansion, any systematic changes in the state Medicaid system would cost the state directly, out of pocket and would not happen in the next few years. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians are being shut out of health care coverage.

## Why Is This Important

Analysts from the Rand Corporation recently released a study stating that GOP-controlled states, such as North Carolina, that continue to resist expanding Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Law will lose out on \$8.4 billion in federal funding. Currently, the federal government pays 57% of each state's Medicaid programs and under the new health care reform law, states that accept the expansion will benefit from the federal government picking up each state's total cost of expanding programs to cover additional uninsured Americans. By not expanding Medicaid under the new health care reform law, North Carolina will;

- Deny approximately 500,000 low income people health care coverage
- Prevent NC from establishing a state-sponsored marketplace for health insurance
- Ensure that the federal government will have control of selling health insurance policies to the uninsured (starting October 2013)

## Effects of NOT Expanding Medicaid

The Affordable Care Law will cut billions of dollars that are normally paid to hospitals that is used to help defray the uncompensated care costs. The reason for the cuts are due to the anticipated infusion of patients that would be covered under an expanded Medicaid program, thus suppressing the need to pay for uncompensated care if more people become covered. By choosing not to expand the Medicaid program in North Carolina, the hos-

# Middle Class America and life and health under the Affordable Care Law

(continued from page 1)

Americans in the form of refunds, reimbursements or reduced premiums when consumers don't get the value out of their premium dollars.

Building on this progress, there is new evidence to show that the Health Insurance Marketplaces that will open for business this fall will offer new, affordable insurance options to Americans who don't currently have access to affordable options. These new benefits and protections in the law are expanding access to quality, affordable health care choices, giving consumers a better value for their health care dollar, and cutting waste to lower costs across our health care system.

## Providing Refunds for Millions of Consumers

Under the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies are required to spend 80 to 85 percent of premium dollars on medical care and health care quality improvement, rather than on administrative costs or CEO bonuses. If they don't, the insurance companies must provide a refund to their customers. Americans can receive these refunds in several ways: a refund check in the mail; a lump-sum reimbursement to the same account that they used to pay the premium if by credit card or debit card; a reduction in their future premiums; or their employer providing one of the above, or applying the refund in another manner that benefits its employees, such as more generous benefits.

While most insurance companies are spending pre-

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Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

pitals will not only lose out on billions of federal dollars but they will also not benefit from the newly insured patients. Those persons not currently eligible but fall below the federal poverty level will be some of the hardest hit by not expanding. They will be unable to receive subsidies to buy health coverage through the federal exchange starting October 2013, as well as those people who are 100-400% of the federal poverty level. Some of the other issues associated with states not choosing to expand Medicaid:

- Loss of federal money
- Denial of health coverage to poor residents
- Higher state/local government burden of uncompensated care
- Jobs lost (25K potential jobs lost by not expanding)
- Economic impact (\$1 billion lost by not expanding)
- Potential health profession job cuts

The main charge of politicians and elected/appointed officials is to serve the best interest of the people, not that of lobbyist or special interest groups. If you feel that your voice is being ignored and/or your needs are not being met, it is imperative that you speak up and speak out to your local, state, and federal leaders and officials. By remaining silent, you send the signal that you are on-board with everything that happens on your behalf. Educate yourself with truth and separate mythical untruths that saturate the opinions of the uninformed.

For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

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mium dollars consumers pay on their health care, before the enactment of the health care law, there was no way for all Americans to make sure that their premium dollars were primarily being spent on their health care and its improvement. The health care law's "Medical Loss Ratio" provision cracked down on the worst insurance companies that were not providing Americans the value consumers expect from their premiums.

According to a recent report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in 2012, 8.5 million consumers received half a billion dollars in refunds – with the average consumer receiving a refund of around \$100 per family. Moreover, 77.8 million consumers saved \$3.4 billion up front on their premiums as insurance companies operated more efficiently as compared to 2011.

September is  
National Sickle Cell Month



The Annual Sickle Cell Prayer Breakfast presented by the Bridges Pointe Foundation, Inc., will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 14, 2013

at St. Joseph AME Church, 2541 Fayetteville St., Durham.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells, which means that it is passed from mothers and fathers to their children. It is most common among African Americans, but other groups of people may also be affected.

For details, contact Elaine Whitworth at (919) 684-0677 or [thebridgespointe@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgespointe@gmail.com)

# Guess Who I Saw the Other Day?

A few Sundays ago, I was heading home after having a wonderful time of prayer, praise, and preaching at Young Missionary Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, where the Rev. Ronald L. White Sr., is senior pastor; and I am on staff. Feeling refreshed and renewed, I had a heightened awareness of the power and presence of God in creation. While sitting at a stoplight, I looked over and saw a man, slight build, weathered skin over on the sidewalk nearest the right turn lane.



He knelt on one knee and had a large white bag with him. He carefully took an item out of the bag, unwrapped it, ate something, then carefully rewrapped the item and put it back in the bag. He went through this ritual a second time. The he unscrewed the top of a bottle and drank what appeared to be soda, then carefully closed this container. All of this transpired within seconds. As I watched him, I gasped and was deeply moved, for the care and attention he took with his items was like that of a deacon in the Baptist church or stewardess in the

Methodist church handling Holy Communion (also known as the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper).

As the light changed, he stood up and looked in my direction. I could not get over to him, because I was in the center lane going straight. I knew, however, I had to acknowledge him in a profound way. I waved as vigorously as I could and smiled as big as I could. When he looked at me, he gave me the biggest smile that at once expressed the innocence of a child and gratitude that someone stopped to acknowledge his humanity.

In that moment, I wept, drove carefully, and understood the power of revelation. Guess who I saw that day? I saw Jesus. Matthew 25: 37-40 says it best: we provided food, drink, clothing, hospitality, and care to Jesus when we minister to women and men in the world.

*Dr. Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women's Studies at the Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, N.C.*



Rev. Cheryl  
**KIRK-DUGGAN**

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## Strange fruit, but fruit nonetheless ... A Love Letter to Trayvon Martin

“Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You’re not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It’s the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won’t last forever. It won’t be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ — eternal and glorious plans they are! — will have you put together and on your feet for goof. He gets the last word; yes He does.” — 1 Peter 5: 8-11

My spirit took me to this scripture after hearing the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case. I was so stunned, I felt paralyzed. Which is what we mustn’t let happen. While God will have the last say, there is still much to be done in His name on behalf of our fellow man. Taking the baton and pressing toward the mark is not easy, but we are called to act and to recognize that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Romans tells us that pain bears fruit (with three blessed boys, I can testify): “The difficult times of pain throughout the world are birth pangs.” — Romans 8.

With this in mind, I’ve written a post from the perspective of the beloved deceased, Trayvon Martin. I wrote this first in my love journal — a journal I bought expressly for love notes and thoughts because the verdict handed down on the Trayvon Martin case has everything to do with a lack thereof. I’ve also posted a version to my blog at [www.crystalswords.wordpress.com](http://www.crystalswords.wordpress.com).

I concede that we, as a people — just like all people — have had and continue to have our own infighting issues. But that does not excuse one more murder. I believe if Trayvon were able to speak, his message might be some-

thing like this:

To the America where I lived and thought I was free: When I was born into this dichotomous world of love and hate, I had a purpose just like everyone else. My life had its ups and downs— one of the highlights may have been the simple and overwhelming joy I brought to my parents as their son. I can even say that my friendships gave me pleasure. My downs became more apparent as I entered the teenage years. Just like most teenagers, I was coming into my own and trying to find out what I, Trayvon, liked and didn’t like and how I fit into this big, complicated world. Then George Zimmerman stepped to me. He came, uninvited, threatening, preying on my vulnerability as a youth who was naturally unsure of myself. I was rattled by this stalker who chose to abuse his power, joining legions of those who throughout history have done so not just because they can but because they lack the love and respect we should all have for one another.

So I get it now.

My message was my short life underscored by my parents’ demonstrative strength, grace, faith, and love. If I were to put it into words, I would just say, “Handle your

business.” Too many have lost their lives at the hands of hate and injustice. It’s time to join our fellow man and strengthen our civil disobedience strategy by working to change the laws like Stand Your Ground that somehow justify disrespect and hate.

Wake up everybody. You still can. I can’t.

Mrs. Roberts at [crystal@mountaintoppr.com](mailto:crystal@mountaintoppr.com)



Crystal Kimpson  
ROBERTS

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Michelle Alexander seeks to recruit American Baptists for a new abolitionist movement ...

## ‘New Jim Crow’ turns back civil rights

WIRE REPORTS

An author and lawyer says racial inequality in America’s justice system would “have Dr. King turning in his grave.”

Four decades of America’s “war on drugs” has brought on a “New Jim Crow,” creating “a growing under-caste” primarily of people of color, and turned back many of the hard-won advances of the Civil Rights Movement, an acclaimed civil-rights lawyer and legal scholar told American Baptists gathered for their biennial national meeting June 21-23 in Overland Park, Kan.

Roy Medley, general secretary of the 5,200-church American Baptist Churches USA, said planners invited Michelle Alexander, former law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun and author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, to the group’s first-ever Mission Summit in tribute to the denomination’s historic concern for both personal faith and social justice that prompted Northern Baptists to support the abolitionist movement prior to the Civil War.

“We’ve invited Dr. Michelle Alexander, because of that rich tradition that we have of concern for justice, to speak to us about an emerging issue in our country, a new social challenge that is also related to race and to poverty, as we consider the issues around mass incarceration, those who are coming out of prison and how many of them lose their rights as citizens as they come out,” Medley said. “How do we deal with that New Jim Crow aspect of our social life in this country?”

Alexander, an associate professor of law at Ohio State University, said today’s prison system, instead of reducing crime, functions as “a system of racial and social control.” She called for a “new abolition movement” that shifts from punishment to a restorative and rehabilitative approach to non-violent crime.

“Rather than having ended the racial class system, we have simply revised it by targeting black men through the war on drugs and decimated communities of color in the United States,” Alexander said.

Alexander said statistics show that drug use is no higher for black and brown minorities than for whites in suburbs and on college campuses, but “the drug war has



been waged almost exclusively in communities of color.” Rather than focusing on kingpin drug dealers, she said, police are rewarded for going after “low-hanging fruit” by pulling over and shaking down people on the streets in poor communities.

In most states a convicted felon loses the right to vote, technically extended to African-Americans by passage of the 14th Amendment and enforced by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Checking “yes” to a box on a job application asking if you have ever been convicted of a felony automatically disqualifies job seekers, particularly if they are African-American.

Jobless men trapped in segregated communities in some places cannot get food stamps, Alexander said, adding up to a system that seems geared toward sending released convicts back to prison.

She termed it “a new system of racial and social control that would certainly have Dr. King turning in his grave.”

Alexander said when she first started working on her book, mentors and colleagues tried to discourage her, saying it would harm her career. Recently, however, she said she detects a budding movement to end mass incarceration.

“I believe a movement will emerge in the United States, and the question is will people of faith be leaders or will they be on the sidelines waiting for others,” she said.

Bob Allen is Managing Editor of the Associated Baptist Press.

## • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

### NEW PASTOR

The Reverend Keyster Taylor of Rocky Mount, N.C. was recently named the new Pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seaboard, North Carolina. Rev. Taylor is the former Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kelford, NC and also served as Associate Minister of North End Missionary Baptist Church. He and his wife, Hilda, have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

### Prison Ministry Luncheon in Charlotte

The Annual E.V. Hill Memorial Prison Ministry Luncheon will be held Wednesday, September 4, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, 3400 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, where the Reverend Dr. Clifford Jones is Senior Pastor. Guest speaker will be the Reverend Belton Platt, Pastor of Rock Ministries Church International in Conway, S.C. The luncheon donation is \$35 per person.

Organizer is the Reverend Dr. Michael R. Smith, Sr., Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission Commissioner. Visit [www.national-baptist.com](http://www.national-baptist.com) for additional information.

### Home going Services

Dr. Andre’ Carr, Sr., former Moderator, Middle District Baptist Association and retired Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Winnabow, N.C., was funeralized on June 29, 2013 in Burgaw, N.C.

# In all things give thanks, even when the things are bad

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, we're taught to give thanks in all things, for this is God's will. The problem is that when bad things are happening, they certainly don't seem like anything deserving of thanks, and they are rarely recognizable as God's will.

That's why we have to stay in prayer and keep our families in prayer, so we can recognize the will of God. Job understood the importance of giving thanks through horrible circumstances. When everything around him seemed destroyed, Job remembered from where his blessings had come and he gave thanks.



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

A few years ago, a high school senior came for a visit so that I could take her around to colleges. She also came prepared to complete her college applications and we set aside some time one day so she could work on them. But she became stumped at the essays because she couldn't figure out how to write one without going

into detail about how her family had recently lost a home and how her parents had broken up around the same time.

She said she was too embarrassed. My response to her was, "hold nothing back." I told her that her story was one that needed to be told, because despite adversity, she had been promoted on her job just a few months after starting and had excelled in school and as a community leader. With all of those things going on at home, she was still thriving. The admissions readers apparently saw what I saw in her, because she had no trouble getting into her favorite colleges. The key was to celebrate the hardship that faced her and use it. In all things give thanks.

I tried to remember that lesson the other day when the power went out in our neighborhood. It was a day with nothing particularly important scheduled, but the outage was an inconvenience. The landline telephone was dead, our cell telephones were dying and only a little juice was left in the computers. There was no television. The energy company originally said the power would be out two hours then updated the estimated time to four hours. As the washing machine went silent, the only sound that could be heard was the laughter of kids enjoying the beautiful evening outside. This time, I recognized the blessing. I thanked God for the gift of four hours of uninter-



rupted time with my family.

*Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

## Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Attention Pastor Search Committee  
P.O. Box 281  
Havelock, NC 28532

The Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. Be Married. Single Pastors will be considered.
2. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
3. Strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
6. Credentialed from accredited college and/ or Seminary school. With Bachelor to Masters in Divinity preferred.
7. Strong skills in community ministries.
8. Teaching ministry; ie Bible study, Sunday school
9. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourage active participation.

## Pastoral Vacancy for Zoar Missionary Baptist Church

1. Born Again
2. Faithful Christian with a solid belief in the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Holy Bible
3. Biblical qualities of a pastor as defined in I Timothy 3:1-7
4. Solid Knowledge of God's Word and God's Will in doing and carrying out the function of the church
5. Married
6. Family, Community and Politically Oriented
7. Effective working with all age groups in the church
8. Bachelor's Degree in Theology from an accredited college or university (preferred) or courses in seminary training and willing to do further study
9. Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
10. Have at least 5 years of pastoral experience
11. Believes/Abides by the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Church Covenant
12. Supportive of the Association and the General Baptist State Convention
13. Expected to teach, preach, (4 Sunday's/month) and counsel in Word & Deed to all age groups in the church
14. Able to guide the critical management function of the church Spiritually, Intellectually and Financially
15. Willing to submit to a criminal background check and credit report
16. Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
17. Implements policies fairly and consistently and respects individual needs and abilities
18. Supports church functions including Sunday School, Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
19. Visits the sick and shut-in "hospitalized & nursing homes"
20. Expected to live within a 60 mile radius of the church

Please include resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers.

All correspondences must be post-marked by:

September 30, 2013

And send to

Attn: Search Committee  
Zoar Missionary Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 27  
Pendleton, NC 27862



## Press Reports

### New Low-Income Homes Available

Saint Augustine's University Community Development Corporation has begun building homes in the Idlewild Community of Raleigh, N.C. for low-to-moderate income, first-time home buyers.

The program is part of the Cooke Street Extension Redevelopment Phase II Project and the homes are close to downtown Raleigh and the Historic Oakwood neighborhood. For more information, please contact Brenda Williamson, Program Coordinator at (919) 516-4754 or via email at bswilliamson@st-aug.edu.

### Young children with autism benefit from treatment model, study finds

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have found that preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who receive high-quality early intervention benefit developmentally regardless of the treatment model used—a surprising result that may have important implications for special-education programs and school classrooms across the country.

"This is the first study designed to compare long-standing comprehensive treatment models for young children with ASD," said Brian Boyd, a fellow at UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) and one of the study's co-principal investigators. Boyd also is an assistant professor in occupational science and occupational therapy in UNC's School of Medicine.

"We know that more children are being diagnosed with ASD each year, and that it can cost \$3.2 million a year to treat each child. Understanding that a child can benefit from a high-quality program, rather than a specialized program, may help reduce those costs by decreasing the need for teachers and other school practitioners to be trained to deliver multiple specialized services," Boyd said. He stressed it remains important to ensure educators are trained to provide high-quality programs that meet the special behavioral, communication and other needs of children with ASD.

### ACLU Moves to Challenge N.C.'s Ban on Marriage for Same-Sex Couples

RALEIGH—The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCLF) recently announced plans to challenge North Carolina's ban on marriage for same-sex couples by amending a federal lawsuit filed against the state last year on behalf of six same-sex couples and their children that challenges North Carolina's ban on second parent adoptions. The announcement comes on the same day that the ACLU has filed a federal challenge to Pennsylvania's marriage ban and the ACLU and Lambda Legal have announced a challenge to Virginia's marriage ban.

The ACLU is asking North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper to agree to allow an additional claim challenging the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples to be added to Fisher-Borne v. Smith, a lawsuit filed last year in Greensboro in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina that challenges the state's ban on second par-

ent adoption, a process by which one partner in an unmarried gay or straight couple adopts the other partner's biological or adoptive child. If the Attorney General's office does not agree to the addition of the new claim, the ACLU will petition the court to allow the claim to be added.

Marcie and Chantelle Fisher-Borne, one of the couples in the case, have been together for 16 years and live in Durham. Each woman carried one of their two children—a 5-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy. They had a wedding in North Carolina 10 years ago and were legally married in Washington, D.C. in 2011, but their marriage is not recognized by North Carolina law. When their daughter was born, the couple met resistance from a hospital staff member who demanded their legal paperwork. If they were legally married in North Carolina, their family would be respected and such encounters could be avoided.

"Our children have two parents who love them dearly. Like any parents, we want to be able to do everything we can to care for our children. Our children deserve the security of having both Marcie and me as legally recognized parents, and marriage is the best way for us to provide that to them," said Chantelle Fisher-Borne.

"We declared our love and commitment to each other years ago, but the law in North Carolina does not recognize the life we have built together or allow us to share legal responsibility for the children we have raised together. We want to be married for many of the same reasons anyone else does—to do what's best for our family, especially our children, and have our commitment to each other recognized by the law."

## UNIVERSITY NEWS



### Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy Featured in Cosmo Magazine

Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy, Chair of the Shaw University Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Assistant Professor of Chemistry, was featured in the May issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine as a "Fun, Fearless, Female."



Dubroy and business partner Tiffani Bailey Lash, were recognized for starting the "Brilliant and Beautiful Foundation," a nonprofit that encourages young women to study the field of science. Additionally, the Foundation provides mentors to high school and college students interested in the STEM disciplines to help with internships and serve as thesis reviewers.

Dubroy was also featured in the Triangle Tribune newspaper for her business "Tea and Honey Blends," an all-natural hair care product line for ethnic hair.

## SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School **April 7-10, 2014.**

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School's accreditation may send an email to

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu) <mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>

or may contact ATS directly at:

### The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110

Telephone: 412-788-6505 | Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more <<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>> about Shaw University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

(continued from page 1 and 9)

# National Baptists' Session Slated for Queen City; GBSC-NC to be showcased during Annual Event



President  
Dr. Parker

The 133rd Annual Session of the  
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.  
will convene  
September 2-6, 2013 in Charlotte, N.C.

Friendship Baptist Church on Beatties Ford Road, where former GBSC-NC President, Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. (1993-1997) serves as Pastor, will be the Host Church for this major business meeting of the boards, auxiliaries and member churches of the Convention. The meeting is expected to attract 20,000.



Dr. Jones, Sr.

Volunteers are still needed for registration, golf outing and fellowship, exhibitor booths, community service project, pre-convention musical and more. For more information, please call 704-391-6636 or visit [www.2013nbccarolinas.com](http://www.2013nbccarolinas.com)



## BAPTIST INFORMER



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

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Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
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# BAPTIST INFORMER

September 2013

Volume 136, No. 8

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

## NC Highlighted at Annual Lott Carey Convention in DC

GBSC-NC presented largest single donation on President's Night Empowerment Missions Offering



The 116th Annual Session of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention in Washington, DC highlighted North Carolina with a large group of delegates representing the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. headed by President Howard W. Parker, Jr.

Dr. Haywood T. Gray, GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer presented a \$25,000 check to Lott Carey on the night of the President's Address during the special offering held each year during the annual gathering. GBSC also added an additional \$3,000.00 check to the donations, which totaled more than \$300,000.00

Other highlights included Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missions Convention, who served as the morning preacher on Thursday and also presented a substantial monetary donation to Lott Carey. On Thursday evening, Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr., former GBSC President, also deliver his first address as Lott Carey President.



Dr. Battle, Rev. Debra Haggins, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for Hampton Ministers' Conference, Dr. Linda Bryan and Mrs. Ellender LeMay gather at 129th Annual Session. — More highlights on pages 8-9 —

Dr. Audrey Battle passes the gavel and responsibilities to the Reverend Linda D. Inman, as she assumes her role as the new President of the WBH&FMC.

## 129th Annual Session of WBH&FMC Elects New President of the GBSC Woman's Auxiliary

### Staff Reports

The Reverend Linda D. Inman assumed the WBH&FMC Presidency on August 1, 2013 during the Annual Session held at the Raleigh Civic Center where thousands of church leaders gathered from across the state.

The Chadbourn, N.C. native has worked diligently with the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina for more than 39 years, in the Youth Department, Youth Adult and Senior Department. Prior to her election as President, she served as First Vice President during the tenure of Dr. Audrey P. Battle.

When asked to respond to her election, President Inman

shared the following statement: "I am willing to learn and to foster a sense of togetherness."

"I understand that leadership techniques and methods are constantly changing. They "why" of our organization work remains constant, but the "what" and the "how" are always new. A pre-requisite for me is having the will to learn.

"By persistent prayer, study and careful listening, I will be able to increase my effectiveness and increase my ability to understand, interpret, evaluate, and lead. I need you to work with me in every aspect. If we do this together, our learning and leading will never stand still."

Rev. Inman received her Bachelor and Masters of Science Degrees from North Carolina A&T State University. She is

(continued on page 8)

## Shaw University Receives \$50,000 Grant From Duke Energy; establishes Scholarship

### PRESS REPORTS

Shaw University, the first historically black University in the South, recently received a \$50,000 grant from Duke Energy. The funds will be used to create the Duke Energy Foundation Scholarship which will target upper-class students who are first-generation and majoring in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related disciplines. Scholarships will be awarded based on need, academics, community service and exem-

plary leadership ability with a special focus on selecting students from Eastern North Carolina.

"We're committed to Eastern North Carolina," said Paul Newton, Duke Energy's state president - North Carolina. "Education is the greatest way to invest in the future of our communities, and Duke Energy is glad to provide these scholarship opportunities."

Financial aid support for students continues to be a top priority for the University. During the 2012-2013 academic

(continued on page 15)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE : P3

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

P8 Highlights of the Annual Session of the WBH&FMC

Renew!

TODAY! See Page 10 Baptist Informer Subscription Form

# Shaw University Divinity School



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## From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

To the General Baptist family, together with all the saints throughout the world: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:1b-2, NIV paraphrased). I extend heartfelt congratulations and support to the Rev. Linda Inman, newly-elected President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention and all newly elected officers of this Auxiliary to the General Baptist family. We will continue to serve together through "Preaching, Teaching, and Reaching."

We are called to be fruit-bearers of God through Jesus the Christ. True fruit-bearers possess inward divine power that transforms lives and overcomes obstacles to ministry. True fruit-bearers do not falter nor waver in the face of naysayers, doomsday prophets, and ship jumpers. Rather, they fully embrace the reality of being under girded by the unmerited favor of God's grace. Because of God's sufficient grace, abundant mercy, omnipresent power, and blessed provisions, our convention remains alive, well, and full of Jesus' resurrection power!

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

In his paraphrase, the Message, Eugene Peterson sum-

marizes Ephesians 6:10-18:

"God is strong, and [God] wants you to be strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the devil throws your way. This is no athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the devil and his angels.

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters.

Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out."

General Baptists, let us PRESS ON! We are fueled by a faith in God that embraces the past, enhances the present, and envisions the future. We must PRESS ON by supporting our convention and its objectives with our gifts and service. We must PRESS ON by endeavoring to worship, work and witness for the Lord. We must PRESS ON as true fruit-bearers in the work of God and as prophetic witnesses of God's transforming power.

We can and will fulfill God's mandated ministry through your sacrificial support of the General Baptist State Convention. Your generous prayerful and financial support of our objectives will enable us to invest and benefit greatly in missions. Missions is who we are! Missions is what we do!

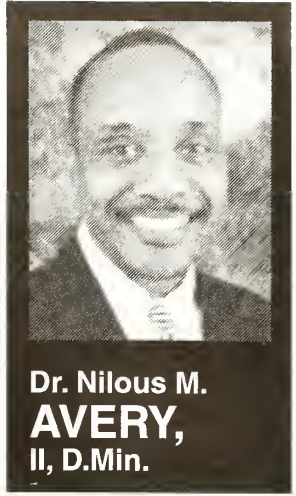
I ask all Pastors, Laity, Churches, Moderators, Associations, and those who love the Lord to:

- (1) Be a loyal subscriber & encourage others to subscribe to the Baptist Informer.
- (2) Support our President, Dr. Howard Parker, our Executive Secretary, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, and our auxiliaries.

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

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

Dr. Avery may be contacted at: [averyreokin@aol.com](mailto:averyreokin@aol.com)



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## Let's J-A-M: Anyone for a Back-to-School Celebration?

Proverbs 22:6 (KJV) instructs us to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Education is a key component for the youth to know that church members are supporting them toward being productive Christian citizens in our society. And there is no better way than to have "J-A-M Back-to-School 2013 Celebration."

Here are some activities that your ministries may like to plan, implement and evaluation.

First, set a date and time frame for the event and decide if it will be weekly or

just a special celebration.

Secondly, outline program specifics and the persons in-charge of various activities to ensure all aspects are covered. Activities might include youth creating a video or a commercial skit referencing J-A-M or youth dancers choreographing a dance and/or mime of J-A-M Back-to-School 2013 celebration.

Other possibilities include Biblical scavenger hunts related to things found in the church, Bible jeopardy or Who Wants to be a Millionaire (Bible version) (free templates can be located online), a Biblical spelling bee, a Biblical obstacle course, an overnight lock-in or a Christian movie night.

Third, have an ice cream social and/or light snacks to conclude J-A-M.

Fourth, purchase back-to-school items (e.g., pencils, notebooks) that will be used as prizes and/or prepare back-to-school backpacks for children. And fifth, invite a youth minister to conclude the J-A-M Back-to-School

2013 celebration sharing we as followers of Jesus must be disciplined to work hard to represent God every day in and out of school thinking "What would God do in this situation?" Remember all planned activities should be developmentally age appropriate for all to have a Godly time serving Him.

The purpose for a J-A-M Back-to-School 2013 celebration is to have a good time but also to help others grow in their relationship with God knowing "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me" (Philippians 4:13 KJV). Issues such as bullying or academic struggles can be overcome. A J-A-M Back-to-School 2013 celebration will help support youth all school year and help them use their God-given skills and talents.

Dr. Brenda K. Williamson, an education consultant, holds a doctorate of philosophy in early childhood education from Walden University. Reach her at: [bwilliamson2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bwilliamson2001@yahoo.com).



Dr. Brenda K. WILLIAMSON

## God's Amazing Embodied Grace

One of the most loved hymns of Christendom is John Newton's "Amazing Grace." Bill Moyer's documentary on the worldwide legacy of this song testifies to its power. Al Rogers reminds us that Newton (1725-1807) sailed with his father, as a child, and after his dad retired, Newton served on the man-of-war, the H.M.S. Harwich. When he could no longer tolerate the ship's awful conditions, he deserted, but was later recaptured, beaten, and demoted to common seaman. Newton was sent to serve on a slave ship at his request, and later became captain of his own slave ship. On May 10, 1748, Newton experienced his religious conversion while trying to steer the ship through a major storm. Experiencing God's amazing grace, Newton coined the hymn, embracing God's love for him and become open to God's will for his life.

How do you experience "Amazing Grace?" God's Grace is everlasting, unconditional love. The overwhelming power of God's love for us caused God to create us and to desire a relationship with us. We teach

our children "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Scripture teaches us that we are made in God's image. Since God is love, we are made in love, called to love God and love God's people. So when we sing "Amazing Grace," what does it mean to sing, "that saved a wretch like me?" Other contemporary renditions of the song proclaim, "that saved a child like me."

When we truly love God and love God's people, understanding that love means to engage in just, respectful acts. We are not wretches. John Newton's testimony as a former indentured person and captain of a slave ship, was of a wretch: a rascal, victim, rogue or an imp. Because words have great power, as God's children, we become aware of the gift and responsibility of being loved, and the call to love God and love our neighbors and ourselves. We are God's children who embody God's amazing grace. Each day, each breath is a gift and an expression of God's amazing grace!

Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women's Studies at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, NC. Reach her at: [cduggan@SHAWU.EDU](mailto:cduggan@SHAWU.EDU).



Rev. Cheryl KIRK-DUGGAN

## A Focus on Leaders & Disciples: Becoming Great Commission Christians

As we continue to elaborate on the second basic strand of the Great Commission – Discipleship – we should never lose focus that becoming like Jesus our Lord and Founder lies at the epicenter of the church’s task. The founding of the whole Christian movement was initiated through the simple acts of Jesus investing His life and embedding His teaching in His followers and developing them into authentic disciples.

Another important aspect of this strand is training leaders. In the book, *The Forgotten Ways*, Author Alan Hirsch lists leadership as an extension of discipleship. Hirsch states more explicitly: “The quality of the church’s leadership is directly proportional to the quality of discipleship. If we fail in the area of making disciples, we should not be surprised if we fail in the area of leadership development.”

Many of the problems that churches face in trying to cultivate leadership for the challenges of the 21st century would be resolved if we focused on discipleship before leadership development. Discipleship is primary. Leadership is always secondary. And gen-



uinely-Christian leadership must always reflect Christ-likeness.

Another book, *Transformational Discipleship* by Eric Geiger, Michael Kelly and Phillip Nation also discusses how the framework for transformation is healthy leaders. “We need people who can rightly apply the truth to others in a vulnerable posture. Without that leadership, would-be disciples are just wandering around, waiting for one day to turn into the next,” he wrote.

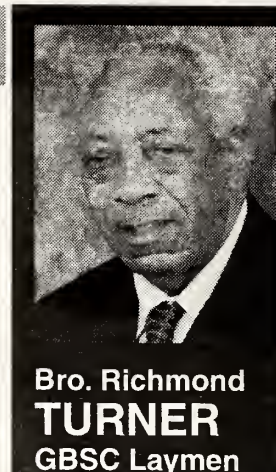
From Justification to Glorification sometimes is a long time. This makes the process of making disciples more frustrating than we would like. Additionally, we live in a social media culture. If something takes too long, we look for a different way. We hate the long way because we have been conditioned by our culture to expect instantaneously immediate gratification. God’s time line is different. The long way is not the wrong way because God is more committed to who we’re becoming than where we are going.

Embrace the long way, leaders. We need leaders

who are willing to walk alongside us. When the going gets tough, we need people who will apply Biblical truths so we can view the world and our lives through the right set of lenses. Leadership is not only necessary to transformational discipleship. It is also the end result of transformational discipleship. In creating disciples, we are creating leaders.

A healthy leader understands the necessity of creating more leaders. Healthy leaders are not insecure about others leading because they daily remind themselves of the gospel and their identity in Christ. We are prepared to help others take on responsibility because we are daily disciplining ourselves through prayer, fasting and studying. We are seeing that leadership is not only necessary to the process of discipleship, it is also the result of discipleship.

Reach Bro. Turner at: [Iturm60@aol.com](mailto:Iturm60@aol.com).

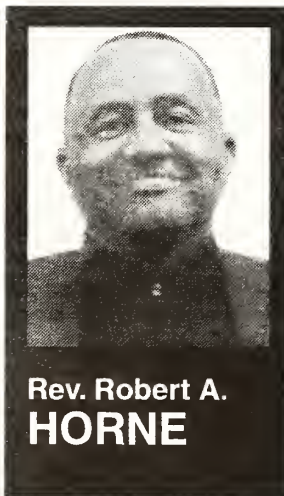


Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## MISSIONS: Growing and Maintaining the Church’s Relevancy in the 21st Century

Part Two

Foreign missions is the founding principle for the Missionary Baptist Church. During the Baptists’ pro-mission/anti-missions debate of the early 1800s, Baptists who supported foreign missions became known as Missionary Baptists, likewise Baptist who opposed foreign missions became known as Primitive Baptists. Today, many Missionary Baptist churches struggle with incorporating a foreign missions component into their church program and budget.



Rev. Robert A.  
**HORNE**

The two most cited reasons for churches not directly participating in foreign missions are budgetary constraints and, “We support other organizations that do foreign missions.” Supporting others is a worthwhile and admirable endeavor; however, churches which

do not directly engage in foreign mission miss the substantial benefits of participating in foreign missions. Church members and leaders often overlook the benefits of direct participation in foreign missions. The typical church views mission projects from the perspective of how they can minister to others. However, foreign mission is a collaborative project which benefits all vested parties. Individuals and churches gain as much as they give, if gain is measured from a

spiritual perspective.

First - Foreign missions promotes spiritual growth and development through Christian service to the world.

Second - Christians benefit from being exposed to the lives, practices, and beliefs of Christians in a wider Christian and Church context. For example; worshipping with people who may walk for days to arrive at a revival, or watching a family who live in a one room hut lined with paper to keep the wind out praise God for God’s goodness may ignite a new appreciation for God’s blessings in one’s own life.

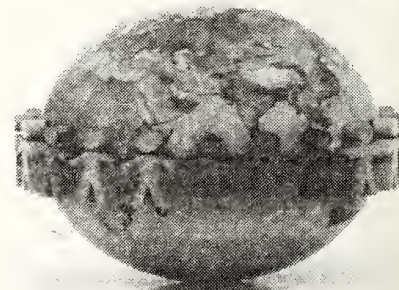
Third - Christians and churches engaged in foreign missions may obtain an insight and understanding of the world and human condition that better equips them to work with underserved populations in their local communities.

Fourth - a foreign missions program attracts people to a church because it illustrates an awareness and commitment to needs of the global Christian community and the world-at-large.

Fifth - Christians and the local church benefit from foreign mission programs because participants live and share the Gospel message with people who may have never heard or experienced it. This provides evangelistic experiences which can be integrated into the local church’s evangelistic endeavors.

The Bible teaches and faith oriented Christian believe, God always provides the resources for the ministry of the Gospel (Matt. 6:31-34). Admittedly, many people believe engaging in foreign mission is cost prohibitive. However, a well-planned two-week mission trip to Mexico, Jamaica, South America, or even Africa often cost about the same as a two week vacation to a major city in the United States. The initial

airfare may be higher, but lodging and food costs are substantially lower. Two tips for reducing the costs associated with conducting foreign missions are: plan the mission and purchase airfare far enough in advance to obtain the best airfare rates; and coordinate the mission trip with the host country’s national Bap-



tist convention, or a church in the vicinity of the proposed mission area in order to better facilitate lodging, mission details, and procure a guide.

The key to a successful mission program is enthusiasm. People get excited about new experiences and Christians are no exception. Consequently, implementing well-organized and sufficiently funded ongoing mission programs increases people’s overall excitement and interest in the local church. Finally, it is well documented that people who are excited by the work of the church contribute more to the church than people who are not, therefore excite them through missions.

Rev. Robert A. Horne, M.A., M.Div., is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist. Reach him at [RevRAHorne@gmail.com](mailto:RevRAHorne@gmail.com).

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

# Stop the Funerals: "Take-Aways" From Trayvon Martin's Death

The not guilty verdict from George Zimmerman trial is another indication of the reactionary right turn in political, social and judicial systems in the United States. We have a Mt. Everest of racial hatred swirling within America that says to the world that we are "Out-Of-Order."

Yet, there are some positive "take-aways" that can lead us forward to honor the name of Trayvon Martin and his parents. Here are a few:

First, quit hating on people of different races. That goes for white folks, black folks, and all folks. Most people are honest and law-abiding, so don't color all people with a broad stroke of bias. As Dr. King said, judge each individual by the "content of their character."

We're all God's creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works. There will be no black and white and yellow people hating on each other in heaven. No mess like that will enter the pearly gates, so let's get our hearts right with God now! Don't set out to return evil for evil; "vengeance is mine," saith the Lord.

Secondly, seek justice in a crooked world. We must make crooked places straight and rough places plain, said Isaiah. The Prophet Amos told us to "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Let us demand justice and oppose reckless "stand your ground" laws that threaten our young people. Fight against concealed carry weapon laws that allow guns in parks and on school campuses. Oppose racial profiling like "stop and frisk" in New York. Black folks—especially black men—have been subjected to stop-and-frisk for decades, even when it had no such name. The verdict for Zimmerman may have been

lawful under Florida's sick and perverse legal system, but that jury's decision was not just! So continue to stand up for justice regarding white-on-black, black-on-black, and black-on-white crime.

Thirdly, invest in our youth. Quit leaving the work of positively disciplining our young people to others. Invest your life in our children, your time, your talents, and your skills! The members in our churches must "stand in the gap" to make sure that our children are strong, educated, morally fit, and spiritually wise. The government can't do that for us. Only us can do that for us!



Invest in after school tutoring; invest in youth missions trips; invest in mentoring for our boys and girls; help them with reading and math; make Sunday School interesting (not dry and boring); promote college days; promote healthy eating and law-abiding lifestyles; decry bullying, and teach them love by showing love ourselves! Sacrificially give tithes and offerings to assure that our

you have the best teaching materials, the best technology (with instruction on how to use it positively), and the best environments to learn and flourish. Make your church a sanctuary for the youth in your community. Invest in sports teams that teach them to work as a team. Yes, churches must invest more in the development of our youth. This should be the fastest growing segment of the annual church budget! Let's put our money where our mouth is.

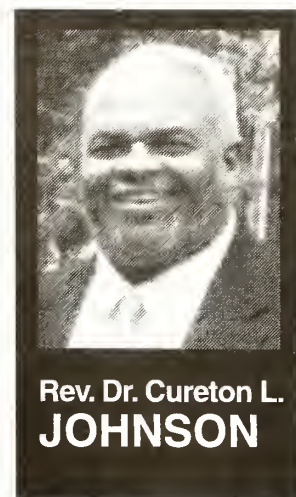
Finally, let Trayvon's hoodie be a symbol of hope. Let it symbolize the pursuit of potential and purpose. His potential was gunned down by Zimmerman, but

that bullet must motivate us to excel and to challenge our youth to excel. If you wear a hoodie, let there be something "under the hood." Know some English under that hood, know some chemistry under that hood, know about Jesus, know some history, and know how to pray under that hoodie. Let that hoodie cover a good attitude; cover a compassionate boy or girl; cover a wise and intelligent man or woman. Yes, let there be something good under the hoodie. Let there be a 1400 SAT score under that hoodie. A scholarship to college under that hoodie!

The cross was a terrible symbol of execution in the Roman Empire during Jesus' lifetime. But when Jesus died on a cross and then arose, the Cross took on a whole new meaning. The Cross became the crown of the Christian church, and that Cross today symbolizes our salvation by faith in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Similarly, the hoodie that so many of us scorn and hate so much can have a new meaning for us today! Whenever we see a hoodie, let it represent hope! Let it represent the pursuit of potential and Godly purpose! So quit hating, seek justice, invest in our youth, make the hoodie a symbol of hope, remember that Jesus is still the answer for our troubled world, that the Cross represents salvation, and that Trayvon's death was not in vain.

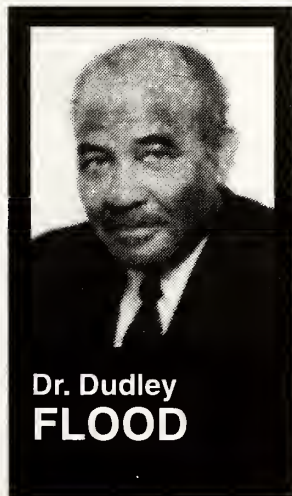
*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: [cjohnson035@nc.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson035@nc.rr.com)*



**Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON**

## Living in the Love of the Common People

Our young people must wonder what happened to the "American Dream" that draws people from every nation on earth, but that seems to evade so many of us. Could it be that the "good old days" really were good, old days? And if that is the case, may there be something to be learned from them that could make life better for us right now?



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**

There is a country song which depicts the manner in which many of us were reared. Its lyrics begin "Living on free food tickets. Water in the milk from the hole in the roof where the rain comes through. What'll we do? Tears from little sister. She crying 'cause she doesn't have a dress without a patch for the party

And she can."

Most of the people that I knew who lived in similar circumstances appear to have grown up to be relatively productive and generally happy adults. Perhaps that is because they realize how blessed they are to have overcome so many obstacles and have a sense of contrast between what is and what might have been except for the blessings of God. It may be that they have learned some of life's lessons along the way which include the following:

Peace does not simply mean the absence of war. There are always storms raging in our environment and each of us must determine how he or she will react to them. Peace comes to some of us from knowing that we have done the very best we can to make life better for someone else. Some of us do not seek happiness in the usual definition but rather have learned, like Apostle Paul, to be content in whatever state we find ourselves.

Feelings of security cannot come from having superior strength since that cannot be a constant factor. Security comes from the belief that you can endure all



things. You need not seek difficulties, but will not fear them if you have the power of endurance.

Compromise is not an act of cowardice. If one is seen as a mollifier, he or she should take pride in that fact. Truculence is self-perpetuating and precipitates a negative response. Hostility is a learned and nurtured attitude. So is gentility.

Each of us must choose the manner in which we want to be seen by others and to reflect the traits that will lead to that persona.

It seems that a common human tendency is that all of us desire to be great. We would like to be recognized for our contributions and rewarded accordingly. The truth is that it is not likely to happen for most of us. There is, however, one thing that continues to be available to those who serve without selfish motives. In the end, we will live in the love of the common people.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, is a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, and serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Reach him at: [floodspeaker@bell-south.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bell-south.net).*

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Illustrations

To illustrate or not to illustrate is the question for every preacher who desires to elevate his or her preaching effectiveness, lifting it out of the dungeon of boredom and dullness. A boring and dull sermon is a sleeping pill that causes eyes to be “wide shut.” For this reason the use of illustrations in our preaching is not optional but rather a necessity.

The necessity of using illustrations goes beyond practical usefulness. Illustrations in preaching hold both biblical and theological importance. If you will notice, using illustrations is a communication method or technique found in the Bible. Scripture is rich and fertile with imagery, stories, symbols and other forms. Jesus illustrated with

parables as a method to teach and preach the Kingdom message. For an example, he talked about the sower went out to sow seeds (Lk 8:5-8). Another instance he talked about the lost sheep, lost coin and the lost son (Lk 15: 1-32). Still, another episode he used the parable of the lamp (Lk 8:16-18). Jesus was an effective communicator using such devices as parables, stories, illustrations and imagery. For sure, he taught in ways that stimulated the interest of his audience. While he stirred the emotions of the crowd bringing joy and hope in some listeners and anger in others,



the audience was not bored nor did they fall asleep.

Illustrations in your preaching are theological matters because their use is serving the truth principles of the preaching-text. The theological importance of illustrations, then, is based on the idea concerning teaching and preaching the scripture for faith, which leads to a fruitful and productive life in Christ. Illustrations function to some degree like a flash light that shines in the dark, casting light so that one can see.

Likewise, when the preacher uses illustrations, the purpose is to cast light or clarify the meaning of the preaching-text. It is said, “If you can’t illustrate it don’t preach it.” What is meant by this statement is “if you cannot think of an illustration—a person, a story, a situation to which to

apply the truth—then the truth is at best irrelevant or at worst simply not true.” In some respects, illustrations are vehicles that transport truth to a level of highest probability of clarification and understanding concerning the gospel of our Lord.

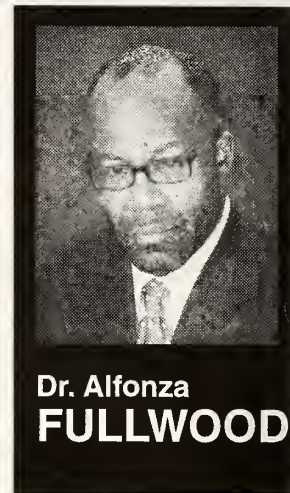
The practical importance of illustrations is related to both the preacher and the audience. For the preacher, it is a useful tool that increases his or her ability to connect and identify with the audience. In doing so, the preacher enters the world and reality of the people as they know it. In other words, illustra-

tions should contain an immediate “familiarity factor” with the life experience of the audience.

Another way of putting it is “talk their language.” If your audience has agricultural background, then you might not want to use an illustration that is foreign to their experience. Illustrations have practical usefulness for the audience for several reasons. First, it captures their attention. Second, it helps them to see truth. Third, it creates interest and finally it is a sure way to state your case and persuade the audience concerning your point or argument.

One concluding thought concerning the use of illustrations. Never use illustrations or stories for the sake of illustrations. To do so, illustrations become an end unto themselves instead of a means to an end. We need to be careful not to preach the illustration but rather the scripture. In doing so, the text is the master and illustration the servant. In our next article we will discuss where to find illustrations and how to use them.

*Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



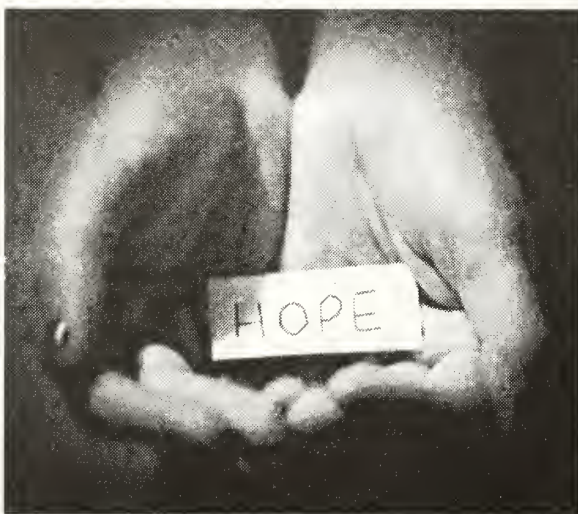
**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

# Offerings to God: Powerful Symbols of Christianity

The offering of gifts is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to God, a concept found in both the old and new testaments. The Psalmist sang “Bring an offering and come into his courts” (Psalm 96:8). The writer of Hebrews exhorted his fellow Christians to let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. He further stated, “do not neglect to do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Heb. 13:15-16).

The church certainly needs money, but the raising of money to support the church should not dominate the motivation in giving. Since worship is dialogue with upward movement as well as downward movement, the offering of gifts should be considered seriously. The offering of gifts is a symbol of sacrifice. In an hour of physical need, King David asked for a drink from the well at Bethlehem. Men risked their lives to bring him a drink, but he would not drink for it was too precious and “he poured it out to the lord” (2 Sam. 23:16). Worship needs the spirit of sacrifice. The

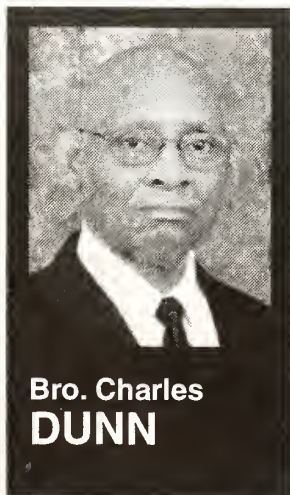
offering of money into the offering plate is no less a part of worship than are the offerings of hymns and prayers.



In Christian worship, making an offering is a symbolic act representing the giving of one’s self. Paul commended the Christians of the churches of Macedonia for their generosity. The real value of their giving is attested to by the fact that first they gave themselves to the lord. Their sacrificial giving attested to their sincerity (2 Cor. 8:5). Unselfish sharing is proof of our love for others. All true benevolent giving is based on love. John challenged his fellow Christians to share the world’s goods with someone in need when he wrote, “Little children, let us love, neither in word nor with the tongue, but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:18). Generous giving expresses our missionary zeal. All world missionary enterprises depend upon the gifts of God’s people.

Since giving is an act of worship, the manner of presenting gifts in worship is significant. A careful approach toward the presentations of gifts will help to prevent careless and indifferent attitudes. One such approach is the use of an inspired offertory sentence preceding the presentation of the gifts. The members of the congregation should participate in the act of giving. Every member and guest of the church should have the privilege of giving. These offerings should be gathered in an orderly and dignified manner. The presentation of the offering at the altar is the climax of this act of worship. A prayer dedicating the gifts may imply God’s acceptance and serve as a symbol of communion between God and the worshippers. A hymn of response at the conclusion of the prayer would be in order.

*Reach Bro. Dunn at: justicem@bellsouth.net.*



**Bro. Charles DUNN**

**The North Carolina State Ushers' Workshop**  
will be held on  
**Saturday,**  
**September 21, 2013**  
at  
**Shiloh Baptist Church**  
635 College Street  
Henderson, N.C.



**Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and the program starts at 9:00 AM. For details, please contact (252) 438-8987.**

# September Wisdom: Understanding Sickle Cell Anemia in our community

Looking back, I had little fear of being tested. As a 19-year-old college student, I attended a health fair in the student union at my university. I meandered over to a table display where a nurse invited me and a few friends to have our fingers pricked for a Sickle Cell Anemia screening. A few drops of blood, I reasoned, was as simple (and mindless) as going to a football game or learning to navigate the "stacks" in the college library.

Little did I know that that finger prick would resonate far into my physical, emotional and spiritual being. Once the test results came back, I learned that I had been positively identified as a "sickler," or one who carried the Sickle Cell Trait.

I do not have Sickle Cell Disease, which affects about 90,000 to 100,000 people, mainly African Americans in the United States. I have no noticeable symptoms, but I have inherited a gene (or trait) that alone put me at risk of passing it on to future generations.

As people of faith, it is important that we become aware of health issues, especially as it pertains to genetic diseases that can affect generations of people.

According to Elaine Whitworth at Bridges Pointe Sickle Cell Foundation or Duke Sickle Cell Center in Durham, N.C., too many people do not know if they have the trait.

About two million people in the United States with the trait are the next "generation of potentially unaware parents of a baby with Sickle Cell Disease."

Mrs. Whitworth and other

health educators are now looking to churches - to change this.

She's dedicated to changing that because two people who have Sickle Cell Trait may produce a child who has SCD.

"The role of the black church in the African American experience was recently illuminated by President Obama," she said. "He called the White House Roundtable on Faith, Community-based and Public Health on Sickle Cell Disease to promote awareness and education in our community through health ministries."

To further emphasize this point, the Foundation is working with Pastors, church leaders and religious organizations to get the word out to parents, grandparents, couples and singles in our community.

For others, like myself, who have inherited Sickle Cell Trait or other genetic issues, it is our duty to get the word out. Long before our first daughter was born in 1993, my husband was tested for Sickle Cell Anemia. He does not have the trait. Neither does our two daughters since my husband does not carry the gene.

Knowledge is power.

September is Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month. What better time to focus on taking care of our God-given gift: Our bodies.

The Annual Sickle Cell Prayer Breakfast presented by the Bridges Pointe Foundation, Inc., will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at St. Joseph AME Church, 2541 Fayetteville St., Durham. For details, contact Elaine Whitworth at (919) 684-0677 or thebridgespointe@gmail.com.



Ophelia  
**JOHNSON**



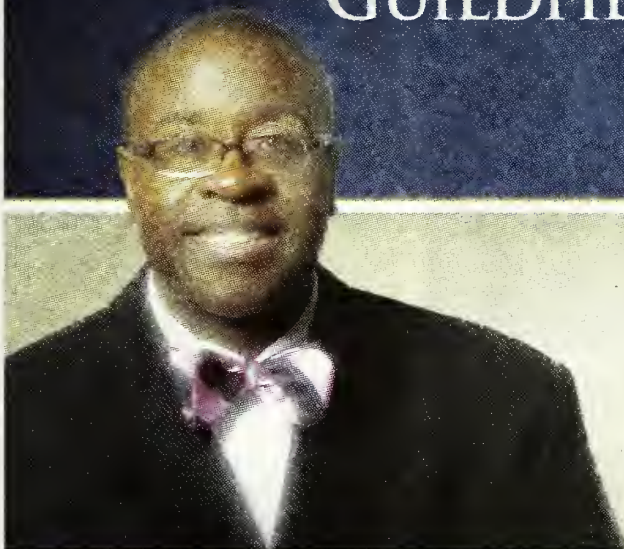
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7:00 P.M. NIGHTLY

REVEREND DR. JAMES P. BALLARD  
Pastor Emeritus, United Metropolitan Missionary  
Baptist Church, High Point, NC. Guest Speaker.



**NAASIA BARNES**  
Guest Psalmist



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

(continued from page 1)

employed at her alma mater as Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life. Additionally, she is a member of the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C., where the Rev. William F. Wright, Jr. is Pastor.

On July 8, 2001, Rev. Inman accepted her call to the ministry and completed her initial sermon at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church. She was subsequently ordained by the Rowan Baptist Association in July 2004.

Additionally, WBH&FMC's Immediate Past President Dr. Audrey P. Battle was recognized by the Governor of the State of North Carolina and awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is among the most prestigious awards given by the Governor of North Carolina.

Created in 1965, the award recognizes individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. Contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers and many years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award. The honor is most often given when a person retires.

Dr. Battle's term of President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina ended with the conclusion of the 129th Annual Session. Other notables who have received the award include Maya Angelou, Dan Blue, William Friday, Danny Glover, Andy Griffith, Coretta Scott King, Oprah Winfrey and James Worthy.



Boy Scouts from Watts Chapel in Raleigh.



Rev. Inman's Pastor, Rev. William F. Wright, Jr., Pastor of New Zion MBC in Greensboro, President Rev. Linda Inman, her good friend Sabina Walls, and Uncle Mr. Lloyd Inman.



Dr. Battle Receives High State Honors, including the Long Leaf Pine Award, for her dedicated service to the WBH&FMC.



Dr. Linda Bryan and YA President, Ms. Jewlyn Dunn.



Dr. Bryan with Mrs. Mary Swann.



Distinguished service award was presented to four seniors who have served the Woman's Convention for 60 years or more. Mrs. Mary McDonald, Mrs. Lillie McDaniel, Mrs. Coleen Stanley (sitting) and Mrs. Vivian Samuels. Awards presented during the Banquet.

Photos by Chris Hinton

To My Baptist Family ...

Words are not enough to express my gratitude for your support and outpouring during the Celebration of my transition to retirement at the Banquet during the Annual Session. To those of You who have supported me with your prayers, words of encouragement and presence during my tenure, my heart says thank you.

- Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan

# Gathers in Celebration of the 129th Annual Session



Dr. Audrey Battle, Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck Brown, Rep. Yvonne Lewis-Holley who presented the Long Leaf Pine award to Dr. Battle.



Dr. Bryan, President Inman, and Dr. Bryan's husband, Dr. John Bryan.



Dr. Bryan, Rev. Eleanor Kemp and Rev. Kenneth Cooper, of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh.

## BAPTIST INFORMER

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# • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

## ASSOCIATION WINNERS

The Yadkin Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Association held its Annual Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress on July 24-26 in support of the State Convention and its objectives. Highlights included recognition of Mr. Shaw Langston Kodzai and Miss State Mission Aalihay Brown. Moderator is the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Sanders, Pastor of Piney Grove West Missionary Baptist Church in Waxhaw, N.C., and the Rev. R. E. Blount is President.



The 2013 Court - Pictured (from left) Rev. Dr. Robert Sanders, Moderator; Aalihay Brown (Miss State Mission), Langston Kodzai, Mr. Shaw; and Veronica Kodzai, Youth Directress.

## COLLEGE DAYS

Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. is featuring "College Sunday" on the fourth Sunday of every month. Local students are invited for service, home-cooked meals and fellowship immediately following service. For details, contact the church at (919) 832-1353 or via the web at [www.oberlinbaptistchurchraleigh.org](http://www.oberlinbaptistchurchraleigh.org)



## DEDICATED SERVANTS

The Woman's Auxiliary of the High Point Educational & Missionary Baptist Association celebrated 100 years of Dedicated Christian Service in July.

Highlights included a pre-convention banquet at the Oak Ridge First Baptist Church Christian Family Life Center in Oak Ridge, N.C. where Dr. James A. Webster is Pastor. The guest speaker was Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention-NC.

Convention Officers included: President Sis. Brenda Webster; Vice-President Sis. Ardelia McLaughlin; Second Vice Rev. Pamela Holder; Recording Corresponding Secretary Sis. Sheila Sutton; Treasurer Sis. Martha Foust. The Woman's Auxiliary will continue to meet local, state and national objectives set forth by the local assemblies, association and convention at large. And with the Lord's help we will nurture, and make a difference in our families, churches, communities and world. Moderator is Dr. Samuel J. Cornelius.

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at [Nwrightgbsc@aol.com](mailto:Nwrightgbsc@aol.com).

# Getting The Word Out: Raising Awareness About Prostate Health

Every September, we take time to observe and focus on Prostate Health. This health issue can be seen worldwide socially in media and in communities. The light blue ribbon serves as a symbol and reminder to all of the importance of prostate health awareness and the many lives that are affected by prostate cancer.

## What Is the Prostate?

As defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prostate is a part of the male reproductive system that includes the penis, prostate, and testicles. The prostate is located just below the bladder and in front of the rectum. It is about the size of a walnut and surrounds the urethra (the tube that empties urine from the bladder). The job of the prostate is to produce fluid that makes up a part of semen.

## Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is a form of cancer that develops in the prostate, a gland in the male reproductive system. Most prostate cancers are slow growing; however, there are cases of aggressive prostate cancers. The cancer cells may spread from the prostate to other parts of the body, particularly the bones and lymph nodes.



Prostate cancer may cause pain, difficulty in urinating, problems during sexual intercourse, or erectile dysfunction. Other symptoms can potentially develop during later stages of the disease.

Among men, prostate cancer is the most common cancer and more common in African-American males than white males. Recent studies from various research institutions have seen a recent upward trend in prostate cancer survival rates. What does this mean? It means that more people are learning about prostate health, getting screened, taking action to live healthier lifestyles, and sharing information.

## Survivorship

It was once thought that finding out that you had cancer was a death sentence but now research and advances in medicine and technology have allow a better quality of life post-treatment for cancer. This is known widely as cancer survivorship. Survival rates are often used by doctors as a standard way of discussing a person's prognosis or outlook. The American Cancer Society states that most recent data, when including all men with prostate cancer:

- The relative 5-year survival rate is nearly 100%
- The relative 10-year survival rate is 98%
- The 15-year relative survival rate is 93%

## Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Attention Pastor Search Committee  
P.O. Box 281  
Havelock, NC 28532

The Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

1. Be Married. Single Pastors will be considered.
2. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a Senior Pastor. Experience as an Associate Pastor will be considered.
3. Strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure.
4. Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation.
5. Ability to communicate with all age groups.
6. Credentialed from accredited college and/ or Seminary school. With Bachelor to Masters in Divinity preferred.
7. Strong skills in community ministries.
8. Teaching ministry; ie Bible study, Sunday school
9. Caring ministry

Preferred emphasis:

Seeking innovative ministry that includes youth church. Administrative skills that will motivate total church growth. A progressive mindset that encourage active participation.

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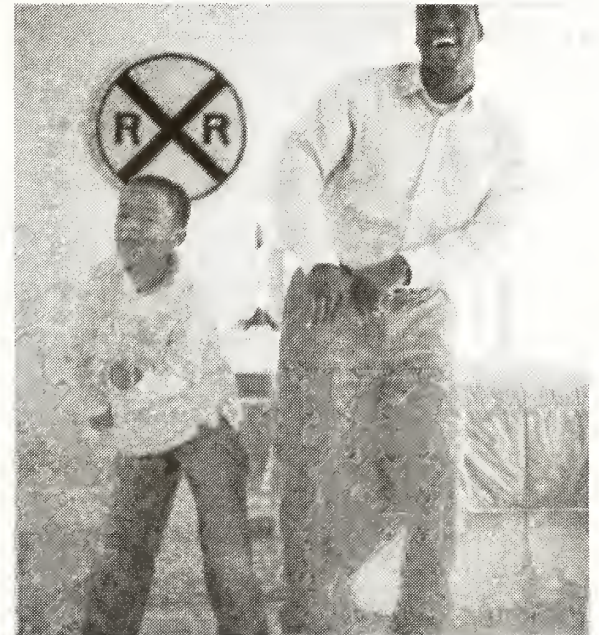
HEALTH  
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Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

## Heightened Awareness

Today, more than ever, the attention on cancer and prostate cancer specifically, has led to increased awareness, knowledge, and education among the masses. From professional sports to social media to civic/community/faith organizations and other outlets, prostate health has been on the fore front and consciousness of the general public. Faith organizations have the power



and influence to raise the awareness about the importance of prostate health in a number of ways. Having a health ministry can help tremendously. Getting information out to masses through; health fairs, events, fundraisers, newsletters, email lists, and congregation health talks, helps to push the agenda for healthy lifestyles and behavior.

Everyone is affected by prostate cancer one way or another whether by first-hand experience or from someone you know. It is important to encourage, support, and educate not only ourselves, but those around us about prostate health and all its dynamics. Building and sustaining support systems and utilizing resources go a long way to raising awareness and being actively involved. Local and national awareness events and interacting with Survivors/Support groups are good ways to get started.

Prostate health is important for men and women alike, so be proactive and help spread the word, together.

For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

# Nicole Morrisey is First Place Winner in James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest



*Preparatory Division  
(grades 6-8)*

Nicole is in the 7th grade. She resides in Fayetteville, North Carolina and the daughter of Jarvis and Christy Morrisey. She is a member of Lewis Chapel; pastor is Dr. John D. Fuller

in the Union Baptist Association, Rev. Mark Rowden, Moderator.

Please see the winning speech below:

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Have you ever heard of the game "Follow the Leader?" When I was younger this was one of my favorite games. Some of you may think this is for kids; however, you are sadly mistaken. As Christians we are commanded to "Follow the Leader" every day. I know some of you may be thinking, what does the game "Follow the Leader" have to do with being a Christian. Thanks for asking. I will be happy to tell you. First as Christians, "Follow the Leader" is not a game,

it is a command. You see God is the leader and we are to follow Him. In the Bible the words "Follow Me" is found in the Gospels thirteen times. Jesus used those two simple words when He called Peter, Andrew, James and John to be His disciples. Matthew 4:19 states "And immediately they left their nets, and followed Him". Jesus also called the tax collector, Matthew in a similar manner. Jesus said to him "Follow Me!" and he arose, and followed Him. These words mean immediate detachment from personal interest and attachment to Christ. So why should we follow Christ? The answer is simple, if we do not, we will be missing out on our reward. Deuteronomy 28:1 states, if you obey the Lord your God faithfully; keep all His commands that I am giving you today, He will make you greater than any other nations on earth. This means that as long as you listen to God and follow His commands, He will reward you with blessings. There are many different blessings that He can give you. He can bless you with money when there is no money in the bank, food, when there is no food on the table, clothes, when you are naked. The ultimate reward for following Christ is to live eternally with Him in Heaven. In order to get God's blessing, you have to follow Him, our leader. Without God, where would we be today? We all know He loves us despite

of our wrong. However, if we do not accept Him into our hearts we will not be able to go to Heaven. Joshua 24:15 says, choose you this day whom you will serve. The question is, will you serve God or will you serve man? Will you follow your friends who will skip school and cheat on a test or will you follow God, your Lord and Savior, the one who gave us His only Son to die for our sins? In school we are faced with peer-pressure and we often want to follow our friends so we can be a part of the in-crowd. Let me ask you a question, will being a part of the in-crowd get you into Heaven? If the answer is no, then why are most of us still following our friends and not Christ. We have to choose before it is too late and Jesus comes back. You are never too young or too old to follow Christ. Today is your day to make the right choice, will it be God or will it be man? I do not know about you, but I want to one day see my Master's face, and hear Him say well done my good and faithful servant. What about you?

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# Congress: Restore Your Reputations

Recent polls indicate that the approval rating for Congress has fallen to 10 percent—a historic low. Bickering and dysfunction on Capitol Hill are seemingly to blame for this frustration with lawmakers.

Over the past three years, efforts to reduce the federal deficit have overshadowed the people who are most in need of assistance. The most conservative wing of the House of Representatives has pushed for deep and disproportionate cuts to programs that help poor people. However, by fits and starts, Congress has come to agreement with the president on about \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction without gutting anti-poverty programs. Cuts to programs for poor people have come to about \$25 billion—just one percent of the radical cuts that the House has proposed.

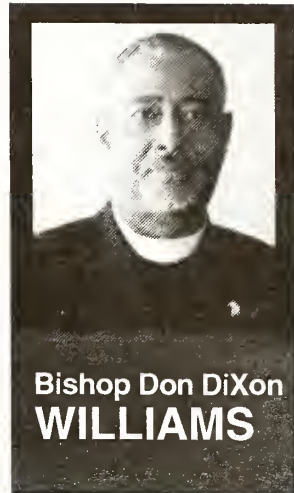
But deeper cuts to vital programs are inevitable unless Congress commits to work together and with the

president on a sensible plan. When negotiations between Congress and the president broke down earlier this year, sequestration went into effect, triggering automatic budget cuts.

These cuts are doing real harm—70,000 fewer children will be enrolled in Head Start this year, for example, and millions of meals to housebound seniors have been eliminated. Unless sequestration is replaced, deeper cuts will continue each year and fewer vulnerable people will be protected.

During the economic crisis of 2008, hunger surged in the United States, but it has not since increased, even though poverty and unemployment rates have remained high. Because the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), which is funded through the farm bill, was protected during budget battles, the vital program helped to

# Bread for Life



keep hunger at bay.

This summer, the House Agriculture Committee proposed a farm bill that included \$20 billion in cuts to SNAP. That is equivalent to eliminating half of all the charitable food distribution by churches and food banks over a 10-year period. But some House members wanted even steeper cuts—the House recently doubled the proposed cut to \$40 billion.

A House committee has approved a cut of 26 percent to development assistance programs that provide help and opportunity to extremely hungry and poor people around the world. These cuts would leave millions of people, in countries such as Ethiopia and Tanzania, without access to food aid, clean water, and life-saving medicine.



Such cold, uncompromising decisions contribute to public disapproval of elected officials.

The nation is again approaching hard deadlines that will require our leaders to come to bipartisan agreement on budget matters. Failure would lead to government shutdown and, once again, risk our nation's creditworthiness and economic recovery.

We ask members of Congress to put an end to brinksmanship and come to agreement on these difficult issues. We must all urge them to maintain a circle of protection around the programs that help hungry and poor people in our country and abroad.

*Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial-ethnic outreach at Bread for the World and sits on the Board of Bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR PASTOR

**MOUNT CALVARY MISSIONSARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
509 CARROLL STREET  
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA**

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist is currently accepting resume's for the position of Pastor. Mount Calvary is a member of the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

### Potential Candidate Qualifications:

- Must be led by the Spirit of God in all matters and perform pastoral duties according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be ordained and licensed with strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist doctrines, policies and practices.
- Must be willing to conduct worship service on a weekly basis.
- Three to five years of prior pastoral experience preferred.
- Seminary degree from an accredited school or equivalent education preferred.
- Ability to teach God's word and carryout administrative, strong leadership and counseling duties.
- Ability to communicate and work with all age levels. Participate in outreach ministries (including, but not limited to, youth and senior ministries).
- Must be family and community oriented.
- Must be a positive role model of moral and ethical conduct.
- Must be willing to teach and/or attend Sunday School, Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; visit the sick and shut-in, participate in administering Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in and support church functions.
- Must have vision for the spiritual, intellectual, physical and financial growth of the church.

### Along with your resume', potential candidate must provide:

- Four references: 2 professional; 2 personal. References must include name, address and telephone number.
- Name, address and telephone number of previous or current church affiliation. Please include pastor's name if applicable.
- Proof of religious credentials (license/ordination).
- Proof of degree for confirmation or transcript of completed courses if degree has not been conferred.
- Must provide mission statement for the church.

This list is certainly not inclusive, but serves as a snapshot of what we expect of a pastor as we build Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church into a church that will serve all of God's children.

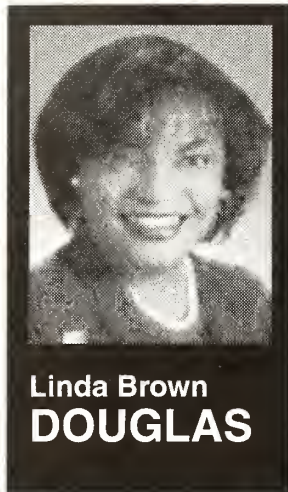
If you feel God is leading you to answer this call, please submit your resume' to:

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 13594  
New Bern, North Carolina 28561-0341

**DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by midnight October 31, 2013**

# What if people were objects: Would we be kinder?

A few years ago I traveled with a small group of mostly mothers and daughters to a national track meet in Boston. The majority of the trip we faced unprecedented torrential rain with heavy winds that left us soaking wet as we walked from the parking lot to the indoor track. The one solace we had was a compact car we rented upon arrival. Actually, the car was tiny and we sometimes had to make two trips to get everyone from the hotel to the arena, but the nice thing about it was that it had a Global Positioning System, which wasn't common in economy cars back then.



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

We loved that navigation system, because it gave us a sense of security in a strange city with blinding rain. We even named the equipment,

Susan, and we bragged on it constantly with kind words of "Thanks, Susan" or "We couldn't have made it without you, Susan." Even when Susan made mistakes, we understood, because we knew – even though she never asked for forgiveness – that she didn't mislead us on purpose. When she ignored us or repeated herself, as if to nag us to remember to make a turn, we

just thanked her, because we knew her intentions were good. As we left Boston, we joked about how much we would miss hearing Susan's voice. Of course, she wasn't perfect, we conceded, but we were always quick to forgive her for any times she might have let us down.

Imagine if we gave human beings the same consideration we give inanimate objects.

The truth is, if we showed the people who live among us as much grace as we show objects, we would have a lot less conflict or hurt feelings. Many of us have been in a situation in which we thought someone was ignoring us only to learn the person was hearing impaired. We may have seen someone stumble drunkenly who actually had a physical illness that caused imbalance. We may have even been hurt by something someone said and later learned the person had no intention of expressing what we thought we heard. If only we were as understanding of people as we are of objects. The Bible encourages us to show understanding and forgiveness:

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; Luke 6:37 (ESV)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each



other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)

Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly. Proverbs 14:29 (ESV)

God certainly shows plenty of understanding towards us – whether we go in the wrong direction, nag him or fail to ask for forgiveness. Maybe the way to avoid temptation to become angry with people is to remember the old, "What would Jesus do?" phrase or maybe even ask yourself: "How would I respond if my GPS did this?"

*Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*

**First Emmanuel Baptist Church High Point, NC** Guilford County is now accepting resumes for the position of full time pastor.

Qualifications--\*Must be married\*

- 1) The applicant must be a licensed and ordained Minister, and willing to become a member of the Rowan Baptist Association.
- 2) Must have strong knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- 3) The applicant must be a born again Christian, as evidenced by one's character and dedication.
- 4) The applicant must have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience as a Pastor/Minister.
- 5) The applicant must be effective in working with all groups within the church, and expected preach, teach and, and counsel in word and deed to all age groups.
- 6) The applicant must be willing to support all church programs (Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meetings, etc.)
- 7) The applicant is expected to visit the sick and shut-in (hospital, nursing home, home bound, and etc.).
- 8) The applicant must attend seminars, conferences, workshops and other Educational programs that will contribute to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the Church.

#### Principal Responsibility

- The applicant's main responsibilities will be to Preach and Teach God's Word, leading the Church in an effective and caring Ministry, and representing the Church at the Local and State meetings.
- The applicant must submit a resume with a cover letter; include a copy of their Ministerial License, and Ordination Certificate.
- Three letters of reference from individuals other than family members, and a current photograph.
- Applicants must also provide a criminal background and credit check.

The deadline for submitting all material is November 1, 2013.

Please forward all correspondences to:

**Pastor Search Committee  
First Emmanuel Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 1185  
High Point, N.C. 27260**

#### **Bethel Grove Baptist Church**

6116 Mount Laurel Rd  
Clover, Virginia 24534

The Bethel Grove Baptist Church is currently seeking a Pastor for our congregation. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers with transformational leadership skills and excellent preaching and teaching abilities. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- A minimum 2 years of experience as a Pastor or Associate Pastor
- Formal theological education, credentialed from an accredited college and/or Seminary School (official transcripts will be required)
- Live within a 100 mile radius of the church
- A strong knowledge of the Baptist Doctrine and procedures
- Must be able to build up church spirituality
- Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation
- Teaching ministry: Bible Study, Sunday School
- Strong skills in community ministries

Qualified candidates must submit the following items:

- Letter of intent (Cover Letter)
- Current resume (include family background and summary of relevant ministry, professional, and educational experience)

Correspondences should be sent to the following address:

**Bethel Grove Baptist Church  
Attention: Pastor Search Committee  
P.O. Box 74  
Clover, Virginia 24534**

# • • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • • •

## Press Reports

### Irrelevant information in medical testimonials may lead to poor choices

Medical testimonials on the Internet and elsewhere present powerful personal stories and useful information, but they can also be dangerous to your health if distracting, irrelevant information leads to inappropriate treatment decisions, say researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Distracted by Details: Narrative Influence Following Conflicting Stories" was published in July in the journal *Media Psychology*. Authors were Joseph P. Simmons, a 2013 Ph.D. graduate in social psychology, and Melanie C. Green, assistant professor of psychology, in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences.

"We grow up learning from stories and we often identify with the people or characters telling those stories," Green said. "So we are not used to stepping back and analyzing the information, especially in the context of complex medical conditions and treatment options." Green is a social psychologist whose research has focused on the power of narrative to change beliefs.

Green noted that consumers tend to give more credibility to testimonials coming from people with whom they have something in common, even though some kinds of similarities may be irrelevant for the decision at hand. For example, if someone loves classical music and reads an online or magazine testimonial about a cleaning product written by another classical-music lover, he or she is more likely to believe it is a good product, even if the classical-music connection has nothing to do with it.

### \$5.6 million NIH grant funds new UNC osteoarthritis research center

A new multidisciplinary clinical research center (MCRC) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, funded by a \$5.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, seeks better ways to address the costly public health issue of osteoarthritis (OA).

Arthritis affects 50 million people in the United States, with more than 27 million of those suffering the disabling pain of OA, a form of arthritis that causes joint swelling and degeneration. These numbers are ex-

pected to grow significantly as the population ages and gets heavier, since extra weight puts additional strain on joints, especially knees and hips.

"We know that arthritis is the leading cause of disability among older adults," said Dr. Joanne Jordan, principal investigator for the grant and director of UNC's Thurston Arthritis Research Center (TARC). "With this grant, we plan to create a true multidisciplinary hub for OA and musculoskeletal research here at UNC – one that leverages our research, clinical, education and training strengths across disciplines to better understand and treat this chronic and often debilitating disease." Jordan also is chief of the division of rheumatology, allergy and immunology in UNC School of Medicine department of medicine.

The new MCRC will take a three-pronged approach to mitigating the public health impact of osteoarthritis: understanding what causes and contributes to developing arthritis and resulting disability; identifying best practices to help communities address this public health issue; and transforming the face of arthritis research on campus by serving as a center for innovation, training and collaboration.

"We will build on our existing strengths, including the long-term community project in Johnston County, where we have been working with residents since 1991," Jordan said. The federal Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, which has helped support the program, describes it as, "...a unique, community-based, longitudinal study of approximately 3,200 rural white and black residents aged 45 and older, followed for over 20 years."

The Johnston County study now includes hand, foot, spine, shoulder and ankle OA; osteoporosis, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions. It has been the source of more than 30 other studies examining risk factors for OA, such as diet, occupational demands, physical activity, genetics and environmental exposures to metals and others. The study has also housed several clinical trials and community interventions for arthritis.

### Low-Income Homes Available

Saint Augustine's University Community Development Corporation has begun building homes in the Idlewild Community of Raleigh, N.C. for low-to-moderate income, first-time home buyers.

The program is part of the Cooke Street Extension Redevelopment Phase II Project and the homes are close to downtown Raleigh and the Historic Oakwood neighborhood. For more information, please contact Brenda Williamson, Program Coordinator at (919) 516-4754 or via email at [bswilliamson@st-aug.edu](mailto:bswilliamson@st-aug.edu).

## UNIVERSITY ••• NEWS •••

(continued from page 1)

year, more than 870 Shaw students received a scholarship from either private and/or University resources. Additionally, 35 percent of all fall 2012-2013 undergraduates and 36 percent of Shaw's entering freshman class indicated they were first-generation college students.

"We thank Duke Energy for this tremendous investment in Shaw students," said Shaw President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "Ninety-seven percent of our students received some form of financial aid during the last academic year. These funds will enable us to continue our mission of facilitating student learning and achievement through a quality education that is both accessible and affordable."

## SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School **April 7-10, 2014**.

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School's accreditation may send an email to

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu) <<mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>>

or may contact ATS directly at:

### The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110

Telephone: 412-788-6505 | Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more <<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>> about Shaw University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

You are invited to the ...

# 33rd Annual Family Missions Conference

Saturday, September 28, 2013

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

at

Mt. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

205 N. Elm Street

Williamston, NC 27892

Sponsored by the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it ..."*

~Psalm 127:1



## BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
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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 1967.

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WAKE FOREST NC 27587-2553



# BAPTIST INFORMER

October 2013

Volume 136, No. 9

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

## Lott Carey – A Global Christian Missional Community

Projects for Support (2013 – 2014)

Lott Carey is a global Christian missional community that extends the Christian witness around the world. Through prayer partnership, financial support, and technical assistance, we come alongside indigenous communities engaged primarily in ministries of evangelism, compassion, empowerment, and advocacy. We are touching lives with the transforming love of Christ.



Dr. Goatley

In addition to our ongoing monthly support around the world that provides financial resources for programs, personnel, and facilities, our network of partners share special requests for support at various financial levels from time to time. Listed below are opportunities for which we solicit your prayers that the Lord will answer affirmatively the petitions for the following projects.

### Child and Youth Scholarship Support in Liberia

\$365 per year (one-dollar-a-day) provides the majority support for a child to attend the Lott Carey Mission School (LCMS) in Liberia. LCMS is one of the most effective schools in Liberia providing high quality education pre-kindergarten through grade 12. College Student Support in South Africa

(continued on page 9)



A SMOOTH TRANSITION - New Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Sherri Arnold Graham, WBH&FMC President Rev. Linda Inman and Immediate past Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Linda W. Bryan were among the North Carolinians who attended the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. held September 1-7 in Charlotte, N.C. The host church was Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where the Dr. Clifford Jones, Sr. is Pastor. (Additional photos on Page 8)

## Sherri Arnold Graham Named Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

The Reverend Dr. Sherri Arnold Graham has been named Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina.

The Executive Committee of the General Baptist State Convention (which has the legal responsibility to hire employees of the Convention) met on August 27 to hear the recommendation of the GBSC Personnel Committee who recommended Dr. Arnold Graham for the position. She will leave her current position as Pastor of the historic Oberlin

Baptist Church of Raleigh to become the full-time Executive Secretary-Treasurer on September 23.

Dr. Arnold Graham succeeds The Reverend Dr. Linda W. Bryan whose retirement as WBH&FMC Executive Secretary-Treasurer was effective on August 31, 2013. Dr. Bryan was employed in March, 2009 and came to the Convention after years as an academic professional. Before coming to Convention, Dr. Bryan was Assistant Dean at Shaw University Divinity School.

(continued on page 8)

## How Can Pastors, Congregations Serve Military Families?

**Q&A** ... with Dr. Terri Brown, Fayetteville State University

Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, many service members, veterans and citizen soldiers are experiencing emotional trauma, combat injuries, military sexual trauma and recurring deployments on an unprecedented scale.

Due to staff shortages, military family advocacy programs, mental health services and medical facilities are



experiencing difficulties in meeting military populations' biopsychosocial needs. In response, military industry programs are proliferating throughout the country. Military families are turning to pastors for spiritual guidance and counseling to help them cope with psychological and physical stress; others fear retribution from their commanders if they seek help from military-affiliated mental health programs and therefore, turn to their pastors or congregations for assistance.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

P3

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

P8

Highlights of Lott Carey and the National Annual Session

Renew!

TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form



# How Can Pastors, Congregations Serve Military Families?



(continued from page 1)

Although some clergy, especially those employed in military communities, may not understand military culture, policies, and programs. In addition, they may not understand military-related challenges such as posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries to be able to effectively assist military families. For example, service members and veterans, who are diagnosed with PTSD, function fine during worship services, but at home they have suicidal ideations, panic attacks, struggle with insomnia, obsess about security, as well as experience anxiety, depression, nightmares, and anger. As a result, their family members are walking on eggshells and feel totally helpless. Some pastors do not understand the impact military life and war have on military families and feel they are operating in foreign territory when it comes to providing spiritual guidance and working effectively with military populations. Dr. Terri Moore Brown, Department Chair and Professor of Social Work from Fayetteville State University highlights challenges experienced by military populations and offers suggestions on how churches can support service members, veterans and their families.

**Baptist Informer:** What are some of the challenges that military families experience?

**Dr. Brown:** Some service members escape emotional pain and boredom caused by the wars and multiple deployments through substance abuse, risky sexual activities, unsafe driving, and gambling. This can have a negative impact on service members' work performance and family life. When a service member returns home from war, the expectation is that he or she will be able to make the transition from war to home. It's not that easy. Family members change, the children are older and are at different developmental stages, and their partners are more independent and less dependent on them. Some service members return home on edge, and are experiencing insomnia, anxiety, depression, and having nightmares. When they return home, some service members are confronted with a financial crises or infidelity. All of the latter often yields marital discord, suicide ideations, depression, anxiety, and domestic violence. As a result, some military families seek counseling from their pastors to help them cope with these types of challenges.

**Baptist Informer:** Can you provide specific examples?  
**Dr. Brown:** Yes, for example low ranking service

members with families may have limited finances resources. During deployments, some couples experience loneliness, which can lead to infidelity, separation or divorce. In the military, many families move frequently, which separate them from extended family members, friends, and social groups. This can foster loneliness and few support resources.

For the spouse who is not in the military, frequent moves makes it difficult to build an employment history, or if the spouse is pursuing a college degree, it may take longer to complete degree requirements because of transfer course policies.

Another example is during deployments, spouses, who are left behind with children, become virtual single parents. Those "single" parents sometimes experience high stress levels because they are running households by themselves, and if they do not have a support system, it leaves no time for respite. Also, some, parents are left with the added expense of child care and locating child care with flexible hours. Lastly, in addition to running households, parents must help their children adjust to parents coming home or help child deal with the possi-



bility that the deployed parent may die in combat.

**Baptist Informer:** How can pastors help military families?

**Dr. Brown:** To be effective in working with military families, one should familiarize themselves with military culture and traditions. This can be accomplished by attending conferences, workshops and webinars.

**Baptist Informer:** Who can pastors consult when they need suggestions for helping military families?

**Dr. Brown:** The number of clergy who have expertise in developing military ministries and providing spiritual guidance to military populations is increasing. Chaplains are fantastic resources and their contact information can be located online. Chaplains are viewed as essential members of military medical support teams who serve active duty service members and their families. Most chaplains welcome clergy to contact them with questions or concerns relating to the military needs of their congregations.

**Baptist Informer:** How are congregations helping service members, veterans and their families?

**Dr. Brown:** Congregations mail care packages to deployed military members that contain weekly worship DVD's, Bibles, Sunday school materials, letters, cards, and church newsletters. Other activities include providing free meals for military service members, hosting military family retreats and marriage maintenance



workshops. Congregations also provide support to families when a parent is deployed by having church members visit the home to assist with tasks ranging from child care, home repairs, meal preparation, taking family members on social outings, and yard work. Service members are recognized for receiving promotions or service medals. Other churches offer Sunday school classes for military couples/singles, or establish a Spouses of Soldiers Ministry (SOS) to support military families.

**Baptist Informer:** Are there accessible resources for clergy?

**Dr. Brown:** Yes, there are a number of free resources that are accessible online as well as books, pamphlets, and CDs that pastors may purchase. (See links below)

Ministering to Families Affected by Military Deployment: Resources for America's Clergy

<http://www.usachcs.army.mil/pdf/resources.pdf>

Ministering to the Military: A Guide for Churches

[http://www.militaryministry.org/wp-content/uploads/Military\\_Ministry\\_Church\\_Guide-January2011.pdf](http://www.militaryministry.org/wp-content/uploads/Military_Ministry_Church_Guide-January2011.pdf)

Introduction to Military Ministry (Video Series)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MilitaryMinistry/feature/watch>

How to Begin a Church Ministry

<http://www.operationwearehere.com/OtherChurchesIdeas.html>

Military Ministry Resource Center

<http://resourcecenter.militaryministry.org/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Family Advocacy Program:

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsandServices/FamilyPrograms/FamilyAdvocacyProgram/default.aspx>

*Dr. Terri Moore Brown is a Professor of Social Work and Department Chair at Fayetteville State University in the Department of Social Work. Her academic preparation focuses on children and family services, and higher education administration.*



From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...

## We are God's Weapons for Justice

*"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).

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.

We must continually pray for and participate in 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.

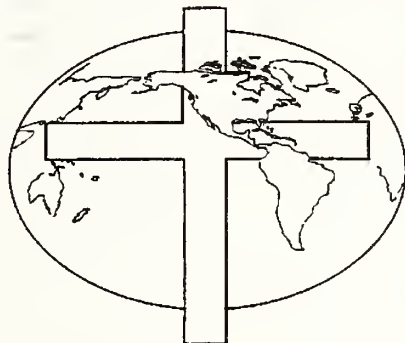
We are the weapons God uses for warfare against racism, sexism, and ageism.

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, hopelessness, and helplessness.



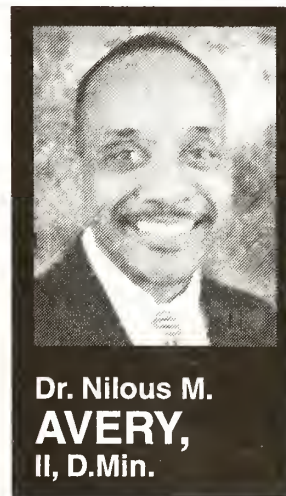
The power, presence, and provision of God, the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit serve as our trinitrotoluene, our TNT! Your financial contributions to GBSC and continual prayers will serve as tangible and visible kingdom building TNT.

Therefore, my beloved, we must strive to equip, empower, and encourage our 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!

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you." (1 Cor. 16:23) Amen.*

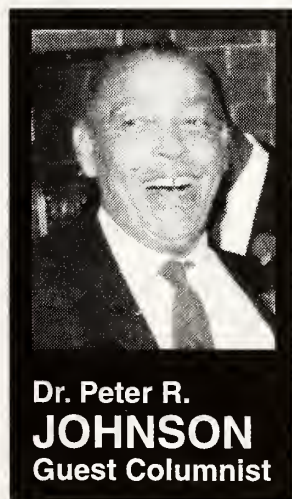
*Dr. Avery may be reached at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).*



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## Building A Firm Family Foundation

God established three institutions for the preservation and protection of human kind: (1) the family (2) the government and (3) the church. One of the greatest of these is the family, but sadly, the family has become a broken structure.



Dr. Peter R. JOHNSON  
Guest Columnist

Faithful, Godly parents build a firm foundation for their children. A faithful father and a firm foundation equals a strong family. A devoted mother and a dedicated wife equals a strong family. A faithful, Godly father follows God, lives for God and follows Biblical principles.

In strong families, parents have learned to develop Godly qualities in themselves so that they can instill these qualities in their children. The parents must be ready to train their children in Godly behavior and living. The key to building a Godly family is developing proper convictions, which are deeply

held values. This means families must have characteristics such as direction, integrity and stability.

It is utterly important to have Jesus in your home. It means reading the Bible and having discussions on the lessons. It means keeping prayer a frequent element and attending worship services. It also means dealing honestly with one another and teaching children truth.

There has been an increase in children being born out of wedlock: One out of 20 in 1990, as opposed to one out of 4 in 1950. The absence of the father has increased the number of gangs being created because children are looking for affirmation and love outside the homes. Many don't have devoted mothers and faithful fathers who're committed to serving God. But, a faithful father always has God as the head of his life. He seeks God's wisdom and knowledge for direction. He prays daily with his wife and family.

Thus, when children are reared in a Godly home, they're prepared to function in society as production adults. It is the parents' responsibility to plant the seeds and teach their children to seek the Lord first. Now is the time to plant more good seeds and then watch the harvest.

*Dr. Peter R. Johnson, Ph.D., a native of Beatrice, Ala-*



*bama. resides in Raleigh, N.C., where he teaches and preaches frequently on Biblical principles and the power of kindness.*

*Scriptures that support Godly fathers & Child-rearing:*

*Proverbs 30:17, Proverbs 29:15, Psalms 103:13, Deuteronomy 21:18-21, Colossians 3:20, Psalms 127:3-5, Titus 2:3-5, 1 Peter 3:7, 1 Timothy 5:8, Ephesians 6:1-24, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Genesis 18-19.*

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



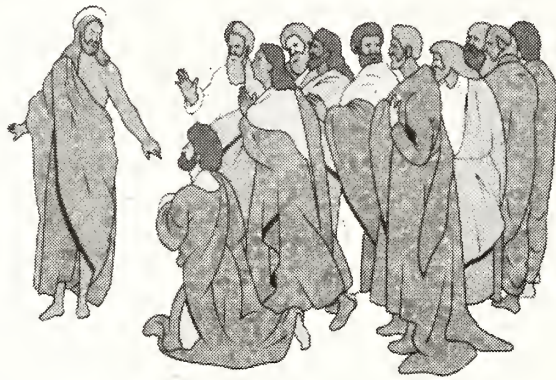
- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

# Laymen on a Mission: Exploring Transformational Discipleship

An old adage goes that “a ship is not a ship” until all the parts are in place before it sails. Therefore all elements must connect before the strand of discipleship is complete. The priority element is make “Disciples.” The concept of Church discipline was introduced in the previous discussion. Let us expand on this concept in this discussion.

Borrowing a term from the book, Transformational Discipleship, it states that discipline must be seen “through the proper lens.” Too many churches view discipline only through the lens of “punishment” or “reprimand.” Often, this leads to “self-righteousness” or “legalism,” which promotes disunity in our congregations.

Additionally, the author writes that “the essential definition of a disciple is one who has become a disciplined follower, a disciplined learner of our Lord.” At the time of this writing, it was brought to my attention that a congregation would not allow one of its’ members to have their fu-



neral there because the leadership said that the member was not in good standing with the church, based on their attendance. Though I am not privy to that church’s Constitution or by-laws, I am not passing judgment on the church’s actions. I simply mention it to show what can happen when church discipline is viewed through an improper lens.

Another example of “proper discipline” could be gleaned from a look at the early church mentioned in Acts 2:42a. These new believers “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.” Doctrine simply means teaching. The Apostles taught exactly what Jesus taught, and the entire congregation “continued” or persevered in that teaching. They did not deviate from it. Doc-

trinal unity is essential. There can be no true unity without it. The early Christians were committed to the truth the apostles taught and to living it out in their lives.

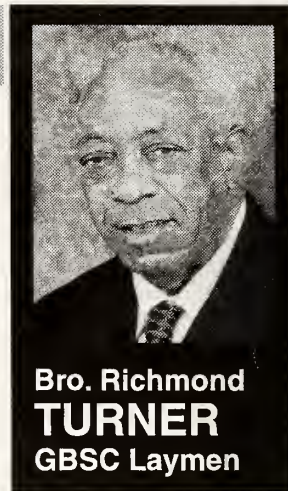
Repeating the command of the Great Commission,

“we are to teach them to observe (to do) all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20).

The North Carolina Laymen must continue to focus on our purpose: Transforming Christian men into mature, devoted disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional discipleship training. The Book of John 15:5-8, teaches that apart from Him we can do nothing. Separated from the Vine, branches wither and lose their usefulness in producing fruit. The application is that when we no longer abide closely with Christ, we are incapable of producing more disciples for Him.

Transformational Discipleship calls for a reshaping of how we view life, faith, and even Christ Himself. By engaging a lens of discipline, believers can see all of this better. More importantly, by using the discipline lens, believers can live more effectively for Christ.” We make disciples through the discipline lens of Study, Prayer, Service, and Worship.

Reach Bro. Turner at [ITURN60@aol.com](mailto:ITURN60@aol.com).



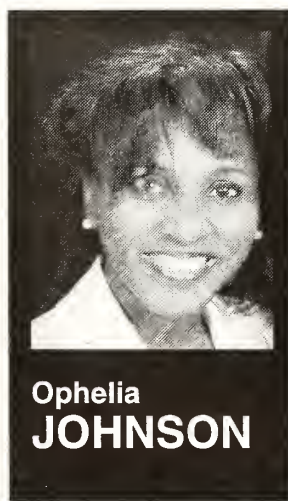
Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## October is Pastoral Appreciation Month

# A time of healing and helping our servant-leaders of God

Started in 1994, this annual observance is a way to remind churches to thank their pastors for all their dedication and service to the community. But, this is a banner month for other reasons, too.

Recent studies show that far too many pastors are suffering from excessive stress, depression, obesity, anxiety and other health-related concerns connected to their profession and congregations need to pay more attention and respond. The presence of an unhealthy pastor can resonate deeply into the health of any churches and this begs the question: How should congregations best support pastors and other clergy every year?



Ophelia  
**JOHNSON**

Taking a note from the Duke Clergy Health Initiative, a group started in 2007 at Duke University in Durham, N.C., there are ways to help. Through studies, they found that parishioners are often unaware of the needs and stresses that come with pastoring churches, even though clergy engage in many stressful activities such as “grief counseling, navigating the competing demands of congregants and delivering weekly sermons that open them up to criticism.”

“Many churches are largely unaware of the kinds of pressures that pastors face,” said Rae Jean Proeschold-

Bell, the Clergy Health Initiative’s research director, and assistant research professor at the Duke Global Health Initiative. “Everyone in the congregation has a different job description for the pastor, but it’s impossible [for pastors] to live up to all those. They need realistic expectations because they’re human and limited.

“Our mission is to create a resilient group of pastors who’re as skilled in the care of themselves as they are in the care of their congregations. We realize that they’re called to their work and we are here to enable them to flourish,” Proeschold-Bell said.

Started in 2007, the Initiative was launched by a \$12 million grant from The Duke Endowment to Duke Divinity School. Since then, the Endowment has given an additional \$5.74 million to extend the work. The group’s study focused mainly on United Methodist pastors (mostly married white males, age 53 with about 17 years of experience in the ministry), many of the concerns are endemic with pastors of every denomination.

Congregants can support their pastors, she said, by volunteering for tasks and following through on commitments, letting pastors know when they are moved by their work, and making it possible for pastors to take time away from church. Taking vacation time, fostering friendships outside the church and seeking counseling are some of the ways that pastors can bolster their mental health.

“Pastors may have created a life for themselves that is so strongly intertwined with their ministry, that their emotional health is dependent on the state of their ministry. So, it’s possible that when pastors feel their ministry is going well, they experience positive emotions potent enough to buffer them from mental distress. Of



course, the converse is also true.”

All congregations can encourage pastors in these areas. For every Christian pastor and congregant, there’s a race to run to save more souls for Christ. The Holy Scriptures teach us in the Book of Romans 12:1 : “I urge you ... in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship (NIV). This month, everyone can help support pastors and clergy by encouraging them to take care of themselves, not only in October, but all year so that they can take care of their flocks.

Run on, pastors. Thrive.

Reach Ophelia Johnson at [informeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informeditor@yahoo.com).

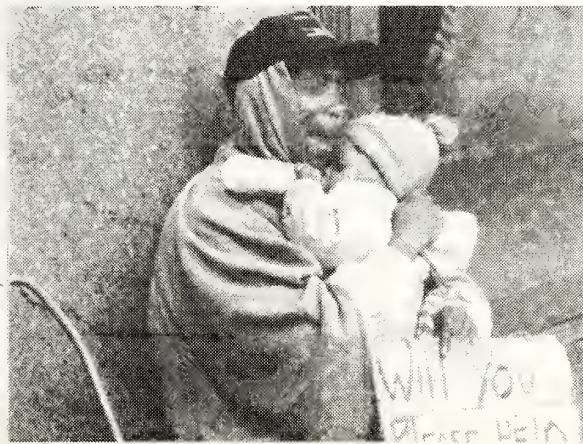
For more information, visit these sites:  
<http://sites.duke.edu/theconnection>  
[www.clergyhealthinitiative.org](http://www.clergyhealthinitiative.org)  
[www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)  
[www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)  
[www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org)

# Beware of Turning Deaf Ears to God and Hungry People

Congressional efforts to cut \$39 billion from the U.S. food stamp program over the next 10 years—possibly driving 4 million Americans into hunger's grip—give us a clear indication that many political leaders are deaf to God's voice in Scripture and to the needs of poor people in our communities.

"Is not the fast that I choose...to share your bread with the hungry, and to bring the homeless and poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58:6-7) Surely, the same loving God we experience in our personal lives is active and inviting us to help hungry people all around us today. But many so-called "Christian" politicians are tone deaf to God and to the compassion that God calls us to champion.

Before Jesus healed the daughter of a Canaanite



woman, he let her give her testimony of faith (Matthew 15:21-28). And before Jesus healed the blind man (Mark 10:46-52), he asked what the man wanted and carefully listened to the man's reply. Indeed, Jesus showed care and concern in ministering to the needs of the poor.

We, as Christians, also must listen to poor U.S. citizens today. We cannot and must not turn "deaf ears" to God. Like our Master, we must hear the voices of the poor and hear the pleas in God's word for us to be a compassionate people.

So who are our legislators listening to? The rich, the big lobbyists, and the wickedly greedy scoundrels among us?

Food stamps or SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) kept 4 million people out of poverty last year according to the Congressional Budget Office. Who are these people? Well, the majority of food stamps go to working families with young children, and they are usually only on the program temporarily during hard economic times.

Therefore new cuts would hurt many seniors, children, disabled persons, and veterans. But cuts will most heavily affect low-income families with children where the parent(s) work for a living but don't make enough to feed everyone. Working families with kids are 72 percent of all SNAP benefits.

Therefore, let us call and urge our members of Congress to make policies that lower—not raise—the levels of poverty and hunger in our nation.

In my own church in Fayetteville, the numbers of people calling and coming by our office have more than doubled this year as furloughs, layoffs, educational staff reductions in colleges and public schools, and other economic uncertainties have threatened the ability of parents to feed themselves and their children. Private food donations cannot fill the void alone. Our government must be sensitive to the desperation in our congregations and communities.

Currently 47 million Americans benefit from SNAP, and these people are expected to live off of \$4.50 per day. A person can barely eat one meal at a fast food restaurant for that amount. And SNAP benefits are very modest (averaging \$1.50 per meal).

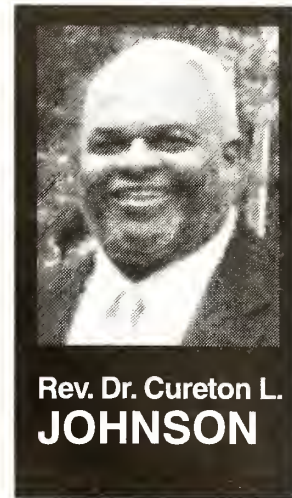
Let's make it plain. Depriving poor people of food while padding the pockets of the rich is demonic and must not go unchallenged. And that's where you come in. Hold a Bread for the World Sunday in your church in October or November.

Our First Baptist members called U.S. Representative Renee Elmers recently to urge her not to cut food for the poor. Let conservative politicians bent on robbing the poor to enrich their wealthy friends know we're watching their every move. Pray about your involvement during the Thanksgiving season. Contact BFW at 1-800-822-7323 to get more information about a Hunger Reduction Sunday in your church (or go to [www.BREAD.ORG](http://www.BREAD.ORG)).

As followers of Jesus Christ, we listen to God's voice and use our own voices to speak up for an end to hunger. God's heart is with the poor, the widow, and the orphan. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws fairer and more compassionate to people in need.

As God's hands and feet in the world, we work toward a community in which every person has an equal opportunity to thrive. Let us always listen to God's voice through Scripture and to the voices of suffering people around us.

*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: [cjohnson035@nc.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson035@nc.rr.com).*



**Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON**



## Candace Spencer

First Place Winner in James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest – Junior Division (grades 9-11)

Candace, an eleventh grader from Raleigh, N.C., is the granddaughter of Ms. Edna Bullock. She is a member of Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church where

the Pastor is the Rev. Dr. James S. Utley.

## HELP IS ON THE WAY

With the struggles that we as individuals go through in life, we can bear them better when we know that "help is on the way." Whether we go through pain, sorrow, money problems, or just feeling neglected, knowing that "help is on the way" causes us to endure whatever we go through until help arrives. But how do we know that help is on the way? I believe we get assurance through prayer and having faith in God's word. Matthew 21, verse 22 says that whatever we ask in prayer, "if we believe, we will receive."

A few years ago I saw a popular TV commercial for the Life Alert Emergency Response Company where an elderly woman had fallen. She was able to press a button that she had on and the emergency response company heard her as she yelled out "HELP, I have fallen and I can't get up." She was promised that help was on the way.

In our lives, there are times that we fall. It may not be like the woman in the commercial, but we may fall by making the wrong choices or making the wrong friends, and we find ourselves yelling out to God: "Help, I've fallen and I can't get up." Hebrews chapter 13 verse 5 says that "He will never leave thee or forsake thee." And just like the emergency response company who was there to help the woman who fell, God promises that He is our help and will never leave us. When we are in need of something, we can tell God and know that "help is on the way." That is what happened to a man who was the coach of a high school football team. He was on the verge of giving up on everything because he was going through a lot, plus he was about to lose his job because his football team had lost too many games. One day, just when he was about to fall apart a man came in his office and said something that changed his life forever. This man referred to Revelation chapter 3 and said "we serve a God that opens doors that no one can shut, and He shuts doors that no one can open. Behold, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." Then his last words were, "coach, the Lord is not through with you yet; you still have an open door here, and until the Lord moves you, you are to bloom right where you're planted." The coach then started to realize that he didn't have a strong relationship with God. He wasn't praying every day like he was suppose to, and he realized that he had to change that. The coach started to pray every day, even prayed with his football team. He made praying together a routine, and



every time they prayed, they practiced harder and harder. And finally they became strong physically and spiritually. Psalms 121 verses 1-2 says, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord who made Heaven and earth. Once the coach received help, he knew he was ready to help his football team. This reminds me of a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson which says, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." When the coach received help for himself, he in return was able to help his team to become winners.

In conclusion, the coach found the help he was looking for and used it to make a difference. Mayo Angelou says it best in her quote that states: "To make a difference is not a matter of accident, a matter of casual occurrence of the tides. People choose to make a difference." I admit making a difference is not always easy; but with God's help, we can. Think about it, how many times have you testified that God is a present help in the time of trouble? Or God has made a way out of no way? Well, you have proven my point. Your help, my Help, our "Help Is On The Way!"

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is the Use of Illustrations

In the previous article the emphasis was in regards to the use of illustrations intended to lift one's preaching out of the dungeon of boredom and dullness. This article continues the discussion concerning illustrations, but focuses on where one finds illustrations and how to use them in the sermon.

Illustrations are not hidden under rocks nor concealed in cracks and the crevice of life experience. Surprisingly, illustrations are found in conspicuous or noticeable places around us. To find them, one merely needs to open his/her eyes and ears as well as using other sense organs such as touch, taste and smell. Primarily, the preacher finds several categories of illustrations to give his or her preaching "hearability."

First, illustrations are found in nature related to leaves falling, winds blowing, waves tossing high and lightning playing zigzag games across the bosom of the sky. Even more, personal and human experiences are natural storage areas for illustrations. Provided they are not used to glorify the preacher but rather serve the preaching-text, aimed only to exalt Christ. Second, illustrations are discovered in areas such as

newspapers (local and national), magazines, billboards, poetry, hymns and media industry (television and radio). Third, the preacher can rely upon historical and current events, dramas, humor and quotations. Again, only if these areas are used in the service of casting light or clarifying the meaning of the text.

For sure, these categories represent a rich reservoir of material that gives the sermon both "hearability" and readability. In this sense, the preacher needs only to learn the skill of observation in order to recognize illustrations right under his or her nose.

Finally, we come to the question of how to use illustrations in your sermon.

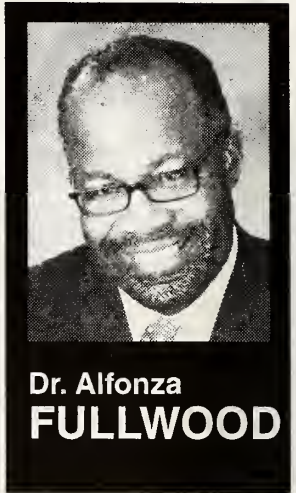
If the preacher is to gain audience interest it is important to establish such an interest right up front, from the beginning of the sermon. (It is argued that the preacher loses or wins his or her audience in the first few minutes or first few opening sentences of the sermon).

For this reason, the preacher might find it strategically useful to use illustrations during the introduction phase of the sermon. On the other hand, illustrations

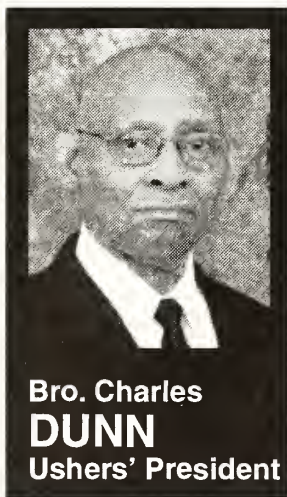
serve an important purpose at the end or conclusion of the sermon. In this respect, it could well represent the preacher's last opportunity to win the unconvinced concerning the verdict. Still, it is crucial to remember that any biblical arguments or points put forth in the body of the sermon need an illustration. An additional point the preacher needs to keep in mind is the wisdom of using short illustrations.

Lengthy illustrations potentially prolong the listener's chances of getting the point. Therefore, in an effort to cast light on the truth principle, instead confusion occurs. Arguably, this article is not the final word on the use and importance of illustrations, but it provides helpful suggestions and guidelines that are useful in preaching the gospel of Christ.

*Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**



**Bro. Charles DUNN**  
Ushers' President

## Symbols Suitable for Worship

The Holy Cross is without question the most universal symbol of Christianity. It is a reminder of the redemptive work of God through the suffering of God's son, Jesus the Christ. The empty cross is a reminder of an act which was completed and which is symbolized in the resurrection triumph of

Christ over death.

The Bible is the holy and inspired word of God. The Bible should always be in view of the congregation. Many churches make a practice of displaying the bible on the Lord's Supper Table. In some churches a worshiper brings the bible into the sanctuary and places it on the pulpit, opening it at the desired place as a signal for morning worship to begin.

It is common in most churches to have the congregation open their bibles for the public reading of God's word. The pulpit symbolizes the centrality of the word of God. It is from the pulpit that the word of God is proclaimed; therefore, it seems appropriate

for the pulpit to be centrally located. The pulpit should have an unobstructed view by the congregation to represent the accessibility of the gospel and a welcome invitation for the acceptance of Jesus Christ.

The Baptistry is a symbol of the believer's commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. It represents the death to sin and the resurrection to a new life. The baptistry has particular significance for churches that believe in the immersion of believers. It should be situated as a constant reminder of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Reach Bro. Dunn at [justicem@bellsouth.net](mailto:justicem@bellsouth.net).*

## The End Times? Conflict in Syria prompts such thinking among some

### PRESS REPORTS

Millions of Americans believe that events unfolding today in Syria were predicted in Bible prophecy.

A third of Americans believe recent conflict with Syria fulfills Bible prophecy about the end of the world, according to a telephone survey conducted in early September by LifeWay Research.

With the threat of U.S. airstrikes against Syria dominating the news cycle, 32 percent of the 1,001 survey participants agreed with the statement: "I believe the battles in Syria are all part of the prophecies of the Book of Revelation."

One in four (26 percent) said they believe that U.S. military intervention in Syria might lead to the Battle of Armageddon prophesied in the Book of Revelation just prior to the Second Coming of Christ. One in five (18 percent) said they believe the world will end in their lifetime.

Those results surprised Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research. "We weren't talking about Armageddon during the air strikes on Bosnia," Stetzer said in a news release.

The fact that Syria is mentioned in the Bible and its close proximity to Israel, however, have prompted considerable end-times speculation about international reaction to news that forces of President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons on civilians.

"Many students of the Word of God see a major alignment of ancient prophecies regarding the end times being fulfilled right before our eyes," end-times author Carl Gallups told WorldNetDaily. "More importantly, we are the first generation in history to see such dramatic and striking alignments."

Gallups, a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and former Southern Baptist youth evangelist who since 1987 has been pastor of Hickory Hammock Baptist Church in Milton, Fla., isn't alone in that assessment.

Most cite Isaiah 17:1, which proclaims: "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap."

"Now, when Isaiah wrote these words, the sword was probably the most advanced weapon that men wielded," Hal Lindsey, author of the 1970 bestseller *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, observed in May. "The weaponry capable of laying waste to a massive city in the course of a few hours was uninvented — even unimagined."

Lindsey said events described by the prophet could only be accomplished by nuclear weapons.

"A few weeks ago I went into some detail about the Bible's prophecy concerning the destruction of Damascus," the dispensationalist and Christian Zionist preacher and teacher said in the Sept. 6 Hal Lindsey Report video broadcast.

"We discussed scenarios in which Bashar al-Assad, in his desperation, might intentionally provoke a war with Israel by hitting them with repeated waves of chemical at-

*(continued on page 16)*



## PRESS REPORTS

### Shaw University Names Reverend April Rhinehardt University Chaplain

Shaw University recently announced Reverend April R. Rhinehardt as its new University Chaplain. Rev. Rhinehardt formerly served as the Clinical Staff Chaplain at High Point Regional Health in High Point, NC and is a Board-Certified Chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains.



As University Chaplain, Rev. Rhinehardt will serve as pastor of Shaw's Thomas J. Boyd Chapel, providing spiritual leadership, pastoral counseling, grief counseling and mentorship to the University community. Additionally, Rev. Rhinehardt will lead the planning, implementing and officiating of a variety of Chapel services and programs, including the Cultural and Spiritual Enrichment Seminars (CASES), a required lecture series for freshmen and first-year students designed to enhance their religious awareness and expose these students to a variety of cultural and educational experiences.

Rev. Rhinehardt brings more than 25 years of diverse clinical, counseling and ministerial experience, including serving as a hospital chaplain, associate minister and school counselor. As the Clinical and Hospital Chaplain for Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem, NC, she provided pastoral care for patients and families for all areas of the hospital; performed baptisms, communions and infant blessings; and offered bereavement counseling, end-of-life-conversations and spiritual support for families. In 2009, Rev. Rhinehardt received the Sharon Engebretson Award for Excellence in Chaplaincy. In addition, she served as a middle school counselor for Guilford County Schools for 22 years.

“Rev. Rhinehardt’s record as a chaplain, minister and counselor is exceptional and shows a deep commitment to her profession and to those in need,” said Dr. Jeffery A. Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs and Administration. “We are excited to have her as a part of the Shaw family and look forward to her religious guidance that will continue the University’s mission of enhancing the spiritual and ethical values of our students.”

Rev. Rhinehardt received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; a master’s degree in counseling from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; and a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University. She is certified as a Suicide Intervention Specialist through Guilford County Schools and received a Leadership Program Certification from the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, NC.

Rev. Rhinehardt received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; a master’s degree in counseling from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; and a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University. She is certified as a Suicide Intervention Specialist through Guilford County Schools and received a Leadership Program Certification from the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, NC.

### Shaw Promotes Marcus Clarke to Athletic Director

RALEIGH, NC (September 16, 2013) – Shaw University today announced that it has promoted Marcus Clarke to Athletic Director. Clarke previously served as the University’s interim athletic director during the 2009-2010 academic year and again in 2012. He will continue to serve as Shaw’s Compliance Officer, a position he has held for the last 10 years.

“Mr. Clarke has consistently shown leadership and a drive to succeed that has been instrumental in the success of our athletic department and our student athletes, said Shaw President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. “Under his direction, the department has shown distinct improvement on the

field, and most importantly, in the classroom.”

Clarke began his athletic career as an athletic trainer and head track and field and cross country coach at Virginia Union. He was named compliance officer at Union in 2001. In 1996, he served as the athletic trainer for the British Virgin Islands Olympic team, and was responsible for the care and injury prevention of the track and field athletes in the delegation.

As a compliance director and athletic trainer, he has been part of over 30 CCAA championship teams and one national championship team. He has also served as a mentor to others in the compliance profession, and has educated students about eligibility and college athletics.

Clarke was recently appointed to the NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief, which allows NCAA member institutions, conferences and committees/subcom-

mittees to apply for a waiver in cases when no other committee/subcommittee has the authority to waive specific NCAA legislation when an institution is faced with extenuating and/or extraordinary circumstances. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a master’s degree from Capella University.

“This will be a challenge, but one I am looking forward to,” said Clarke. “I have enjoyed my time in the interim role and am excited to take on the athletic director’s role full time and focus my attention fully on it.”

For more information on Shaw athletics, visit [www.shawbears.com](http://www.shawbears.com).

## SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School **April 7-10, 2014**.

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School's accreditation may send an email to

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu) <<mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>>

or may contact ATS directly at:

**The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada**

The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110

Telephone: 412-788-6505 | Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more <<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>> about Shaw University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)



Dr. Sherri Arnold Graham began as WBH&FMC EST on September 23. Sunday, September 22 was her last day as Pastor of Raleigh's Oberlin Baptist Church.

## Sherri Arnold Graham is new Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WBH&FMC

(continued from page 1)

Dr. Arnold Graham brings a wealth of experience to the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer. She has had experience in corporate America, in non-profit administration and in Christian ministry.

About Arnold-Graham, Dr. Gardner C. Taylor (Pastor Emeritus of Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York) has said "Reverend Graham has enjoyed a highly successful career in the business community before entering the ministry and is a person of sterling Christian character. Her ministry is a model of exemplary competence."

Emory University School of Business awarded her the Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1984. Subsequent to Emory, she earned the Master of Divinity degree in Homiletics from Shaw University Divinity School (2007) and the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary (2012).

Her first professional engagement was with Proctor and Gamble in Atlanta, GA. Following her time as a Technical Sales Representative with P&G, she was a paralegal with Jacksonville (Florida) Legal Aid. She has worked as a Board Relations Specialist with Federated Investors in Pittsburgh, PA and a Senior Paralegal for Mutual Funds with Rogers and Wells Law Firm in New York City.

Arnold Graham was licensed to preach by Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville in 2002. She was ordained by Wake Baptist Association in 2008. She began working with Oberlin Baptist Church in September 2010 as Interim Pastor and became Pastor in December 2010.

About herself, Dr. Arnold Graham says that she is "a devout Baptist servant of fifty years, indebted to a Baptist pastor (my grandfather) and exemplary Home Missionary (my grandmother)" who has been "groomed by God, in various corporate capacities over the past thirty years to submit my life as an executive level offering to our Baptist denomination and its Conventions."

## Annual Session in Charlotte, NC



The Carolinas leading Women in White march.

Vice President Ellender LeMay, Mrs. Barbara Sessoms and President Inman.



## Lott Carey in Washington, DC



MISSIONARY SERVANTS - Dr. Linda Bryan (center), past Exec-Treasurer for the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention-NC, is pictured with Raleigh delegates during the Annual Lott Carey Convention in Washington, D.C. in August. The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina donated \$28,000 to Lott Carey, the largest single donation on President's Night. Pictured (from left) is Deacon Carolyn Rogers, Mrs. Janice Sinclair, Deacon Doris Alston, Mrs. Omeba Walker, Mrs. Doris Burke, Mrs. Mazie Lewis and Mrs. Ophelia Johnson, all from Martin Street Baptist and First Baptist Churches in Raleigh, NC.





## Princeton In Africa Offers Fellowships

**P**rincedon in Africa (PiAf) is a non-profit organization that offers yearlong fellowship opportunities with a variety of organizations working across the African continent. PiAf Fellows work in service-oriented positions in many different fields, including humanitarian aid, social enterprise, public health, conservation, and education.

Since its launch in 1999, PiAf has placed more than 300 Fellows in 34 countries across the continent. Graduating seniors and young alumni from any accredited U.S. college or university are eligible to apply. Please note that prior Africa experience is NOT a requirement.

There is no single background, skill, or experience that makes someone the "perfect" fellowship applicant. Our Fellows are talented and passionate individuals who bring a wide range of skills and experiences to our partner organizations.

For more information visit [www.princetonin-africa.org](http://www.princetonin-africa.org) or email [piafapp@princetonin-africa.org](mailto:piafapp@princetonin-africa.org). The telephone number is (609) 258-7215.

The deadline for applications and application materials is Wednesday, November 6th, 2013 at 11:59PM EST.

## Lott Carey – A Global Christian Missional Community

(continued from page 1)

\$1,000 per year supports the tuition, fees, housing for students attending the Baptist College of South Africa in Soweto, Johannesburg. The student body includes students from South Africa and international students from Namibia. The College seeks to prepare missional leaders for missional churches providing missional impact in Southern Africa.

### Seminary Student Support in Zimbabwe

\$2,000 per year supports the tuition, fees, and housing for students attending the Zimbabwe Theological Seminary (ZTS) in Gweru. ZTS provides Christ-centered, biblically based, multifaceted, contextually relevant theological education to grow mature leaders for service in Central and Southern Africa.

### Maize Grinder in Mozambique

\$6,000 will purchase a machine to grind maize (corn) into mill. Corn mill is a staple food in Southern Africa, and placing the grinders in churches will prevent large numbers of women from walking miles with baskets of maize on their heads, waiting for hours in long lines for the grinding, and walking miles back home with baskets of mill on their heads.

### A Home in Haiti

\$8,000 will provide funding for a modest house in Haiti. Lott Carey is developing a planned neighborhood of 56 homes, sanitation, electricity, a community center with an Internet café, and community gardening space. We are moving families from tents into safe and modest housing that can withstand hurricanes. \$16,000

will provide a duplex for two families.

### Women's Empowerment Training Centre and Shelter in Kenya

\$20,000 is needed to complete The Women's Centre and Shelter in Kipsitet, Kenya that will provide a place for training women with skills to empower them to earn money and provide more security for themselves and their families. In addition, there are apartments available for women with transitional housing needs due to untimely deaths of husbands or because of abuse and abandonment.

### Women's Empowerment Program in Ethiopia

\$60,000 per year enables us to help young, gifted, university women students to survive the city and achieve success in their studies in Ethiopia. Most women students that live on university campuses come from rural areas where they have not developed the social skills needed to survive in large urban settings. Naiveté and lack of financial resources for women place them at risk for sexual exploitation and abuse. African AIDS Initiative International provides a "Girls Club" program to develop social skills, sexual awareness, and networking support to equip young women to avoid sexual exploitation, abuse, and trafficking.

### Trinity Evangelistic Ministries Training Centre in Jamaica

\$60,000 is needed to complete a new \$150,000 skills training building in St. Mary's Parish, Jamaica. The Trinity Evangelistic Ministries Skills Training Centre provides certified training in general office administration,

early childhood education, and food and beverage service in the poorest Parish in Jamaica. We equip unemployed young adults with skills that enable them find employment and to build stable lives for themselves and their families. Upon completion of the facility, we will increase training from 100 students per year to 200 students per year.

### Lott Carey Baptist Church Building in Nigeria

\$75,000 is needed to complete the Lott Carey Baptist Church, Uyo, Nigeria. The project consists of a ground level worship area with a seating capacity for 600 persons, additional seating in the balcony for 150; an administration wing with several offices; an educational wing for Sunday School classes; and a fellowship hall which will also be commercialized to generate revenue for the church. The \$150,000 facility is one-half completed through the donations and labor of the members of the church.

### Lott Carey Mission School, Liberia

\$350,000 is needed to construct a nine (9) classroom block with restrooms for the Lott Carey Mission School, Brewerville, Liberia. While we provide exceptional education for pre-kindergarten through grade 12, the facilities continue to bear the marks of a generation of civil decline, conflict, and war. Improved facilities will support a stronger caring, nurturing, and learning community.

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, is Executive Secretary, Treasurer of Lott Carey. Reach him at [dgoatley@lottcarey.org](mailto:dgoatley@lottcarey.org).

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

### BAPTIST INFORMER

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## Shaw University Divinity School Presents its 30th Annual Women's Conference

Shaw University Divinity School will host its 30th Annual Women's Conference: "The Power of the Gospel: Women Embodying Jesus as Radical Transformation," in Thomas J. Boyd Chapel on the campus of Shaw University, on Wilmington South Street.

The conference will open with a Worship Service of Prayer, Praise, and Communion led by members from the Thomas J. Boyd, Jr. Chapel and the Shaw University Divinity School on Saturday, October 5, 2013. Registration and a luncheon will be held in Leonard Hall, immediately across the street from the Chapel.

Students and community guests will engage song, scripture, and witness regarding what it means for women and the men who support them to engage the Gospel as living into being who Jesus intends for us to be. Often we forget that Jesus of Nazareth was a radical revolutionary; an enemy of the Roman state. That enemy came to us in love because of profound, unconditional love that frames our gift of salvation.

The Rev. Valerie Bridgeman, Ph.D., will bring the preached word for the morning devotional. Rev. Dr. Bridgeman is a Biblical Scholar and Founding President and CEO of WomanPreach! Inc. The day follows with workshops, a plenary session, and a fellowship meal, "connecting with the least of these."

Rev. Jennifer Jones-Bridgett, formerly Executive Director PICO Louisiana Interfaiths Together, and now a Senior Consultant to PICO National Network — a community organizer, justice visionary, and ordained Baptist minister of 22 years at the Shiloh Baptist Church,

Baton Rouge, La, leads the workshop: "When Women are the Enemy: The Unique Gifts of Women Prophets for Lifelines to Healing Our Nation."

Dr. Tony Jones, the Program Coordinator of the "Engaging Men and Boys Program" at the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault in Raleigh, North Carolina, a Volunteer Chaplain for the North Carolina Highway Patrol, and a 16 year volunteer with Interact of Wake Raleigh, NC and co-founder of its "Circle of Faith" a training center to integrate the Faith Community into the fight to end Domestic and Sexual Violence, leads a workshop on "Engaging Men and Boys as Allies: Breaking the Cycle of Sexual Violence." The lunch, a simple meal, taking place at Leonard Hall — a time for fellowship and reflection — will commemorate the tremendous gratitude we have and the humility that enfolds us as we think about the thousands of homeless amongst us.

Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, who preaches in the morning, is the afternoon plenary speaker: "Torn Asunder: Pieces of a Woman as Witness (On Judges 19-21)." Our final workshop session led by Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Professor of Religion, Shaw University, scholar, athlete, poet, preacher, gardener, quilter, and author engages the audience in discussion and praxis of "Wholistic Health: Saving your Mind, Body, and Soul." This conference honors the legacy of Sarah Baker Leonard Tupper, the co-founder of Shaw University. A strong proponent of women's rights and education, Mrs. Tupper was a pioneer and visionary who demonstrated courage and spiritual fortitude.

"The Power of the Gospel: Women Embodying Jesus as Radical Transformation," brings scholars and practitioners to the Research Triangle to address those issues of leadership, health, healing, community activism, ministry, preaching, spirituality, self-awareness, and transformation as we live into our gift of holistic salvation: issues at the forefront of personal and community concerns. This conference will engage the mind, inspire the soul, impassion the heart, and build the community.

The Shaw University Divinity School provides theological education dedicated to the preparation of clergy and laity for clinical, pastoral, and teaching/research ministry professions. The Divinity School is committed to the development of a research institute whose focus is leadership in the "practice of ministry" in the African American community, particularly in the African American Church. Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady is the Dean of the Divinity School, and Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Professor of Religion, directs Women's Studies programming.

For information regarding registration and a schedule of events, please contact Ms. Mena Lewis, Shaw University Divinity School, 118 East South Street, Raleigh, NC 27601; call 919-546-8569 or email [mlewis@shawu.edu](mailto:mlewis@shawu.edu).



Rev. Cheryl  
KIRK-DUGGAN

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## Let's Think Pink: 'Outside The Box' options for Breast Health

**W**hen someone mentions the color pink, it is not out of the ordinary to think about breast cancer or breast health awareness. From sports, to social media, and fundraisers, pink has become one of the most distinctive and recognizable faces of any health promotion causes in recent his-



tory. Each year, the overflow of pink products in the month of October signifies the focus of the world's attention: breast cancer.

### Breast Cancer and African-American Women

According to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women in the United States. It is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among nearly every racial and ethnic group, including African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic women. The most common form of cancer among African-American women is breast cancer. Although African-American women have lower rates of breast cancer than white women, they are more likely to die from it.

Regular screenings (mammograms, breast MRI, clinical breast exams), increased physical activity, and regular conversations with your primary care physician are a few ways to stay on top of your individual breast health. Sharing and gaining knowledge is also a way to make sure others can learn as well. It is important to encourage, support, and educate not only ourselves, but those around us about breast health and all its dynamics. Building and sustaining support systems and utilizing resources go a long way to raising awareness and being actively involved. Locally, groups like the Sisters Network ([www.sisterstriangle.org](http://www.sisterstriangle.org)) can be helpful in achieving these goals while supporting survivors and their families.

### Thinking Outside of the Box

Disease and illness will hit everyone differently and the same holds true with breast cancer. The way we learn is often different than that of others as well. Health promotion and education strategies can sometimes become predictable and stale if we are not careful with how we approach the discussion. Recently I had the pleasure to experience an amazingly talented performance artist that took breast health awareness to another level. Anita Woodley, aka MAMA JUGGS, uses her gifts and talents to use for the cause of educating her audiences about breast health through her one-woman stage shows.

MAMA JUGGS is an award-winning one woman performance by Raindownus.org Women's Health

Ambassador, Anita Woodley. It addresses issues of cancer and body image through an inspiring dramatic performance. Since 2009, MAMA JUGGS has reached beyond the theater to create a non-traditional, life-saving dialogue about cancer which is bringing diverse communities together. These difficult subjects are humanized and face head on in a 30-90 minute interactive solo performance that tells the real stories of three women in the actress Anita Woodley's family when they lived in the Oakland projects.

Woodley credits her mother for the inspiration of her performance movement. "It was written as a promise to my mother, who died of breast cancer before she was 50 because she chose not to go back to the doctor when they spotted a lump the size of a dime on her mammogram. Five years after not receiving treatment the cancer advanced to her bones and organs."

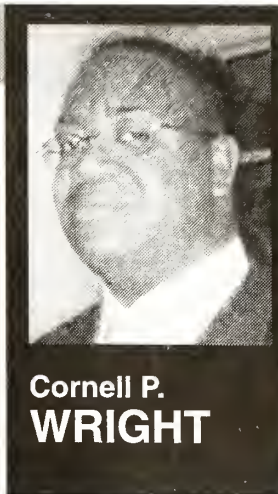
MAMA JUGGS challenges taboos and stereotypes surrounding breast health and body image. It's designed to contribute to the campaign against breast cancer by raising money and connecting women's health allies. Churches and faith-groups interested in learning more should visit her website at [www.anitawoodley.com](http://www.anitawoodley.com).

### Faith-Based Resources

Churches and other faith-based organizations are often looking for ways to merge health education with messages of faith. The Worship In Pink Toolkit, created by Susan G. Komen NC Triangle to the Coast Affiliate, helps churches and faith groups find ways to promote not only breast health but also overall health. "The Worship In Pink Toolkit was designed to help churches without health ministries, create one and strengthen health ministries in churches that have them" says Kenisha Bethea, Associate Director of Community Programs with Komen NC Triangle to the Coast. This toolkit gives participants a number of ways to provide congregations with breast health promotion activities that continue to raise awareness of important

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
**WRIGHT**

health-related issues. "The thought is that people do not have to wait until October or just on Sundays to be involved with breast health promotion, but can engage themselves at all times" says Bethea, who encourages that toolkit participants can also use this instrument as a foundation to improve individual and communal health. To learn how to receive a free Worship In Pink Toolkit, please contact Ms. Kenisha Bethea toll free: 866.971.CURE (2873) or email her at [kbethea@komennctc.org](mailto:kbethea@komennctc.org).

*For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.*

### Wake Baptist Grove Church

302 East Main Street  
Garner, N.C. 27529

Wake Baptist Grove Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed or ordained Baptist Ministers.

#### Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Must demonstrate the ability to preach and teach God's word
- Must have strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure
- Must have the spiritual maturity necessary to lead a diverse congregation
- Must be able to share your vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Must have the ability to develop and implement Christian education and community ministries
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and management skills

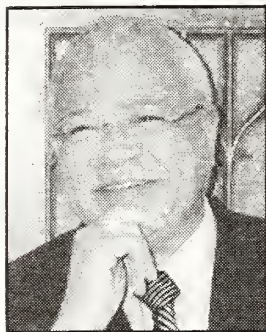
**Please send your resume and a copy of your pastoral license or ordination papers to:**

Attn: The Pastor Selection Committee  
Deacon Henry Holbrook, Chairman  
Wake Baptist Grove Church  
302 East Main Street  
Garner, N.C. 27529

# • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

## PRISON MINISTRY AWARD

The Reverend Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. received the "Church of the Year Award" from the National Baptist Convention's Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission during its annual session held in Charlotte, NC.



The First Baptist Church family was recognized for supporting prison ministry over the past two decades. This congregation has provided Associate Ministers who became leaders and full-time chaplains serving in the prison setting. Beginning with the Reverend John Prince (Chairman of GBSC

Prison Ministry for 20 years), the late Reverend Richard Wimberley (Chaplain at Central Prison), and Reverends Jeff Locus and Leon D. Parker (Chaplains presently serving with the Federal Bureau of Prisons). This type of support by a local church to lives incarcerated is unprecedented and this recognition was long overdue.

The recognition took place on Wednesday, September 4th, during the Dr. E. V. Hill Prison Ministry Leadership Luncheon held at the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, host church where the Reverend Dr. Clifford Jones is Senior Pastor. The award was presented by the Reverend Grady Scott, Chairman of the PMCJC and Reverend Dr. Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chief Chaplain of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

## INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED GUEST PREACHER

Dr. Samuel Broomfield Reeves, Jr. of Liberia, West Africa, was the guest preacher in August 2013 at the Oak Ridge First Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, N.C. where the Pastor is Dr. James B. Webster.



His message was titled, "I Will Not Offer God Anything that Costs Me Nothing," was taken from Genesis 22:1-18 and focused on three points: difficult instruction, deliberate obedience, and divine compensation.

Dr. Reeves is Senior Pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Liberia, West Africa. Providence is the oldest congregation in Liberia and one of the oldest in Africa, founded in 1821 by the Reverend Lott Carey and six other African-American families of the First African Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

Additionally, Dr. Reeves is the out-going Pastor of the 1,800 member multi-ethnic Madison Square Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and former chair of the Michigan Organizing Project, a direct-action, faith-based community organization that helps congregations and neighborhood associations identify issues of social injustice and empowerment for the oppressed.

He is the author of *Congregation To Congregation Relationship: A Case Study of the Partnership Between a Liberian Church and a North American Church*. Dr. Reeves is married to the former Ms. Alice Weimaa Cooper and they have one son, Alfield Cephas.

Submitted by Reverend Dr. Michael R. Smith, Sr.

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## Growing Number of NC Children Covered By Health Insurance, New Census Report Shows

### PRESS REPORTS

Adults, by contrast, remain uninsured; Affordable Care Act could bring similar gains for adults, but NC needs to expand Medicaid

RALEIGH - According to the new census report released today, the number of children without health coverage in North Carolina has fallen to 8.8 percent, a 4 percent drop since 2007. This gain is largely due to the success of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), launched in 1998, along with Medicaid, which combined to cover 1.5 million children in the state.

The trend among children contrasts sharply with that of adults. According to the new report, 19.5 percent of adults under 65 remain uninsured. This is largely because private insurance coverage — in particular, job-based coverage — has declined during this period, and it is much more difficult for adults to qualify for public health insurance than it is for children.

"Fewer and fewer employers — especially smaller employers — offer insurance. Right now, when hard-working North Carolinians lose their job-based coverage, most have nowhere else to turn," said Adam Searing, Health Director at the North Carolina Justice Center. "Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, that will change dramatically for many workers starting in 2014."

Starting on Oct. 1, North Carolinians who can't get affordable health insurance through their jobs but earn too much to qualify for Medicaid can sign up for coverage for 2014 through the state's new health insurance marketplace (See [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) for more information). Many people will be eligible for new federal subsidies to help them pay their premiums and reduce their out-of-pocket health costs. Over 1 million North Carolinians are eligible for subsidies in the new health marketplace.

However, Gov. Pat McCrory and the North Carolina General Assembly have refused to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid to cover an additional 500,000 working North Carolinians. Most of these North Carolinians — those with incomes too high for Medicaid today but too poor to qualify for Marketplace — won't be able to afford insurance through the Marketplace and will be left out in the cold with no options.

"The decision by Governor McCrory and the NC General Assembly to reject federal funds to expand Medicaid not only leaves 500,000 North Carolinians out in the cold with no way to get health insurance," said Searing, "but passes up the opportunity to strengthen our state economy and help keep our workers healthy and productive."

## Hispanics urged to perform skin self-exams, discuss cancer risk with physicians

### PRESS REPORTS

More than three-quarters of Hispanics patients in North Carolina aren't performing skin self-exams (SSE) to detect possible skin cancers, and physicians need to do a better job of educating their patients about this potentially life-saving practice, say researchers in the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Study results were reported earlier this year in the Research Letters section of the Archives of Dermatology.

"We know that the rates of melanoma, one of the deadliest skin cancers, are on the rise globally, and in the U.S., Hispanics and African-Americans often present to physicians with more advanced cases of the cancer," said Dr. Aida Lugo-Somolinos, professor of dermatology at UNC.

"We wanted to understand more fully why Hispanic patients weren't performing SSEs and what role the physician was playing in the process, especially since SSEs may lead to earlier melanoma diagnosis."

Researchers worked with Hispanic patients at Piedmont Health Services in Carrboro, UNC dermatology clinics and El Pueblo, a Hispanic advocacy group in Raleigh. Most participants, Lugo-Somolinos said, listed their country of origin as Mexico, but nine other countries were listed.

Among the results: 23 percent reported knowing skin-cancer risk factors, such as sun exposure; 9 percent received a regular skin examination; and 22 percent performed SSEs.

Darker-skinned individuals in the U.S., including Hispanics and African-Americans, have lower rates of skin cancer than Caucasians, but the risk remains, Lugo-Somolinos said. "We want to encourage primary care providers to help make their non-Caucasian patients aware they are also at risk for skin cancer, especially through sun exposure, even with darker skin," she added.

Lugo-Somolinos, originally from Puerto Rico, came to

UNC six years ago. She initially thought cultural traditions, especially the strong sense of modesty among women that she observed in her Puerto Rican patients, might explain her North Carolina Hispanic patients' reluctance to perform SSEs or request skin exams from health care providers. She quickly learned that was not the case with the study population of Hispanics.

"We did not find patient modesty to be a barrier, but what we did find was that patients felt they didn't have enough time with physicians to ask about preventive care such as skin exams," she said. "We also learned that physicians were not taking the opportunity to raise the subject with their patients, as they do with other health promotion topics such as smoking cessation or seatbelt use."

Lugo-Somolinos noted her varied experiences with patients in Puerto Rico and North Carolina highlight that there is no monolithic "Hispanic" community — and that individual countries and cultures must be understood and considered when working with Hispanic patients, she added.

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR PASTOR

MOUNT CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
509 CARROLL STREET  
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Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist is currently accepting resume's for the position of Pastor. Mount Calvary is a member of the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

#### Potential Candidate Qualifications:

- Must be led by the Spirit of God in all matters and perform pastoral duties according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be ordained and licensed with strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist doctrines, policies and practices.
- Must be willing to conduct worship service on a weekly basis.
- Three to five years of prior pastoral experience preferred.
- Seminary degree from an accredited school or equivalent education preferred.
- Ability to teach God's word and carryout administrative, strong leadership and counseling duties.
- Ability to communicate and work with all age levels. Participate in outreach ministries (including, but not limited to, youth and senior ministries).
- Must be family and community oriented.
- Must be a positive role model of moral and ethical conduct.
- Must be willing to teach and/or attend Sunday School, Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; visit the sick and shut-in, participate in administering Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in and support church functions.
- Must have vision for the spiritual, intellectual, physical and financial growth of the church.

#### Along with your resume', potential candidate must provide:

- Four references: 2 professional; 2 personal. References must include name, address and telephone number.
- Name, address and telephone number of previous or current church affiliation. Please include pastor's name if applicable.
- Proof of religious credentials (license/ordination).
- Proof of degree for confirmation or transcript of completed courses if degree has not been conferred.
- Must provide mission statement for the church.

This list is certainly not inclusive, but serves as a snapshot of what we expect of a pastor as we build Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church into a church that will serve all of God's children.

If you feel God is leading you to answer this call, please submit your resume' to:

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 13594  
New Bern, North Carolina 28561-0341

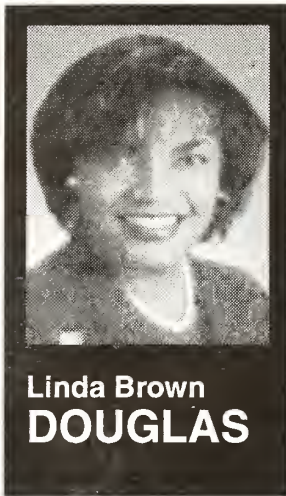
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# No need for doubt

Remember the time you were almost at the end of your rope, and God stepped in?

Or the time you realized you could have been caught in a tragic situation, but God led you in a different direction?

And remember when you looked back over your life and thought of all the ways God had blessed you?



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

would ever admit to having a lack of conviction, because it sounds like such an insult toward God, but most of us would admit to having doubt. It's the same thing.

Oh, we're not the first to doubt?

Thomas doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. Of all people, one of Jesus' disciples who had witnessed numerous miracles during his journey, Thomas did not believe what the others said when they told him they had seen Jesus. Thomas eventually believed once he had seen and touched Christ for himself. With proof, his doubt subsided.

Then there was the old couple, Abraham and Sarah. At the ages of 100 and 90, they found it funny that the Lord would promise them a child. The child would be called Isaac and the Lord said he would establish his covenant with Isaac. Abraham and Sarah did the math and considered the science of people their age producing children. The result was doubt, but "Is anything too hard for the Lord? (Genesis 18:14)" Again, the story ended with God fulfilling his promise.

Martha had her doubts. With all her faith, she believed that Jesus was the Messiah. Mary and Martha even called Jesus when their brother Lazarus became sick, because they knew he was a healer. Once Lazarus died, however, the sisters figured nothing could be done. They were appreciative of Jesus for coming, but they didn't think he needed to waste his time trying to perform a miracle at that point. Still, Jesus came through in calling Lazarus up from the dead.

Is today any different? The lyrics to Tye Tribbett's



Same God say it best, "If he did it before, he can do it again. Same God right now. Same God back then."

When I look at my daughter, I think, "What a miracle." I remember that early morning in the hospital 20 years ago when the doctor sat in the corner, put his hands in his face and shook his head. Something was wrong and she just wasn't coming out. She had been in distress during the night and had taken in fluids. Even if she lived, he said, she would be hooked up to machines. We needed to move forward with the emergency cesarean

section. I saw tears fall from my husband's eyes. He had watched the monitor all night and knew there was a problem.

A short time later, the tears were mine, and they were those of joy as the pediatrician examined the newborn and produced a thumbs-up sign. She was perfectly fine. The same God who produced the miracles back then had worked yet another miracle.

Remembering those times in our lives when God worked miracles helps us to turn our doubts into trust:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3: 5-6. NIV.

*Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*

**First Emmanuel Baptist Church High Point, NC** Guilford County is now accepting resumes for the position of full time pastor.

Qualifications--\*Must be married\*

- 1) The applicant must be a licensed and ordained Minister, and willing to become a member of the Rowan Baptist Association.
- 2) Must have strong knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- 3) The applicant must be a born again Christian, as evidenced by one's character and dedication.
- 4) The applicant must have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience as a Pastor/Minister.
- 5) The applicant must be effective in working with all groups within the church, and expected preach, teach and, and counsel in word and deed to all age groups.
- 6) The applicant must be willing to support all church programs (Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meetings, etc.)
- 7) The applicant is expected to visit the sick and shut-in (hospital, nursing home, home bound, and etc.).
- 8) The applicant must attend seminars, conferences, workshops and other Educational programs that will contribute to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the Church.

#### Principal Responsibility

- The applicant's main responsibilities will be to Preach and Teach God's Word, leading the Church in an effective and caring Ministry, and representing the Church at the Local and State meetings.
- The applicant must submit a resume with a cover letter; include a copy of their Ministerial License, and Ordination Certificate.
- Three letters of reference from individuals other than family members, and a current photograph.
- Applicants must also provide a criminal background and credit check.

The deadline for submitting all material is November 1, 2013.

Please forward all correspondences to:

**Pastor Search Committee  
First Emmanuel Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 1185  
High Point, N.C. 27260**

#### **Bethel Grove Baptist Church**

6116 Mount Laurel Rd  
Clover, Virginia 24534

The Bethel Grove Baptist Church is currently seeking a Pastor for our congregation. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed, ordained ministers with transformational leadership skills and excellent preaching and teaching abilities. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- A minimum 2 years of experience as a Pastor or Associate Pastor
- Formal theological education, credentialed from an accredited college and/or Seminary School (official transcripts will be required)
- Live within a 100 mile radius of the church
- A strong knowledge of the Baptist Doctrine and procedures
- Must be able to build up church spirituality
- Spiritual maturity to deal with diverse congregation
- Teaching ministry: Bible Study, Sunday School
- Strong skills in community ministries

Qualified candidates must submit the following items:

- Letter of intent (Cover Letter)
- Current resume (include family background and summary of relevant ministry, professional, and educational experience)

Correspondences should be sent to the following address:

**Bethel Grove Baptist Church  
Attention: Pastor Search Committee  
P.O. Box 74  
Clover, Virginia 24534**

# Shaw University Divinity School



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# The End Times? Conflict in Syria prompts such thinking among some

(continued from page 6)

tacks – his weapon of mass destruction,” Lindsey said. “Israel might be forced to stop such attacks using its weapon of mass destruction – nuclear missiles.”

Lindsey said that would both fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah 17 and set up the events of Ezekiel Chapter 38, a cataclysmic battle with a northern foe identified as Gog and Magog.

Dispensationalism is a method of Bible interpretation that forecasts a literal 1,000-year reign of Jesus on earth, a notion affirmed by Christian Zionists, who believe prophecies about biblical Israel are unfolding today in the modern Israeli state.

“If one Israeli dies from chemicals coming from Syria, Israel is going to take the issue into her own hands,” Jan Markell, founder and director of Minnesota-based Olive Tree Ministries, told OneNewsNow. “She would do some real destruction to the city of Damascus. Israel will send a huge message to

the rest of the Islamic world [that] this is what happens when you mess with us.”

Walid Shoebat, a Palestinian-American Christian who converted from Islam, regards the “Shia-Crescent” — which includes Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Azerbaijan — as the “Persian bear” described alongside the Babylonian Empire (modern-day Iraq) portrayed as a lion in Daniel 7-8.

“Our primary concern should be that one day our own nation will work with NATO to militarily strike the Assad regime and allow the revolutionaries to prevail,” Shoebat warned in March. “Such an act will not only enable Islamic fundamentalism to further expand, but empower Turkey to commence its much aspired empire — that is — a revived Ottoman empire.”

Such views are outside the mainstream of theology taught at most seminaries, but they are popular in cultural expressions like the 16 bestselling Left

Behind novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, which have exceeded 63 million in sales since the initial launch in 1995.

“Is it a novel or today’s headlines?” is a marketing slogan for end-times author Joel Rosenberg’s newest book, Damascus Countdown. Rosenberg has met with politicians including former presidential candidate and Texas Gov. Rick Perry and is quoted by media as an expert on the Middle East.

“It’s a very sobering thought to think that a judgment of a city or a country could happen in which an entire city could be wiped out, but that is in fact what the Bible is predicting,” Rosenberg said recently discussing Damascus on Fox News.

Rosenberg said it’s too early to know if Syria’s current actions are the same as those foretold by Isaiah, and that he thinks it’s wrong for people who teach Bible prophecy to “try to say for certain that it’s going to happen now.”

## YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Hosted by District 5 Group 2  
Sis. Trumella McDowell • District Chair

### SAVE THE DATE

November 2, 2013 • 9:00 AM  
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

# BAPTIST INFORMER

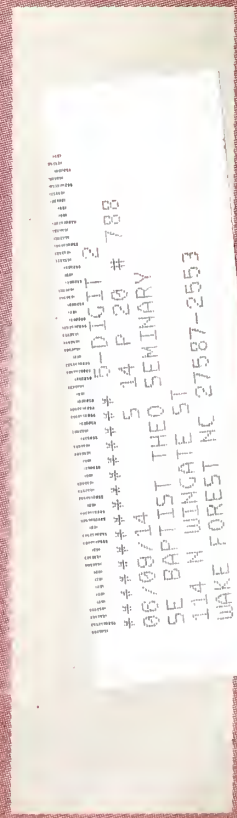


603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
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## MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

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 1967.



136:10



Volume 136, No. 10



November 2013

# BAPTIST INFORMER

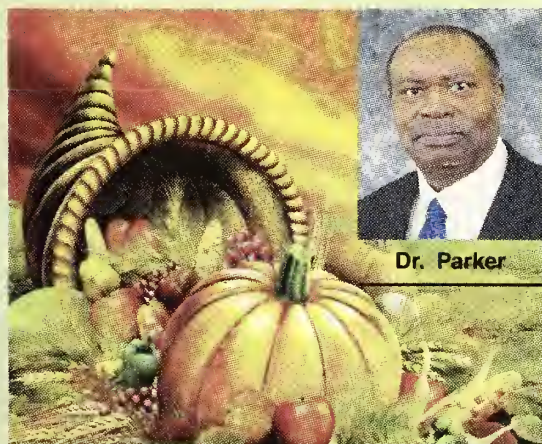
Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.



Photos by Ophelia Johnson

## The 30th Annual Women's Conference held at Shaw "The Power of the Gospel: Women Embodying Jesus as Radical Transformation"

**IN THE SPIRIT** - The Annual Women's Conference was held October 5 on the campus of Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. featuring more than a dozen speakers, including Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan from Shaw University (on left) and the Rev. Valeria Bridgeman, Ph.D, founding President and CEO of Woman-Preach! Inc. and a former tenured professor in Hebrew Bible and Homiletics at Lancaster Theology. (See more highlights on page 8)



Dr. Parker

### Happy Thanksgiving

President Howard W. Parker, Jr. and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. wishes God's bountiful Blessings upon you and your families during the Thanksgiving holiday and throughout the year.

## Counseling Center Receives \$500,000 Consortium Grant

### PRESS REPORTS

Shaw University's Counseling Center has received a \$500,000 domestic violence grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women the University announced. The Center was awarded the "Resources, Intervention, Services and Education (RISE)" grant as part of a consortium with Bennett College and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T).

"This grant is a wonderful opportunity for our Counseling Center to increase its domestic violence prevention programming and services for our University community," said Shaw President Dr. Dorothy Cowser. "We thank the Department of Justice for funding this important work and we look forward to collaborating with our grant partners Bennett College and NC A&T in implementing these new service programs."

The Shaw Counseling Center, staffed by Director Jerelene Carver and Counselor Latisha Riley, will use the grant funds to implement intervention and education programs for incoming students and University faculty, staff and campus safety units. Awarded for

three years, the grant will focus on reducing domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking on college campuses as well as encourage adoption of comprehensive and coordinated responses to these crimes. Additionally, outreach programming, training and resources will be provided for victim safety, offender accountability and prevention.

"The grant will not only support the Counseling Center but the entire campus community," said Carver. "We will provide culturally sensitive services that address the unique needs of our students. Additionally, this grant will also allow us to engage university men in preventing violence against women by developing and supporting healthy masculinity."

Each campus will partner with community-based nonprofit victim advocacy organizations and local criminal justice or civil legal agencies to develop protocols and policies that will treat violence against women as a serious offense as well as offer victim service programs.



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE :**

**P3**

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

**P8**

Highlights of the 30th Annual Women's Conference

**Renew!**

TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form

# Sharing God's Love ...

## An Evangelistic Outreach in Fayetteville



**M**ore than 400 members of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, participated in a Sunday morning evangelistic outreach that took Christians outside the walls of the church building and into surrounding neighborhoods to "share God's love" with hundreds of people.

On the morning of September 29, 200 hundred-plus disciples of all ages gathered at the church for an 8:00 AM kickoff breakfast. They were reminded that the whole world is the object of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), and that God promises to be with his people as they reach out to the community.

Then, at 9:00 AM, a 30-minute prayer and praise service was held in the church sanctuary as the crowd grew to more than 300. Then, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon, about 50 outreach teams scattered throughout Fayetteville knocking on doors and distributing "love bags" on door knobs. The bags contained a water bottle, nabs, chewing gum, a ball point pen, a gospel track, and information about First Baptist Church.

While the teams were out, a couple hundred people prayed in the church sanctuary while the teams were our visiting. This great support ministry was led by the FBC prayer warriors.



More than 800 hot dogs were distributed free of charge to passersby walking and driving into the downtown area. People drove by the church for three hours getting hot dogs, love bags, and information about Jesus Christ.

One team reported giving hot dogs and love bags to several homeless people sleeping under a bridge in the inner city. Another team reported helping a hungry elderly woman in one neighborhood get some food in

her house. One young man in an ex-offender halfway house asked for church service times and wanted to bring others to church.

Another team helped a woman who needed transportation to her home a mile away, and many teams shared the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the city.

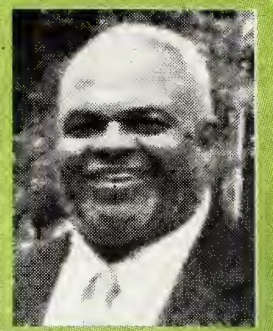
At a public housing area, dozens of children enjoyed games and Christian hip hop music and hot dogs. A child rushed out of her apartment in her pajamas when she saw the FBC van and asked, "Are you all going to set up church here?" After being told "yes," the child ran back inside to quickly get dressed. The children there were so excited.

One middle-aged man told another team that he was looking for a church and would come visit First Baptist the next Sunday.

By 12:00 noon the teams returned to the church for celebration time. Wearing white T-shirts emblazoned with the red and black "Sharing God's Love" theme, the disciples excitement overflowed as they shouted and praised God for such a wonderful Sunday outreach into the community. By 12:15 PM, more than 400 people had gathered in the church's Grace Place Gym where Minister Dorothy McNeil, leader of the outreach effort, said that "this is what the church should do more of...going outside the walls and reaching people for Jesus Christ." Assistant minister Floyd Wicker, Jr. echoed her thoughts, saying, "This is the heart of God right here. This is what we need to be doing more of. This was simply awesome!"

The witnessing for Jesus campaign was the result of the church's vision to move disciples out into the world on fifth Sundays to witness to the community about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. First Baptist has an evangelistic ministry called F.A.I.T.H. that goes door-to-door visiting homes throughout the year, but the special fifth Sunday outreach was designed to introduce more church members to Christ's call to be "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18-22).

*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: [cjohnson035@nc.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson035@nc.rr.com).*



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON

### CHURCH EVENTS



"This is the greatest community-building effort I've participated in since being at the church," said one FBC senior citizen. "The youth, adults, and older folks worked together to tell others about Jesus Christ. And we've come together even more as a church because of this great day. It's really wonderful to actually carry out Jesus' great commission," he said.

First Baptist is located in downtown Fayetteville, and that same day about 50 members stationed themselves on streets surrounding the church as people came downtown for an international folk festival.



*From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...*

## “God can bless you with everything you need”

*“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*  
(Galatians 1:3-5, NIV)

The Christian community must be equipped and empowered to embrace our opportunities, confront the challenges, overcome the obstacles, cultivate our gifts, learn from the lessons, and celebrate our victories with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and enlightenment.

The Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the believer to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this



way: “God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others” (CEV). Consequently, prophetic ministry must match our proclaimed mission.

Our congregational IN-REACH and community OUT-REACH must always lead to a God-honoring UP-REACH that glorifies God and edifies others. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others.

Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to fulfill our spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Our time, talents, treasures, and prayers are needed, encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated. The convention and the local ministries we serve are gifts from God, which God has entrusted to us as faithful stewards. I can think of no better way to glorify God and edify others than through your

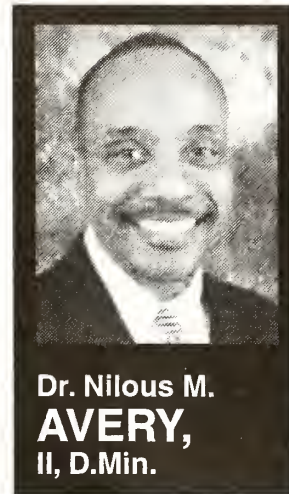
generous and cheerful contributions to missions.

Missions is what we do and we do it through our General Baptist State Convention! We do it by supporting: State Missions, Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children’s Home of N.C., J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention.

The harvest is ripe for a prophetic ministry that preaches ongoing good news, and proclaims freedom, restoration, release, and the year of the Lord’s favor (from Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4: 18-19). Let us not be weary laborers, but willing workers in kingdom building!

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.

You may contact Dr. Avery at:  
[averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

## A Touch: Waiting for A Meeting with the Master

My wife and I recently went to an Apple store. She was having problems with the email app on her iPad. I was having issues with my sound. As we entered the store I was struck by the volume of customers. It was noon.

People of all ages and multiple ethnicities were gathered en masse seeking help for their pads and phones.

I jokingly said to my wife that our fellow consumers were frothing at the mouth to either purchase the latest technology or get it repaired. We witnessed people jumping in line hurrying to get first aid for their devices. The associate who helped us stated that it would be four o’-

clock before they could fit us in for an appointment. I mentioned that our schedule wouldn’t allow us to come back at that time. With a spark of pure kindness the lady gave a few quick swiping

touches to my wife’s iPad. She deleted the dysfunctional app and suggested that we re-install it. Miracle of all miracles - my wife’s device was operating properly in a matter of minutes.

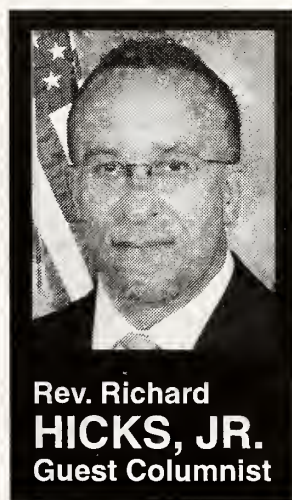
The throngs of Apple followers streamed into the door. Our technician patiently directed them to the proper stations. When there was a break in the action I mentioned that it would be great if she could help with my sound. The technician went into my settings folder and with a nimble touch effortlessly rectified my problem.

That experience left me thinking. How would our communities be different if the church drew followers as the Apple store does? What would it say about the condition of our culture if people from all races and ages and socioeconomic backgrounds gathered under one roof to receive a nimble healing touch from the hands of Jesus?



The mystique of the newest technology draws millions of Apple faithful. We will stand in line to pay for the latest platform and connectivity and touch screen features. If the church universal can make the time tested truths of the ancient scriptures tangible to a generation thirsting for relevance, we too will have innumerable crowds standing at our doors waiting for a meeting with the Master.

*The Reverend Richard Hicks, Jr. is a Federal Prison Chaplain and an Associate Minister at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.*



Rev. Richard HICKS, JR.  
Guest Columnist

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

# Becoming Equipped and Empowered In Service

Some Highlights of the  
17th Annual  
Walter Cade, Jr. Workshop

The seventeenth annual Walter Cade, Jr. Southeastern Laymen's Workshop was held in North Charleston, S.C. October 4-6 under the instruction of Southeastern Workshop Coordinator James Deen of Georgia. The workshop covered North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia and Georgia.

This year's theme was "Becoming Equipped and Empowered In Service" and the reference scripture was taken from Ephesians 6:10-20.

Throughout the weekend, featured sessions included "Ministering To Families In Crisis" with Reverend Dr. T.E. Simmons of South Carolina; "Becoming A Kingdom Man" was taught by Brother Ernest Tinsley of Georgia and it explored the question, "Am I a member of a church or a citizen of the kingdom?"; and Brother Isaiah Hill of Virginia taught



"Men Deepening Their Christian Faith."

Bro. Brian Jones of North Carolina facilitated "Junior Laymen: Developing Christian Men" and Instructor Sister Joice Tinsley of Georgia focused on "Am I My Sister's Keeper? Serving Inside The Sandbox." This class discussed women's issues in the church body and how to handle issues by assessing one's personal challenges.

"Biblical Sons Strong In Grace" with Brothers William Graves and Benjamin Myrick of Virginia, explored how to facilitate training for instructors of youth on how to teach the young Christian men's class.

Other highlights included the Saturday afternoon session of the Walter Cade, Jr. Southeast Laymen's Workshop Street Evangelist Service held at the Liberty Hill Housing Complex. The sermon was done by Rev. Edward Simmons, Associate Minister of Charity Hill Baptist Church of North Charleston, South Carolina.

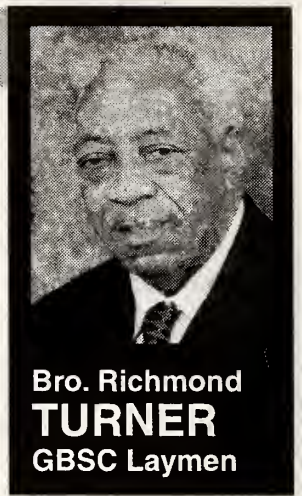
President James Green of the Florida General State Laymen was the toastmaster for the banquet. The guest speaker was Brother Mark Giles, President of the Virginia General State Laymen. His subject was

"Father Knows Best." God has delivered us out of the valley of depression. He knows the impact of our ministry on others. Sometimes its not God plan to leave us the way we want to go. There were remarks by brother James Deen and the benediction.

The Rev. Winslow Hagans, Associate Pastor of Bethlehem MBC of Rocky Mount, N.C., delivered a Sunday morning message "Where Do We Go From Here?" He encouraged participants to "put on the whole armor of God" and also practice the following:

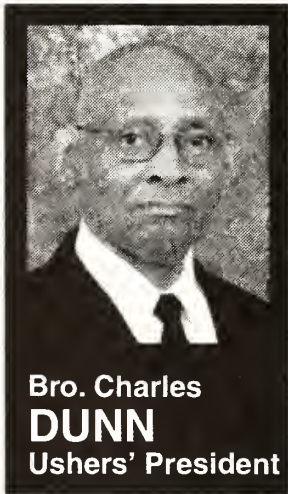
- Truth** - Speak the truth when dealing with the Word of God
- Righteousness** - Have your heart fixed on doing God's will
- Preparation** - Walk in the statues and doctrines of God
- Faith** - Have "mustard seed" faith
- Salvation** - You must be saved
- Spirit** - the Holy Spirit dwells within you and tells you when and how to speak
- Pray** - we need to pray for all humanity.

- Submitted by Assistant Secretary Roger Battle Jr.



**Bro. Richmond TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## General Baptist Usher Workshop held at Shiloh Church, Henderson



**Bro. Charles DUNN**  
Ushers' President

Dean Marvin T. Clowney from Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Clinton, taught the adult class during the General Baptists Usher's Workshop in September. His text was from 2 Timothy 3:10-11 and the subject was "Stick With Your Purpose." Each member of the community needs to be able to see what needs to be done, and move with creative intent and helpful action to see

how he or she can benefit the community and glorify God.

He added that "knowing your purpose will keep us walking together in the community. The purpose will help us from becoming spiritual wimps."

"God had a purpose when he sent Jesus into the world. He sent Jesus to create a new humanity. He did this by establishing a new community. Our purpose should be to follow Christ as our example."

During the Workshop, the President's class was conducted by First Vice President Archie Lofton from the Friendship Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C. His subject was on The Five Qualities of Leadership. They included:

- The Leader Cares Deeply.
- The Leader Is In Contact With People.

The Leader Is a Step Ahead.

The Leader Does Not Boss.

The Leader Does Not Hate His Critics.

Parliamentarian Robert Stewart opened the session with "Let us have a little talk with Jesus". The scripture was from the 84 Psalm and Colossian 3:12 by Sister Patricia Hughes from Christian Faith in Raleigh. The prayer was by Brother Ervin Walston from First Cosmopolitan in Raleigh. The Reverend Joseph Ratliff, Host Pastor, gave the greeting. Sister Nancy High, Coordinator, gave a Question and Answer session that included the following:

How do you deal with a person who won't slide down the seat? Be humble, be kind, or offer another seat.

How important is the attitude of an Usher? Leave the "attitude" at home. We need a Godly attitude.

What are the types of shoes an Usher should wear? They should wear lower heeled, but comfortable shoes.

What should we do if a parent has a screaming child? Be kind and offer her the place that's set aside for children.

What is the dress attire for the Convention? Ladies are to wear everything white. Earrings should be the small studs and no other jewelry. It is also a form of identity.

What should the length of the Usher uniform be and how tight should it be? The uniform should be plain, comfortable, under the knees, and loose so that it won't cause a distraction.

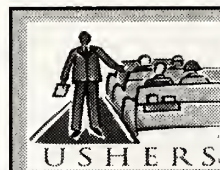
Is ushering everyone's calling? No. You have to put God first in your life.

How important is it to respect your President? You all won't agree in everything but you should respect God. When you come to Church 15 minutes late, that is disrespectful to fellow Ushers.

What do you do when a person enter and act suspicious? You ask them if they need help.

Why shouldn't we have cell phones in Church? They are a distraction. You are encouraged to please bring your Bible.

*NOTE: The next Executive Board meeting will be December 7, 2013 at Mt. Peace Baptist Church.*



**General Baptist State Ushers' Convention**  
**Mark Your Calendars**  
**2014 Calendar**

**December 7, 2013 (Saturday), (10:00 am.)**  
**Ushers' Executive Board Meeting**  
**Mount Peace Baptist Church**  
**Raleigh, NC.**

**February 22, 2014 (Saturday), ( 8:00)**  
**One Day Session**  
**Friendship Baptist Church**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**

**April 12, 2014 (Saturday) (10:00 am.)**  
**Ushers' Executive Board Meeting**  
**Mount Peace Baptist Church**  
**Raleigh, NC.**

# What Legacy Do You Want to Leave?

**W**hat do we mean by legacy? Webster defines legacy as “something received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.”

Other definitions of legacy include how someone is remembered and what contributions to humanity he/she made while alive, specifically contributions that outlive and outlast one’s time on earth.

In making a legacy, some people leave behind their names on highways, buildings, or scholarships. In

leave?

In Philippians chapter 1, the Apostle Paul celebrates the legacy of the church at Philippi. In this letter, Paul is writing from a Roman prison. He had established the church in Philippi during his second missionary journey five to ten years earlier. It had become a thriving community whose love, and compassion for Paul, as well as others, was clearly evident by their gifts and care towards Paul. Paul is now writing a let-

ter expressing his own love and tenderness towards them - he is grateful to God for the Christians at Philippi.

ter expressing his own love and tenderness towards them - he is grateful to God for the Christians at Philippi. Paul writes in verses 3-5, (NIV) “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” In the King James Version, the term “partnership in the gospel” is written “fellowship in the gospel.” What a legacy, to be thought of with joy every time you are remembered; what a legacy to share a fellowship in preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ;

what a legacy to be a part of a partnership that bears much fruit of righteousness and faith. The legacy that the church at Philippi had with Paul was a legacy of loving, sharing, and caring. Isn’t that what the world needs more of? Loving, sharing, caring is a key aspect of the Christian life. Believers in Christ are to come together in love, faith, and encouragement. Loving, sharing and caring from having common goals, being of one mind and in agreement with one another, united in purpose, and serving alongside each other. That is the essence of the fellowship Paul had with the church at Philippi. Jesus Christ of Nazareth gave His all for us. As His disciples, our salvation is free, but it was bought with a great price, the shedding of His precious blood at Calvary. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, by His Word and our obedience, we can leave a legacy that will stand for generations to come. The legacy that really matters are those lives we impact for Jesus Christ. What legacy do you want to leave?

*Rev. Linda B. Gill, a retired educator, served more than 30 years in Wake County Public Schools as a high school media specialist.*



**Rev. Linda B. GILL**  
Guest Columnist



many church, windows, and pews are named in honor of those who labored in that ministry. Others leave behind contributions to “organizations and societies they support, the causes they believe in, and the choices they make.”

Many of us find our most important legacy in our children and our grandchildren – we willingly sacrifice time, effort, labor, finances; we offer godly advice and discipline, praying for a good return in that our children will invest the same in future generations. Everyone has a choice between leaving a positive legacy or a negative one. What legacy do you want to

ter expressing his own love and tenderness towards them - he is grateful to God for the Christians at Philippi. Paul writes in verses 3-5, (NIV) “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” In the King James Version, the term “partnership in the gospel” is written “fellowship in the gospel.” What a legacy, to be thought of with joy every time you are remembered; what a legacy to share a fellowship in preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ;



**Evan Haynes**  
First Place Winner in James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest  
Senior Division (12th grade)

Evan, a high school senior, is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Barry Haynes of Raleigh. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. where the Pastor is Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. in the Wake Baptist Association, Dr. Marvin Connelly, Moderator.

**I**n the vernacular, “being turned up,” (which means under the influence) via your favorite social media is not impressive. Be cautious of dumbing yourself down or selling yourself short just to fit in. From my experience, it is important to show compassion to your fellow students, for they are also on this difficult journey striving to find their way. As stated in 1 Peter 5:6-7, “Humble yourself therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you; be sober minded; be watchful.

Finally, be prepared for your faith to be tested like never before. As you venture out into the real world, you will come in contact with individuals who do not share your spiritual beliefs. This is when you must decide what aspects of their beliefs you are willing to make your own. When you do, your understanding of our amazing God will grow and your faith will become stronger. In fact, your faith really begins to become more and more your own — not just an extension of what your parents or friends believe. Most importantly, keep your spiritual life strong. Develop habits for prayer and continue them in college.

The poem, *Invictus* by William Earnest Henley is a great inspiration to me and I would like to share it with you.



Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Honor of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishment the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate;  
I am the captain of my soul.

# What Makes the Difference In Our Preaching is Nonverbal Communication

It is impossible not to communicate because your mere presence communicates something. In fact one writer says, "you cannot not communicate." The question is what are you communicating? If you stand you signal something about yourself. The way you stand communicates something. How you look communicates something about your self-confidence level. The way you sit communicates as well as the way you walk. Obviously the way you talk or speak says something about you whether intentional or unintentional on your part. We are by nature communicative beings. So the question is not will you communicate but what you communicate.



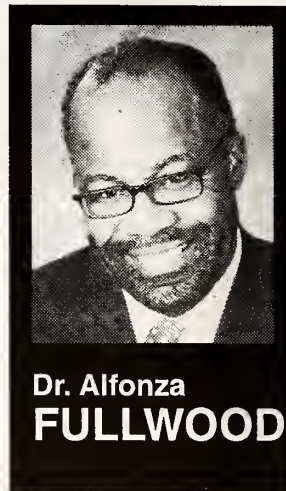
For effective delivery, the preacher focuses on verbal skills to convince or persuade the audience. For this reason, he or she spends sufficient time "dressing up the sermon" with careful selection of polished words and phrases. When the preacher crafts the sermon the result is a manuscript or outline of words intended for verbal delivery. In preparation for delivery, the preacher not only focuses on saying the words but how the words are said. Importantly so, words count, they create worlds and realities. And while the preach-

ing task is more than words it is not less than words. Surprisingly, speech communication theorists argue that only 35 percent of speech communication is verbal. What this means is when the preacher is in the act of delivering his or her sermon, the audience receives 65 percent of the "message by means other than words." If theorists' research is credible, what other channels of communication in preaching other than words should the preacher attend to during delivery of the sermon?

Nonverbal avenues of communication (without words) are a substantial means to carry the message during delivery of the sermon. Specifically, the channels of nonverbal communication include but not limited to tone of voice, facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, how you are dressed, and even how you stand in the pulpit. One author correctly reminds us that the preacher should use his or her entire body as a means to communicate the message of the gospel. In this way, the preacher's credibility is established which is sustained throughout the sermon. Invariably, the audience views the effectiveness of the sermon based on these nonverbal means as opposed to verbal.

For the preacher, such an impact on the audience should encourage him or her to give more attention to nonverbal means of communication.

Noted nineteenth century Episcopal preacher, Phillips Brooks in his definition of preaching wrote that preaching is "truth through personality." To a certain extent, the preacher's personality carries impact equal to the content of the message. Using nonverbal elements, the preacher reveals his or her personality, attitude and character. So, in a real sense your personality makes your sermon relative to connecting with the audience. Thus, the preacher should bring all of his or her communication skills to bear in the service of preaching the gospel. In the next article I will focus more specifically on elements of nonverbal communication such as tone of voice.



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

*Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.*

## Lott Carey Prayer Alert! Short-Term Missions Deployments

The Lott Carey Global Christian Missional Community extends the Christian witness throughout the world. Through prayer partnership, financial support, and technical assistance, we come alongside indigenous communities engaged in ministries of evangelism, compassion, empowerment, and advocacy. Together, we are touching lives with transforming love.



**Rev. Dr. David E. GOATLEY**  
**LOTT CAREY**

Please join us in a season of prayer as we deploy a number of short-term missions teams on assignments in the Caribbean and Africa in the coming weeks.

**Liberia**  
5 - 16 November 2013: Pray for a medical missions team that will

travel to Liberia to serve. They will operate a free medical clinic on the campus of the Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville ([www.lottcareymission-school.org](http://www.lottcareymission-school.org)), a few miles outside of the capital city of Monrovia. As Liberia continues to emerge from a generation of civil unrest, decline, and war, most people have no access to medical care. This clinic will provide health care for students, staff, and the community surrounding the campus.

### Haiti

27 - 31 October: Pray for an economic development team that will travel to Haiti to work on com-

pleting new projects to empower families and communities for more sustainable living. Lott Carey is supporting transformational agricultural and technical solutions for people who need them most. Our team is working with local agricultural and technology professionals toward solidifying opportunities for collaboration and investment.

**2 - 9 November:** Pray for a women's empowerment team we will deploy to Lambi Sustainable Village in Haiti. In the mornings, the seven-person team will provide Biblical and practical lessons on the Godly Woman, the Godly Wife, the Godly Mother, and Life Lessons for Women. During the afternoons, the team will help paint and decorate the interior of the Community Center as well as participate in home visits and cultural exchanges with the women of the village.

**9 - 16 November:** A team of 18 men will deploy to continue building houses and relationships with families in the village and surrounding areas. They will worship and offer ministries of encouragement in church communities as well.

**30 November - 7 December:** A team of 12 men will deploy to continue building houses and relationships with families in the village and surrounding area. They will worship and offer ministries of encouragement in church communities as well.

We still have a few opportunities for men to join our 2 - 9 March 2014 team that will travel to Haiti to build

homes and relationships. Register online under the "Service" button at [www.aabmc.org](http://www.aabmc.org) or contact Kathi L. Reid at [kreid@lottcarey.org](mailto:kreid@lottcarey.org) for more information.

Lott Carey set a goal of deploying 100 men to build 10 houses in the Lambi Sustainable Village in Haiti last year. We deployed 81 men who built 12 houses. We are working to reach our goal of 100 men on missions in Haiti. We are partnering with Grace-Fuller Center to complete additional homes in Lambi Village. To date, thirty-four (34) of the fifty-six (56) targeted homes have been completed. There are still 40 homeless families living in Lambi still in need of homes. The parent ministry, Grace International is a Haitian-owned and operated ministry of 279 churches, 3 orphanages and a tent city. See our recent magazine focusing on Collaboration in Haiti.

Pray for our teams that will deploy, for our partners who will host, and our sisters and brothers we will serve. See the Women In Service Everywhere Prayer Calendar for Haiti.

Give so that we can continue to provide support for colleagues who are serving around the world throughout the year. They count on us every month. You can give online at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org).

Prepare yourself for short-term missions assignments as the Spirit calls you to "Go!"

Thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

*Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott Carey can be reached at: [degoatley@aol.com](mailto:degoatley@aol.com).*



## PRESS REPORTS

### Shaw Promotes Marcus Clarke to Athletic Director

Shaw University recently announced the promotion of Marcus Clarke to Athletic Director. Clarke previously served as the University's interim athletic director during the 2009-2010 academic year and again in 2012. He will continue to serve as Shaw's Compliance Officer, a position he has held for the last 10 years.



"Mr. Clarke has consistently shown leadership and a drive to succeed that has been instrumental in the success of our athletic department and our student athletes, said Shaw President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "Under his direction, the department has shown distinct

improvement on the field, and most importantly, in the classroom."

Clarke began his athletic career as an athletic trainer and head track and field and cross country coach at Virginia Union. He was named compliance officer at Union in 2001. In 1996, he served as the athletic trainer for the British Virgin Islands Olympic team, and was responsible for the care and injury prevention of the track and field athletes in the delegation.

As a compliance director and athletic trainer, he has been part of over 30 CLAA championship teams and one national championship team. He has also served as a mentor to others in the compliance profession, and has educated students about eligibility and college athletics.

Clarke was recently appointed to the NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief, which allows NCAA member institutions, conferences and committees/subcommittees to apply for a waiver in cases when no other committee/subcommittee has the authority to waive specific NCAA legislation when an institution is faced with extenuating and/or extraordinary circumstances. He earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a master's degree from Capella University.

"This will be a challenge, but one I am looking forward to," said Clarke. "I have enjoyed my time in the interim role and am excited to take on the athletic director's role full time and focus my attention fully on it."



### Shaw University Names Presidential Search Committee

Dr. Joseph N. Bell, chair of the Shaw University Board of Trustees, recently announced the appointment of the Shaw University Presidential Search Committee. A national search will be conducted to replace current Shaw President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, who will be retiring. Dr. Yancy has served with distinction as the University's 14th and 16th president.

The Search Committee includes Shaw University trustees, students, faculty and staff as well as business and government leaders in the Raleigh-Durham community. In conjunction with the University's Board of Trustees, the Committee will

conduct focus groups, open forums and listening sessions with representatives of various constituencies as part of its outreach efforts.

"I am pleased we have such a great committee to assist with the search for Shaw's next president," said Bell. "Shaw is a great institution with a rich history and we expect that many strong candidates will be interested. The selection of a leader for the first historically Black university in the South and among the oldest in the nation is one of our most important tasks. Shaw University seeks to engage members of its community in a collaborative effort to promote business sector growth, to increase economic development opportunities in Wake County and to foster the advancement of Raleigh-Durham's residents."

As outlined in the board policies, the Search Committee will guide the first stage of the search which includes screening applicants, conducting campus interviews and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees. HEAL Global Consulting, a division of HEAL Global, Inc. that provides strategic consulting services to businesses and executive search services to the higher education industry, is assisting with the presidential search. Board Trustee Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr. will serve as chair of the Committee.

"I take the responsibility as chair of this committee very seriously and I am certain each member of the search committee feels the same," said Forbes. "We will do our best to find the most qualified and best-suited visionary leader to become the 17th president of this great university."

The Search Committee held its initial meeting today at 1:00 p.m. on Shaw's campus. During the meeting, Trustee Bell formally charged Committee members with their roles and responsibilities in conducting the search. Members of the Presidential Search Committee include:

Trustee David C. Forbes, Sr. committee chair  
Trustee Randolph Bazemore  
Trustee Tom Darden  
Trustee Dallas Joseph  
Trustee Wilson Lacy  
Trustee Donell Lewis  
Trustee James Shaw  
Trustee Lorenzo Williams  
Mr. Timothy Brown, Jr., President & CEO,

Brown Realty and Investment Corporation (BRIC), LLC

Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy, Department Chair, Natural Sciences & Math

Dr. Stanley Elliott, Director-CAPE/Assistant Professor-Public Administration

Ms. Hazel Gibbs, former Executive Director, Human Resources at

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Ms. Barbara Goodmon, President, A.J. Fletcher Foundation

Dr. Bruce Grady, Dean-Divinity School/Associate Professor -Religion Education

Ms. Monique Hyman, MSW, LCSW- R, Assistant Professor Of Social Work/ Curriculum / Quality Coordinator

Mr. Charles Meeker, Esquire former Mayor of Raleigh, N.C., Partner in the law firm of Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein, LLP

Ms. Y'Mani Miller, Shaw University Student

Mr. Brandon Moyer, President - Shaw University Student Government Association

Mr. Bobby Sanders, President Faculty Senate

Dr. Maria Spaulding, Retired Community Volunteer and former Deputy Secretary, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Corrie Struble, Program Coordinator for Athletic Training and Exercise Science Programs, Department of Allied Health Professions

Ms. Ashante Timoll, Assistant Coach-Women's Basketball Senior Trustee Advisors to the Board Chairman

Dr. George C. Debnam, MD, retired family medicine physician

Dr. Willie E. Gary, Esquire, Senior Partner in the law firm of Gary, Williams & Parenti

Dr. John H. Lucas, former president of Shaw University, Member, Board of Directors, National Education Association

For more information on the Shaw University Presidential Search, please visit [www.shawu.edu/Presidential\\_Search](http://www.shawu.edu/Presidential_Search).

## SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School **April 7-10, 2014**.

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School's accreditation may send an email to:

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu) <<mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>>

or may contact ATS directly at:

**The Association of Theological Schools  
in the United States and Canada**

The Commission of Accrediting  
10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110

Telephone: 412-788-6505 • Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more <<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>>  
about Shaw University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

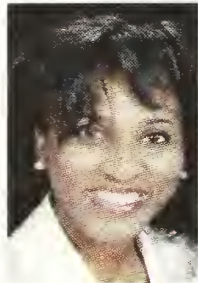


## Mother Sanders: Living History at Shiloh Baptist

What does it mean to “live with legacy?”

Few could find a better example of “living legacy” than to peer into the life of Mrs. Johnnie Jacqueline Young Mims Sanders of Henderson, North Carolina. The former educator just celebrated her 100th birthday (October 31, 2013), but this lively centenarian holds yet another level of distinction in the body of Christ.

Mother Sanders, as she’s affectionately known, has belonged to the same congregation - Shiloh Baptist Church in Henderson, N.C. - for 93 years.



Ophelia Johnson

Yes, ninety-three years.

She joined Shiloh around 1920, the same year that saw the birth of Prohibition (18th Amendment) and the launch of the legendary Harlem Renaissance in New York. She cast her spiritual lot with Shiloh the year that American women received the right to vote and when the first commercial radio broadcasts hit the airways.

Her membership is deeply rooted in the history of the church, but she’s still there making her mark every week, according to her Pastor, the Reverend Joseph L. Ratliff. He calls Mother Sanders one of the church’s most actively engaged disciples with a quest for knowledge and an unquenchable spirit that simply keeps on giving to the congregation. She still teaches Sunday school, sings solos in the choir on Sundays and over the years she’s sewn more love by writing songs, poems and speeches for people.

“As a Christian, a humanitarian and a philanthropist, she’s repeatedly assisted youth and adults in furthering their education,” Rev. Ratliff said. “She’s sponsored youth and adults on church trips across the nation and assisted people in getting started in business.”

Over the years, Mother Sanders has also worked with the General Baptist State Convention, the Woman’s Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, Lott Carey Foreign Missions, and even Camp Dogwood, a program sponsored by the North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc.

Her lengthy tenure in one church is a testament to the power of staying planted in a place and allowing God to use one’s gifts and talents. After all, the Holy Scriptures teach: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (Romans 12:1 NIV)

For every prayer, every song and every kind word that she’s given to generations of members at Shiloh Baptist Church and in the larger community, it is time to take note of the lessons and sacrifices given by Mother Sanders and countless other active church servants across the state in their 70s, 80s, 90s - and beyond.

They teach us that it is possible to make a difference in a church if you’re willing to plant yourself in fertile soil and allow God to nourish your development. Nowadays, Mother Sanders has scaled back some of her activities to work on a book, Rev. Ratliff said, but she’s still “a phenomenal lady.”

For your tenacity, Mother Sanders, we say “thank you.” You’re showing us the way.

## 30th Annual Women’s Conference held at Shaw University

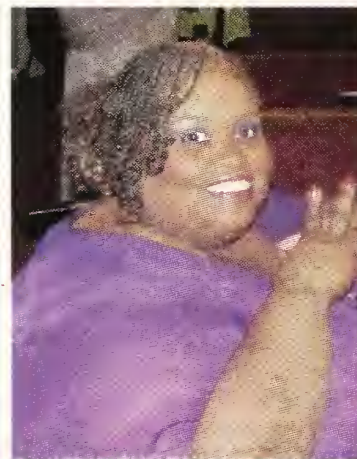


Photos by Ophelia Johnson



### The Power of the Gospel: Women Embodying Jesus as Radical Transformation

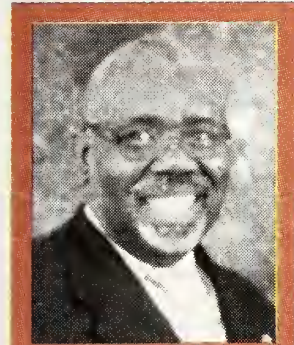
**2013 TRANSFORMERS** - The 30th Annual Women's Conference, hosted by Shaw University Divinity School, was held October 5 in Thomas J. Boyd Chapel in Raleigh, N.C. Participants included Mr. Dennis Williams, Jr., Minister of Music at St. John A.M.E. Church, Raleigh; the Rev. April Rhinehardt, Chaplain, Thomas J. Boyd Chapel at Shaw University; the Rev. Dr. Joseph Stevenson, Director of Continuing Christian Education at SUDS; the Rev. Dr. Alberta McLaughlin, Pastor of Sandhills United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Sherri Arnold Graham, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina. Workshop leaders were Rev. Jennifer Jones-Bridgett, Dr. Tony Jones and Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan. Other conference participants included Bishop William Purvis, President, SUDS Graduate Student Government Assoc.; Dr. James Ashmore; Dr. Timothy Boddie; Dr. Annie Tinsley; Tameka Tisdale; Rev. Donna Vanhook; and Dr. Bruce T. Grady, Dean of the Shaw University Divinity School.



# Chained because of the "WAY," Yet Free To Sing And Pray"

ACTS 16:23-28

Visitors to Philippi today are shown the ruins of an old prison cell dug into the side of a hill just a short distance from the old Philippians' agora or marketplace. On one side of this cell is a plaque containing a line taken from Paul's letter he later wrote to the Philippians, probably from another prison cell in Rome. It reads: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (1:21).



Dr. Ricky L. **BANKS**  
Second VP, GBSC

We do not know whether this is the exact place of Paul's imprisonment in Philippi. We are assured, however, that somewhere in this general area, Paul and Silas were handed over by the magistrates to a jailer. Luke wrote that the jailer was charged "to keep them safely" (v23).

Complying with his orders, the jailer put the missionaries in the inner prison (23). We probably

would term this a maximum security cell. The jailer decided that the prisoners were usually dangerous and needed maximum security. He locked them in the deepest part of the prison and fastened their feet in stocks.

People who work with prisoners regularly are accustomed to hearing cursing, vile language, and oaths from a cellblock. They do not hear kind words often in such a setting. On that particular night in the Philippians' jail, however, an even more unusual sound was heard. Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. (25). The others prisoners were listening attentively to this rare midnight praise service.

Luke reported that suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shake; and immediately all the doors were open and every one's fetters were unfastened, (26). The noise and commotion of the midnight tremor awoke the sleeping jailer. Seeing the prison doors open, he logically supposed that all had escaped (v.27). He drew his sword and was about to kill himself (v.27). Jailers who allowed prisoners to escape in that era often had to

pay with their lives (compare 12:19). Note Paul's response at this strategic point: "But Paul cried with a loud voice, do not harm yourself, for we are all here" (V28).

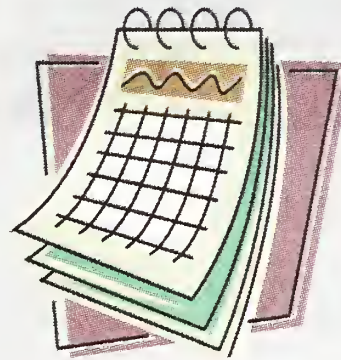
Leading the missionaries out of the cellblock, the jailer asked in all sincerity, men what must I do to be saved? The response of Paul and Silas to the jailer's direct question was equally direct. They offered no elaborate program to introduce salvation but presented the person of Jesus Christ. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And

they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. Good New Testament preaching always keeps evangelism and ethics wedded together. Paul and Silas must have shared with the jailer and his family not only the call to salvation but also the call to discipleship.

The Philippians jailer and all the members of his family became new Christian converts. Many Blessings Upon You!

Reach Dr. Banks at: [pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### The Congress of Christian Education

### ANNUAL SESSION

**FEBRUARY 8, 2014**

**FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.**

**The Reverend Dr. Clifford Jones, Pastor**

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# It's Harvest Time - Counting Our Blessings

Spring is long gone, and we are into Fall, 2013. The leaves are changing colors and falling, the nights are longer and days are shorter. Sometimes amidst the crisp Fall air, we forget that we are Ecclesiastes people: there is a time and season for all things. Just as farmers harvest fall fruit and vegetables, as people of faith, what kind of harvesting are we engaged in? Jesus says that the harvest is plentiful, but the servants are few.

Christians are to be messengers of loving God and loving people. The harvest involves us planting seeds of love wherever we go, reflecting the transformation of Christ. But, we can't plant love if the anger, grief, sadness, meanness, guilt, and pain we carry contaminate the love we try to plant.

Weeds of un-forgiveness, resentment, spite, and revenge make it impossible for us to exact a harvest for God. To plant seeds of love, we must be able to receive and give love. We must know the gift of forgiv-



ing others and ourselves. We may never forget the injury done to us, but as people of faith we must forgive. We can only forgive through the Grace and Mercy of God. When asked how many times to forgive, Jesus answered, seventy times seven or as many times as we are sinned against.

How do we learn to be open to God's love and forgiveness? We need to be around disciples who love God and have experienced healing, and know the unspeakable joy and transformative healing of the Holy Spirit. To access such depths of our spirituality, it is important to spend quiet time with God, to be in prayerful dialog.

Through study of scripture and other spiritual disciplines, our walk with God strengthens.

As we grow in Grace, stay focused on God, and keep ego in check, we discern who we are, whose we are, and how we are to treat others. We learn to be aware of all about us, learn to accept people for who they are, and learn to take appropriate action. We can-

not change others, only God can. We cannot expect people who are spiritually sick to embrace us with love: a leopard has spots and not stripes. No amount of prayer or harranguing will make the leopard's spots be anything other than spots. Our job is not to change the leopard, but to recognize that the leopard will behave like a leopard; for us to expect a different kind of action is insanity on our part.

As the air cools more and more and the days get shorter and shorter, let us be blessed disciples by modeling and mirroring God's love wherever we are. If we seek God in prayer, God will reveal to us our harvest and will strengthen us to stand as we move through the harvest. If we want to change, want our nation, our world to change, we must be change agents. "Let there be peace and love on earth, and let it begin with me."

*Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women's Studies at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, NC. Reach her at: [cduggan@SHAWU.EDU](mailto:cduggan@SHAWU.EDU).*



Rev. Cheryl KIRK-DUGGAN

## Census: Number of Poor North Carolinians Remains High, Incomes Stagnant

*Hardship Continues as North Carolina Fails to Make Investments that Reduce Poverty*

### PRESS REPORTS

**R**ALEIGH - Poverty remained high and incomes stagnant in North Carolina last year, showing the continuing pain of the recession and underscoring the need for North Carolina to do more to help struggling people and give them the tools to lift themselves out of poverty. Despite some improvement, one in five people or 18 percent lived in poverty in 2012, according to new Census Bureau data released today. The median annual income in North Carolina adjusted for inflation did not rise between 2011 and 2012.

Since the recession, North Carolina lawmakers have cut funding for schools, community colleges and other key services that build a strong economy with good jobs that can help struggling families climb into the middle class. Continued failure to invest in these important services—and the pursuit of tax cuts—will hurt North Carolina's economic recovery and make life harder for these families.

"When North Carolina fails to invest in our communities, it takes money out of the local economy and makes it even harder for families to get back to where they were five years ago," said Alexandra Sirota of the Budget & Tax Center, a project of the North Carolina Justice Center. "This strategy will only extend the pain of the recession, which has already caused so much harm."

North Carolina's poverty and deep poverty rates dropped to the 10th and 12th highest in the nation, respectively — down from the 13th highest in 2011.

Help for struggling families from the state and federal government has been found to have long-term payoffs for kids, including better school performance, higher earnings as adults, and better health outcomes. At a time when poverty continues to remain high, investments to support struggling families are critical. Earlier this week, data also released by the Census showed the powerful anti-poverty impact of SNAP (4 million lifted out of poverty), unemployment insurance (1.7 million lifted out of poverty), and the Earned Income Tax Credit (5.5 million lifted out of poverty). At the state level, policymakers already decided to reduce unemployment insurance and eliminate the state EITC. At the federal level, a final vote today to significantly reduce SNAP benefits and restrict access is expected.

"The data also reveals persistent disparities in how poverty impacts communities," said Tazra Mitchell, Public Policy Analyst with the Budget & Tax Center. "In 2012, the child poverty rate for African Americans was 40.9 percent, 43.6 percent for Latinos, 44.1 percent for American Indians, and 18.8 percent for whites in North Carolina."

Among the key findings for North Carolina from the data release today:

North Carolina's poverty rate was 18 percent in 2012, statistically unchanged from the rate in 2011 but a 0.5 percent increase since 2010. The poverty rate jumped 26 percent since 2007,

the beginning of the Great Recession.

More than 1.7 million North Carolinians were officially in poverty in 2012, and more than 754,000 lived in deep poverty.

The poverty rate for children in North Carolina was 26 percent in 2012, compared to 10 percent for older adults.

People of color experienced higher rates of poverty. In 2012, 28.4 percent of African Americans, 33.9 percent of Latinos, and 34.8 percent of American Indians in the state lived in poverty.

Median household income held steady at \$45,150 in 2012, statistically unchanged from 2011 even though the economy grew by 1.7 percent since then.



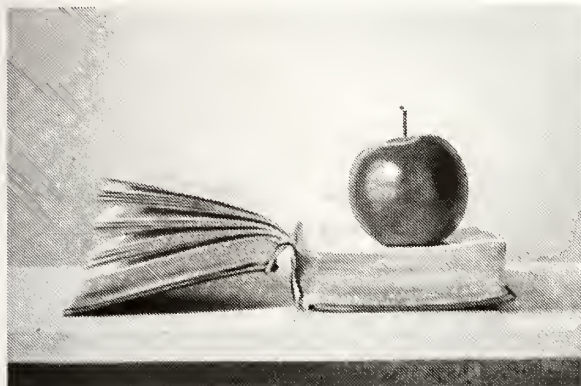
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# Renovating The Temple: Eating Right, Being Active

Most of us know that our bodies are a temple unto God, but like all structures, we must maintain them so they can properly function. Like all things, the body will wear down and sometimes we might need to renovate our temples. There are many successful blueprints that can guide us through this process but the most important piece is the ability to take ownership of our own health.



## Super-Sized Society

In America, the ability to “super-size” your choices and options as a consumer are now a part of the everyday normality of life. Whether it is in clothes, cars, or food, the ability to “up-size” almost everything may have corrupted our collective reasoning in terms of premise of “reasonable portion.” Society has turned into a fast-paced, microwave way of living that has made many of us, “over-consumers.” In the African-American community, portion size is huge issue when it comes to food consumption. Diabetes and obesity run rampant and media marketing and pricing do little to help the problem. To eat healthy, it will cost you an arm and a leg. To eat unhealthy will cost you the same in the long run. Cycles of failure and destruction have to be addressed and broken in order to have success in breaking the chains of dietary oppression.

## American Diabetes Month

In November we observe American Diabetes Month, which is a time to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the United States, more than 25 million people are living with diabetes and 79 million more are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Over time, if it's not controlled, type 2 diabetes can cause serious health problems like heart disease, stroke, and blindness. Some risk factors for developing diabetes include:

- Being overweight or obese.
- Having a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes.
- Being African American, American Indian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or Hispanic American/Latino heritage.
- Having a prior history of gestational diabetes or birth of at least one baby weighing more than 9 pounds.
- Having high blood pressure measuring 140/90 or higher.
- Having abnormal cholesterol with HDL (“good”) cholesterol is 35 or lower, or triglyceride level is 250 or higher.
- Being physically inactive—exercising fewer than three times a week.

## Temple Building Practices

Some churches and organizations have already taken steps to promote healthier lifestyles and behaviors by en-

acting and adopting policies within their organizational structures. These changes can be as simple as working with kitchen committees to ensure that healthier options are available at communal gatherings, including replacing sugary drinks with water and other healthier beverages. Replacing fried foods with baked foods and having fruits instead of cakes/pies are a couple of ways that done to provide healthier food alternatives. Other ways to enact deeper and more sustainable change is to make these changes a part of the policies of governance for churches and organizations. Most organizations run based off policies and by-laws. When changes are placed within that system, there is a better chance for sustainability and accountability.

## Eating Right, Being Active

The proper diet and exercise can go a long way in preventing and/or reducing the burden of health-related issues. Take the first step to making healthier food choices by taking part in the American Heart Association's National Eating Healthy Day on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013. On this day, people are encouraged to make small, healthy changes and raise the awareness of the importance of good nutrition. Give your family, friends and co-workers a friendly push toward a healthier life. Physical activity can help you control your blood glucose, weight, and blood pressure, as well as raise your “good” cholesterol and lower your “bad” cholesterol. It can also help prevent heart and blood flow problems, reducing your risk of heart disease and nerve damage, which are often problems for people with diabetes (CDC).

## Effective Tools and Resources

Health ministries within churches can be a powerful tool to engage in healthier behavior. Church leadership has to be on board for this to work effectively. Organizations like the American Heart Association have recently started to recognize organizations that provide work/meeting spaces that allow employees, staff, volunteers, and others to participate in healthy activities through the Fit Friendly Worksites initiative. Recently, an emphasis has been placed on getting more faith organizations and congregations involved, especially in the African-American community. Nehemiah Christian Center in Durham, NC was recently recognized as a Fit Friendly Site and has thrived on the direction of health ministry and church leadership to start an annual church walk and other health-related programs. These are the types of activities that can assist congregations and community to play a more active role in their individ-

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

ual and collective health outcomes. If you have a health ministry, join it. If you need a health ministry, start one. There are countless resources and tools available to help churches, start, strengthen, and revive health ministries. The key is to make sure that church leadership understands the importance of health for not only the congregation and surrounding community, but also as individuals.

*For more information about National Eating Healthy Day, go to [www.startwalkingnow.org](http://www.startwalkingnow.org).*

*For more information about health ministries, please contact the Center for Health and Healing at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org).*

## Wake Baptist Grove Church

302 East Main Street  
Garner, N.C. 27529

Wake Baptist Grove Church is currently seeking a pastor. We are accepting resumes from Spirit-filled, licensed or ordained Baptist Ministers.

### Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Must demonstrate the ability to preach and teach God's word
- Must have strong knowledge of Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure
- Must have the spiritual maturity necessary to lead a diverse congregation
- Must be able to share your vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Must have the ability to develop and implement Christian education and community ministries
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and management skills

Please send your resume and a copy of your pastoral license or ordination papers to:

Attn: The Pastor Selection Committee  
Deacon Henry Holbrook, Chairman  
Wake Baptist Grove Church  
302 East Main Street  
Garner, N.C. 27529

# Groups call for probe of NYPD post 9/11 surveillance

WIRE REPORTS

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty joined more than 120 national, state and local organizations in an open letter on Oct. 24 urging the Department of Justice to investigate post 9/11 surveillance practices in New York City that signers say jeopardize the civil rights of Muslims.

The diverse group of religious, racial justice, civil rights and community-based organizations cited New York Police Department documents showing "unlawful religious profiling and suspicion-less surveillance of Muslims in New York City (and beyond)" over the past decade.

The appeal follows a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of investigative reports by the Associated Press documenting that New York police have sent paid people to infiltrate mosques, student associations and other places to take photos, write down license-plate numbers and keep notes on people because they are Muslim.

Such surveillance is based on the "radicalization" theory, that Muslim religious belief and practices are grounds for law enforcement scrutiny. Letter signers called the premise "false and unconstitutional" and "rooted in ignorance and bias."

The group said the surveillance program unfairly stigmatizes Muslims, "who are a law-abiding, diverse, and integral part of our nation and New York City," and has "far-reaching, deeply negative effects" on their constitutional rights.

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## PRESS REPORTS

### UNC added to Military Friendly Schools List

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been named a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, based on research and data that includes surveys of student veterans. The honor is given to the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that support military service members, veterans and their families.

"Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools shows UNC-Chapel Hill's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran. "The need for education is growing and our mission is to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools."

UNC and partners receive \$54.6 million to help improve health status of North Carolinians

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been awarded a new five-year \$54.6 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health. With the new award, UNC will partner with two institutions—RTI International and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University—to accelerate the pace at which clinical and translational research directly benefits patients and communities in North Carolina.

"At UNC, research is much more than an ivory tower exercise," said Vice Chancellor for Research Barbara Entwisle. "As a state university, we have a special obligation to serve North Carolina. This award supports our mission by moving discoveries into practice, helping to spin out new life science businesses, and funding hands-on projects to improve the health of our citizens."

Launched in 2006, the NIH-led CTSA program has enabled innovative research teams to speed discovery and advance science aimed at improving the nation's health. Institutional CTSA awards are at the heart of the program, providing academic homes for translational sciences. The program currently supports a consortium of approximately 60 academic medical institutions that is fostering team science, leveraging national resources and transforming the way biomedical research is conducted across the country.

The grant will provide another five years of funding for the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute, which is now recognized as the central entity on the UNC campus responsible for the advancement of clinical and translational research. Since its inception in 2008 as the home of UNC's CTSA, NC TraCS has fundamentally changed the clinical and translational research landscape at UNC and across the state, with outreach efforts touching each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

A smaller project called "Research on Location" helped recruit Spanish-speaking women from one N.C. church and two community health centers across two counties to participate in a pilot study to manage weight gain and prevent type 2 diabetes.

"The goal and mission of NC TraCS will continue to enable investigators, research units and academic programs to be even more successful in making lives better in our state's communities," said Marschall S.

Runge, principal investigator of the CTSA at UNC, and executive dean for the School of Medicine.

To increase its impact and scope over the next five years, NC TraCS is expanding its integrated home on campus to include RTI International as a research partner and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) as a planning partner.

"We have a large and diverse portfolio of health research, spanning the continuum of clinical and translational science," said Wayne Holden, president and chief executive officer of RTI International. "This grant provides us a significant opportunity to broaden our cross-institutional partnership with UNC and turn our research into practice to improve the health

of North Carolinians. Few topics are more important than advancing health and well-being."

The partnership with N.C. A&T will give UNC researchers access to the state-of-the-art laboratories at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, while providing N.C. A&T faculty collaborative opportunities and financial resources to accelerate discoveries in the lab to patients, particularly those from underrepresented minorities.

"Together, we will develop a robust pipeline of minority clinical and translational research scientists in a manner that can be a model for the nation," said Barry L. Burks, N.C. A&T's vice chancellor for research and economic development.

#### Pastoral Job Description:

First Baptist Church located in Graham, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor called by God dedicated to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor shall be guided by the principles set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7. The Pastor shall instruct the congregation in religious truth. All candidates must be licensed and ordained in the Baptist Church and seeking to lead the congregation as a visionary of God to further grow the church. Theological education and work experience shall be such as to provide with the ability to exercise intellectual and spiritual leadership for the congregation. All such education and work experience shall be verified.

A successful candidate will meet the following minimum criteria:

- Licensed and Ordained Baptist Minister
- Bachelor's Degree in Theology, Divinity or Biblical Studies from an accredited institution
- Pastoral experience (3 - 6 years significant related ministry experience which includes experience in church administration (e.g. Assistant Pastor, Senior Pastor, Associate Minister, Ministerial Leader)
- Candidate's personal character and financial standing must be above reproach
- Demonstrated ability to deliver biblically sound (stimulating, inspirational, spirit filled) sermons

The following are primary duties of a pastor:

- Serve as a spiritual leader for the congregation
- Provide guidance and support for all ministries of the church
- Effective Preacher & Teacher
- Effective Administrator
- Effective Communicator and Listener
- Plan and conduct worship service
- Officiate weddings, funerals, baby dedications, etc.
- Pastoral counseling
- Lead in administering the Holy ordinances of Baptism and Communion
- Provide pastoral ministry to those experiencing illness, bereavement or other conditions
- Demonstrated ability to work with a diverse population
- Support and Commit to the First Baptist Church Covenant, By-Laws, and Mission Statement
- Able to collaborate with the deacons, trustees, officers and others to administer church business
- Strong supporter of Youth Ministries/Programs
- Community involvement
- A love for the congregation's spiritual care and welfare
- Scheduled weekly office hours to meet with parishioners
- Perform other duties as may be required

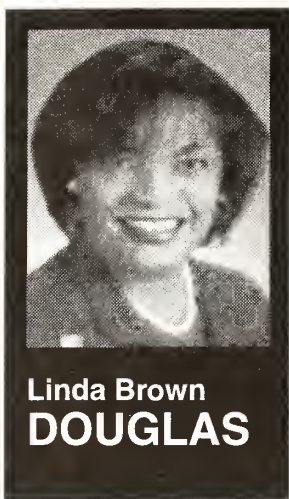
All interested persons should submit cover letter, resume, 8 page application, degrees/certifications/licenses, and a DVD of a recent sermon postmarked by November 30, 2013 to:

**First Baptist Church**  
**Attn. Pastoral Search Committee; Deacon Foriest; Chair**  
**PO Box 191**  
**Graham, NC 27253**

Missing information may result in automatic disqualification.

## It's time to spend more time praising through dance — line dance, that is

Who doesn't love a good line dance? The steps bring all ages together at family reunions, entertain us at wedding receptions and even provide a welcomed treat after a long exercise class. Ah, yes. The line dance is a fun creation.



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

So, I ask, why aren't gospel line dances more popular?

"What gospel line dances?" you ask. That's my point, exactly. Few people know they exist.

A gentleman in his 70s, who appeared to be particularly smooth in a number of line dances, once explained to me that he pulls up the videos on the Internet and practices in private before venturing out in front of people. So I decided to take to the Internet myself and

enter the search: "Gospel Line Dances."

Sure enough, I found plenty.

There were He Still Covers Me, Stomp, Like I Do and more. One particularly energetic one was the Gospel Slide from a 2009 video: "Two times to the

right, . . . Two times to the left, . . . Throw your hands up, . . . Now stomp that devil down, . . ."

But come on. Shouldn't there be more? Shouldn't we see Gospel line dances at church picnics, at all the youth rallies and maybe even at a revival now and then? After all, a line dance workout is certainly a good way to revive both the body and soul.

The bible encourages dance. "Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!" Psalm 149:3 ESV.

Hasn't the time come? We have our time to weep.

There's a time to laugh as well as a time to mourn.

There's no need to forget the last time in Ecclesiastes 3:4 –

a time to dance. And if we want to get the whole church involved, the time has obviously come for a rousing Gospel line dance.

So how long will we have to wait for church praise teams to incorporate Gospel line dancing into the morning services? Of course, the dances would have to involve limited hand and leg extensions. We wouldn't want any accidental kicking and punching taking place. It wouldn't be that difficult to put together, and

it would encourage physical activity before the Sunday afternoon chicken dinner.

All anyone would need is a good song and few steps. Let's see, one year my daughter performed a tap in dance competition to a quickened version of Mary Mary's Shackles, so maybe we could try a line dance to that tune.



Here we go now:

Take one slide to the right and two to the left  
Jump up and praise him. Jump up and praise him.  
Shake your hands high up in the air  
Jump up and praise him, Jump up and praise him

Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: [Linda\\_Douglas@unc-edu](mailto:Linda_Douglas@unc-edu).

## Hunger Continues to Disproportionately Impact Millions of African-American Households

According to new data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 25.5 percent of African-American households suffered from food insecurity in 2012. This figure is nearly twice as high as the overall rate of food insecurity in the United States—14.5 percent of Americans, nearly 49 million people, lived in food insecure households in 2012. Food insecure households are those that often don't know where their next meal will come from.

"While hunger impacts far too many people in our country, we cannot ignore the disproportionate prevalence of hunger in the African-American community," said Rev. Don Williams, associate for African-Ameri-

can church relationships at Bread for the World. "The fact that so many people in this country continue to struggle to put food on the table is unconscionable."

African-American children also experienced higher than average food insecurity rates. According to the USDA report, nearly 16 million children—more than one in five—lived in food insecure households in 2012. This means that 21.6 percent of children were at risk for hunger, but the figure rises to 31.5 percent for African-American children.

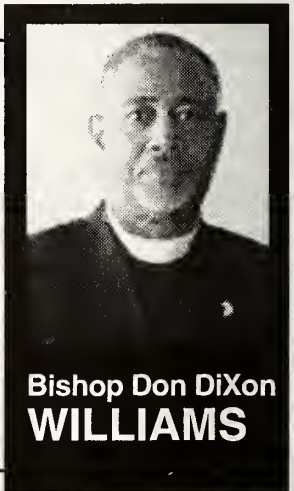
The data also showed that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) provided assistance to 42 percent of food insecure households. SNAP is a lifeline for millions of hungry Americans, but all SNAP households will see their monthly benefits reduced on Nov. 1 and the House of Representatives is currently proposing to cut the program by \$40 billion.

"With nearly one in six Americans living in food insecure households, now is not the time to slash SNAP," said Williams. "Without federal safety net programs, which are essential in helping to keep hunger at bay, that figure would be even higher. Cutting \$40 billion from SNAP would remove as many as 6 million people from the program. This is unacceptable.

"We must remind members of Congress that they have a moral obligation to protect federal safety net programs. We cannot turn our backs on the 49 million Americans that live in food insecure households," Williams concluded.

*Bishop Don Dixon Williams is racial-ethnic outreach at Bread for the World and sits on the Board of Bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

Bread  
for  
Life



Bishop Don Dixon  
**WILLIAMS**

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### In Sympathy

Funeral services for Mr. Robert L. Breeden, Sr., the father of Reverend Theodore Breeden, Pastor of Johnston Piney Grove Baptist Church in Clayton, N.C., were held on Monday, October 14, 2013 at Laurel Hill First Baptist Church, 12360 McFarland Road, Laurel Hill, N.C.

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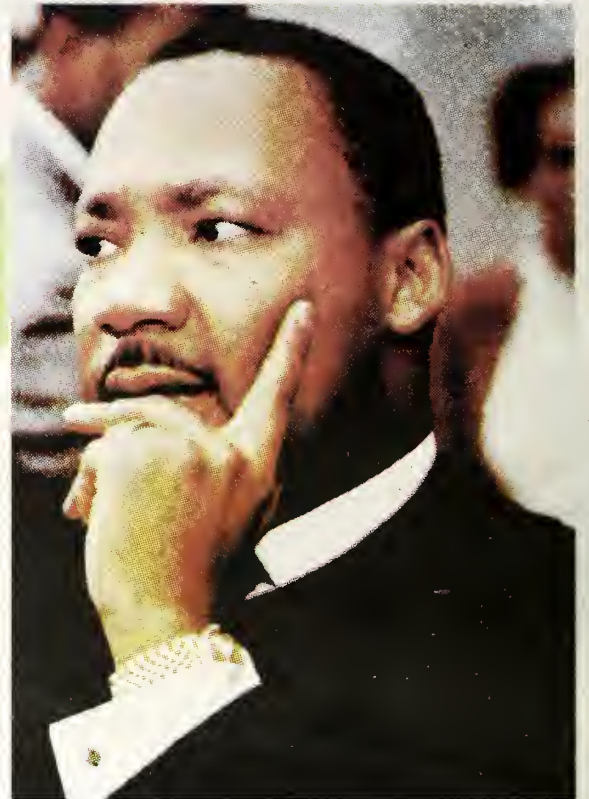
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# BAPTIST INFORMER

December 2013

Volume 136, No. 11

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

**A**nd the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



Dr. Parker

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

— Luke 2:10-14



photos by Ophelia Johnson



**ANNUAL GATHERING** - The 146th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. attracted Baptists from across the state to the Grandover Resort and Conference Center in Greensboro, N.C. on Oct. 28-30. Highlights included workshops and classes for church leaders and laypersons, a Clergy Appreciation Luncheon and "Late Night" preaching series. State Missions, per GBSC President Dr. Howard W. Parker, was the financial emphasis for this year's session. Churches were recognized for silver, gold and platinum support levels. The Mid-Year Session will be held May 13-14, 2014 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.



## GBSC-NC's New Website: The Convention launches back into Cyberspace

More than 270,818 website hits - and climbing - since its launch date

tion held at the Grandover Resort & Conference Center in Greensboro, N.C.

The new website for the General Baptist State Convention, GBSConline.org, was launched and formally debut on October 28, 2013, to coincide with the 146 Annual Session of the Conven-

The site was designed by Evolution Design Concepts of Warren County, North Carolina, (evolution-designconcepts.com), a family-owned African American company, operated by the brother and sister

(continued on page 2)

## Court strikes down clergy tax break

WIRE REPORTS

The ruling, which does not take effect until all appeals are final, would remove what GuideStone calls "the most important tax benefit available to ministers"

come designated as a housing allowance violates the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state.

A federal judge said Nov. 23 that an IRS rule allowing clergy to avoid paying taxes on a part of their in-

Senior United States District Judge Barbara Crabb said a section of the tax code granting a benefit for "ministers of the gospel" not available to everyone else favors religion over non-religion, thus creating an es-

(continued on page 4)

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE :** **P2** From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery **:** **P7** Prepare Him Room: Are You Ready for Christmas **:** **Renew!** TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form

Our 146th Year Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists 1867 - 2013

From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large ...

## Reject the 'No Room' Policy: Make a Place for God this Season

Peace to you all, and love with faith, from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus the Christ. Along with President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Haywood T. Gray, the Vice Presidential Team, other officers of the GBSC parent body and auxiliaries, let us pledge our full support to kingdom building through our historic Convention.

This is the season when the world celebrates Christmas and the New Year in swift succession. Special attention is given to performing acts of compassion and embracing the angelic praise of "peace on earth among those whom God favors" (Luke 2:14, NRSV). Wouldn't it be nice if the hearts and minds of humankind were mobilized and energized to possess this mind-set throughout the year?!

The world now stands in between the time when the Lord came into the world and the time when He will come again. The Lord's appearing here on that night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago provided a look at a mind-set that often plagues our world — a mind-set of "no room." The Savior of the world was born in an area usually set aside for the animals. There was "no room" for his family in that crowded town filled with people who had complied with Caesar Augustus' decree that all inhabitants of Rome's empire be registered.

This "no room" policy continued some time later when King Herod received word the Messiah had been

born in Bethlehem. Herod sent his soldiers to kill all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under. Herod had a "no room" policy — he would not tolerate any sharing of his throne.

Jesus often found Himself at odds with the political and religious leaders because of His passion for God and compassion for people. He placed human needs above tradition. He crossed lines and removed barriers that alienated people because of their race, sex, status, and religion. He advocated the inclusion of all persons.

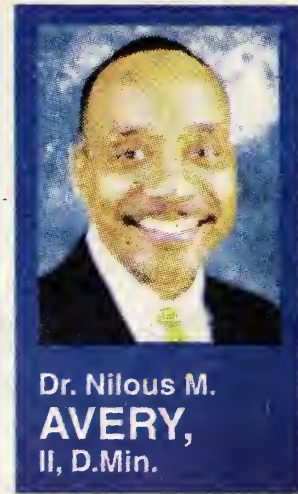
As a result, Jesus was targeted for crucifixion because the political and religious leaders had a "no room" policy — they would not tolerate any one defying their custom which involved putting and keeping people "in their place."

Our world has a history of having a "no room" mind-set.

Racism and sexism are twin cousins of evil, which seek to oppress others simply because of their skin color or gender. Whole segments of our population are often abandoned and isolated based upon their race, gender, economic status, creed, and/or religious and political beliefs.

When Jesus comes again, will the "no room" policy still be in effect? Will this policy that faced Jesus when He was born as a child face Him as He returns as King?

Many have not made room for others because they have not made room for Jesus the Christ in their life.



Dr. Nilous M.  
**AVERY,**  
II, D.Min.

This season challenges us to lift the veil and tear down the walls that keep a "no room" mind-set in place.

We must make room for the least, the lost, the lonely, the left out, the kept out, the locked out, and the knocked out.

We must make room for the frail, the fragile, and the forgotten.

We must make room for the distressed, the depressed, and the oppressed.

We must make room for the hapless, the helpless, the hopeless, and the homeless.

If we do not strive to make room for those who are God's beautiful creatures, should we be surprised if God meets us at the gates of the Eternal City and declares: "There is no room for you?!"

Beloved, let us make room throughout the year to support the goals and objectives of our General Baptist State Convention.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE 146th ANNUAL SESSION IN OCTOBER WITH YOUR PRESENCE, PRAYERS, and GENEROUS GIFTS FOR STATE MISSIONS, OTHER OBJECTIVES, and KINGDOM BUILDING!**

This is just the beginning of our efforts to make room for the work of ministry and missions through your generous and continual support.

*God's grace and peace be with you all for a joyous Christmas and a fruitful, fulfilling, uplifting New Year. "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."* (2 Thessalonians 3:18, NLT)

Dr. Avery may be reached at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).

## GBSC-NC's New Website: The Convention launches back into Cyberspace



Greg Thompson and Gretta Thompson Shaw

*continued from page 1*

team of Gretta Thompson Shaw, and Greg Thompson. The company was commissioned by the GBSC-NC after a three year search of website design companies throughout North Carolina.

"This website had to give absolute clarity to why the General Baptist State Convention exists and why they should be supported," according to Greg Thompson, one of the designers. "It had to be a web-

site that would speak for them. In defining who and what the GBSCNC is and what they stood for, we needed a "North Star" to guide us."

Evolution Design Concept's "north star" was Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the GBSC-NC, Thompson added. "He was a "limitless source of information" (teachable history) in assisting us in fine tuning the definition of missions. He was a full partner in the development of the website from start to finish."

Highlights of the GBSCOnline.org website include:

- A powerful, history page illustrating the pilgrimage and history of the GBSC
- The leadership of the organization
- A five-page Missions Accomplishments section
- Archives of the Baptist Informer, Newspaper
- A new GBSC YouTube Channel, Audio and Video pages and a growing Sponsors/donor page of community businesses that are lending monetary support through the purchase of on-line advertising space, in addition to Online Giving that will be added this month.



[www.GBSCOnline.org](http://www.GBSCOnline.org)

# 'Tis the Season for Some Tenderness

This holiday season is a great time to display an abundance of loving-kindness and tenderheartedness to others.

You may remember the singer Otis Redding's 1966 song: "Oh, she may be weary, and young girls they do get weary, wearing that same old shaggy dress. But when they get weary, You gotta try a little tenderness."

Well, Otis was on to something, for the Bible tells us, "What is desirable in a man is his kindness" (Prov. 19:20, NIV). And the description of the virtuous woman in the same book of Proverbs says, "On her tongue is the law of kindness" (31:26).

I was in a grocery store checkout line before Thanksgiving and a woman with a full cart of food let me in front of her since I had only two items. Then another man came up with one item and she said to him, "you can get in front of me." This happened a third time and she did the same thing. I was deeply impressed by this young black woman's kindness.

Who have you been kind to lately? 'Tis the season to show a little tenderness and kindness; not just a time to be jolly. Indeed, a bumper sticker reminded me of this recently: LORD HELP ME BE THE

KIND OF PERSON THE DOG THINKS I AM!

Scripture reminds you, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again" (Ecclesiastes 11:1). In other words, good deeds generously given will return to us. For no one can match the loving-kindness of God, who gave us His son Jesus. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly.

Have you had a kindness or tenderness show to you? Then pass it on.

'Twas not given for thee alone, so pass it on. Let it travel down the years; let it wipe another's tears.

'Till in heaven the deed appears—pass it on! — Henry Burton

Surely, if you're so religious that you can no longer be kind to people, then your religion is dead. There are too many mean and unkind people in the church, and you certainly don't want to be tagged as one of them. And when people treat you unkindly, just understand that they have

a spiritual problem. Pray for them. Vengeance belongs to God. We are to love our enemies, for in so doing, it's like heaping burning coals on their heads.

And the test of a real Christian is not in being kind to your buddies, but in showing kindness to those you don't know and to the people who may mistreat you.

So don't return evil for evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing (I Peter 3:9). This Christmas and New Year are prime times for you to try a little kindness. A smile, a hug, a kiss, a visit, some friendship, an embrace, or a desert. Maybe you have a little praise to share, a little thanksgiving, a little song, a hearty (clean) joke. America needs much tenderheartedness and loving-kindness today.

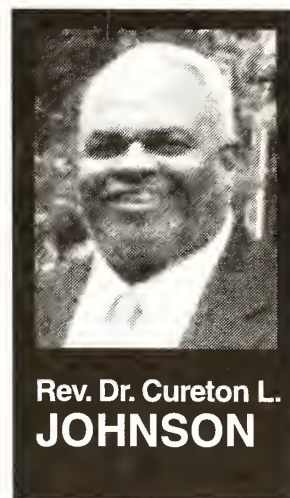
The Apostle Paul said, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). So do unto others as you would have them do unto you (the Golden Rule). Others will know you are Christian by your love.

Your kindness will extend beyond the holidays because tenderness produces ripple effects, like a stone thrown into a lake produces ripples on the water. And kindness is a doorway that God uses to bring people into the kingdom of God!

Surely, if you can help somebody as your pass along; if you can cheer somebody with a word or a song; if you can help somebody who's traveling wrong; then you living shall not be in vain.

And remember what Otis said, JUST TRY A LITTLE TENDERNES!

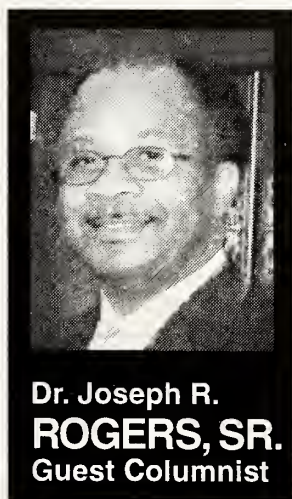
*Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: cjohanson035@nc.rr.com.*



**Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON**

## The Power Of Evangelism (A Power Moment)

One of the most important vehicles or tools that our Lord Jesus Christ has deposited into the universal and local church family is "evangelism," which is the knowledge, power and ability to witness to the lost and unsaved with a message of hope, peace and deliverance.



**Dr. Joseph R. ROGERS, SR.**  
Guest Columnist

To be more in depth, the word for "evangelism" (or "evangelization") comes from a Greek word "evangelion." There are actually four (4) forms of this basic word. One word means "good news," two words mean "to proclaim the good news," and other refers to the "evangelist" or "the person doing the proclaiming."

Evangelism is not just a series of meetings or church services. Evangelism is not the same as revival. In revival the Lord is at work with the church family of believers with a primary goal of restoring life to His people. Evangelism is reaching beyond the walls of the

church assembly with an aim of witnessing to the lost or unsaved.

The purpose of evangelism is to offer the "Redemptive Message" to the lost world, which is only found in Jesus Christ Our Lord. It is through the knowledge and understanding His birth, life, death and resurrection and soon return that this process is accomplished.

The Act of witnessing about Jesus Christ should always be our aim. We should never preach our church affiliation, personal thinking or convictions. The "Word God" should always be our focus and foundation. The Apostle affirms this as he writes to the church at Rome.

Romans 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

When Evangelism runs its course, the candidate's thinking, mind and lifestyle will have dramatic change (2 Corinthian 5:17). In this process the individual follows the words of Our Lord & Master, Jesus Christ when He said in St. Luke 9:23- "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

The Salvation Process brings and positioned the unsaved or loss to come to the knowledge of their loss

or sinful state, followed by an act of repentance of sins and a profession of a changed mind, thinking and heart. Also, there is a transformation from darkness of sin to a wholesome relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is because of and through this vehicle that many who were/are lost have and can experience spirituality, wholesomeness and a fruitfulness relationship in/with the Lord.

The Ministry of Evangelism is very rewarding, so be committed to its principles, remain unmovable in setbacks and challenges, always abounding the work of the Lord; for ye know as much as your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

From this short narrative, we should conclude that, "Evangelism is communicating the Gospel through the power of the Holy Ghost in such a way that men and women will have a valid opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and become responsible members of the body of Christ as well as a local assembly."

Thus, evangelism is powerful because of its ability (power) to change individuals, communities and nations who accepts and apply its principles.

*Dr. Joseph R. Rogers, Sr., is an Associate Minister at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. You may reach him at jroger3420@aol.com.*

Focus:

Becoming a Great Commission Christian

LAYMEN OUTLOOK

The Value of Healthy Leadership

Continuing our discussion on Strand #2 - Discipleship. We were elaborating on the important element of "trained Leaders."

The Biblical Book of Ezra 10:4-5 (NCV) is a good lead in to a discussion of healthy leadership. "Get up, Ezra.

You are in charge, and we will support you. Have courage and do it." "So Ezra got-up and made the priests, Levites, and all the people of Israel promise to do what was suggested."

Glory is what God is all about. It is His essential being. How can you and I glorify God? It happens every time we reveal His attributes in the course of our daily lives. Every time you share the good news of Christ with another. God's glory is not reserved for a temple of stone or some heavenly Vista. It can shine out clearly while you are changing a flat on the freeway — or counseling an angry co-worker.

When life gets "flipped upside down," we lose our equilibrium. Normal is gone. Uncertainty and doubt begins to creep in, and believers are searching for understanding and meaning. They examine the foundation their lives are built on. This presents an



incredible opportunity for life transformation to happen. God has often chosen to use leaders as His agents during times like these.

Look how Paul described spiritual maturity to the Church at Ephesus: "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive." (Eph. 4:14) (KJV). It's a great description of a disciple. Someone who knows the difference between truth and falsehood. Someone whose roots are deep enough not to be tossed about by the wind and waves. Steady, calm, persevering — these are marks of those who are growing in Christ. But notice that this description of mature faith is linked to the

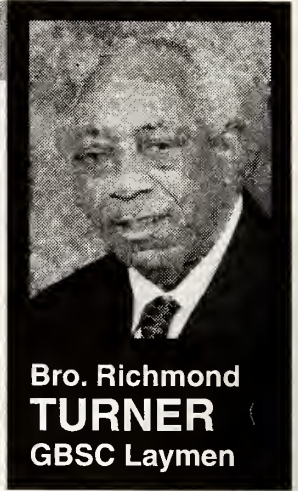
gift of leaders Jesus has given to the Church. (Eph. 4:11-13).

Leaders can help when life-changing situations happens. They can help people regain their stability and help them find equilibrium. The way they do that is by helping people view their lives through lenses that conform to biblical truth.

Life's perspective is formed by issues such as our upbringing, economics, race, experience and faith. All

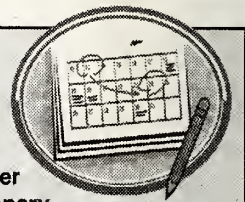
these factors form a kind of lens that people wear, and everything they observe is filtered through those lenses. During times of difficulty, people start evaluating their lenses. When leaders are active in the lives of their people, they can help people have the right kind of lens in order to process everything coming their way.

Reach Bro. Turner at: Iturn60@aol.com.



Bro. Richmond TURNER GBSC Laymen

CHANGE OF LOCATION



The 2013 Study Commission be held on Saturday, December 14 at the Penn Avenue Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, N.C., where the Rev. Willie S. Darby is Pastor. The Laymen will serve as Host. The event begins at 10 a.m.

The Central Region and the County Line Missionary Baptist Association Laymen's League are also working on the Study Commission to make it a spiritual and uplifting event. We look forward to seeing you there. For details, contact Bro. William L. Pointer Jr., First Vice President, Central Region Coordinator.

Court strikes down clergy tax break

continued from page 1

establishment of religion prohibited by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Crabb, appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. District Court for Western Wisconsin, ordered her ruling to take effect after the conclusion of any appeal. That means what GuideStone Financial Resources calls "the most important tax benefit available to ministers" is safe for now.

Leaders at GuideStone, the Southern Baptist Convention agency that offers retirement, insurance, investment management and other financial services to the Southern Baptist and wider evangelical Christian communities, plan to join others in a legal brief supporting the ministerial housing allowance when the case goes to appeal.

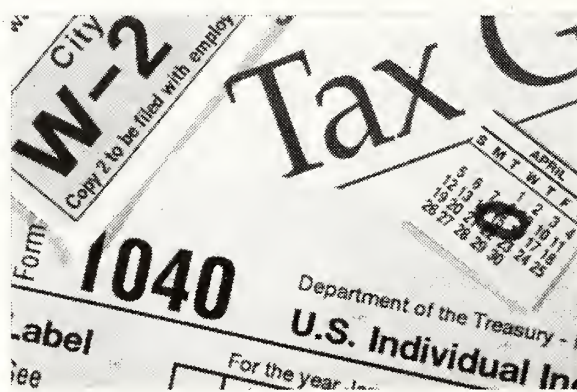
"Although this particular case does not have immediate impact, we know that pastors and others in ministry are facing challenges in our very own nation as never before," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a statement.

"This decision, while not unanticipated, is sadly symptomatic of our culture today," Hawkins said. "We count it a privilege to be an advocate for those who have given their lives to ministry, and we will not forsake our mission to undergird those who so faithfully serve our churches and ministries."

The so-called "parsonage allowance" dates back to 1921, when most churches maintained a parsonage near the church where the minister and his family

lived rent-free. The IRS allowed ministers to exclude such in-kind compensation from federal taxes.

In 1954, Congress extended the law to cash allowances, as more and more ministers were moving out of parsonages to rent or purchase their own homes.



Over the years challenges have arisen, including a high-profile case in 1996 when Purpose Driven Life author and Southern Baptist mega church pastor Rick Warren deducted his entire \$77,663 salary from Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., as housing allowance. The IRS ordered Warren to pay back taxes on a portion of his income.

Warren spent four years in court defending his housing deduction and won in 2000, when a court struck down the IRS argument capping the deduction

at a "reasonable" amount and accepted Warren's argument that the amount could be unlimited.

The IRS filed an appeal, but before it made it to a three-judge panel, Congress swiftly passed the 2002 Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act to protect the parish exemption but limit it to the fair market rental value of a home.

Several challenges to the benefit have failed due to the legal loophole of "standing." Courts have ruled that non-ministers suing for a benefit available only to clergy cannot possibly prevail, and the only result would be to deny it to those who qualify.

The current case, filed in September 2011 by the Freedom From Religion Foundation, cleared that hurdle by designating a portion of employee compensation as a housing allowance. Two employees in turn sued the federal government, claiming that denying them a benefit available to ministers violates the Establishment Clause and gives the IRS and Treasury Department authority to make "sensitive, fact-intensive and subjective determinations" on religious matters such as whether an individual is "duly ordained."

FFRF officials pointed out that when the law was enacted in 1954, America was in the throes of the Cold War and gripped by fear of Communism. The congressman who proposed the ministerial exemption, Illinois Democrat Peter Mack, who died in 1986, declared:

"Certainly, in these times when we are being threat-

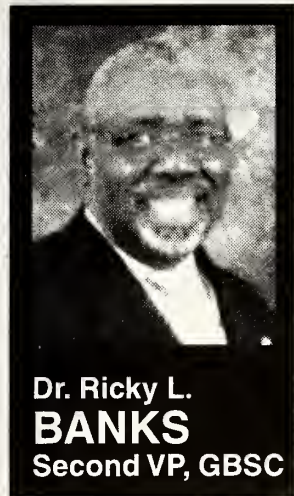
(continued on page 12)

# The Mood Of Worship: Praise And Thankfulness

**“O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the  
rock of our Salvation!”**

— Psalm 95

**T**his beautiful psalm evokes worship in us almost in spite of ourselves. The setting suggests a congregation gathered at the outer court of the Temple. The call to worship invites them to come in (vv. 1-2). There is a response (vv. 3-5). Another call as they enter (v.6) is followed by a second response (v. 7). A prophetic word is then added as a reminder that praise and practice go hand in hand (vv. 7c-11).



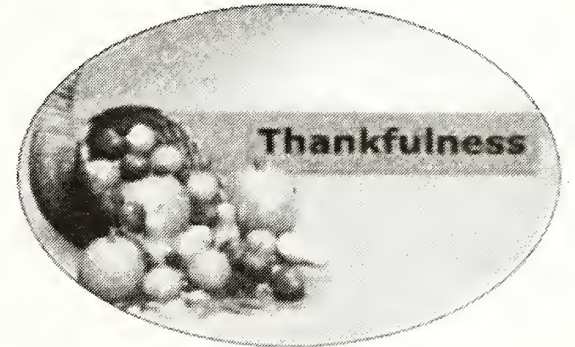
**Dr. Ricky L. BANKS**  
Second VP, GBSC

The calls to worship (vv. 1-2,6) invite the people to come into the Temple. The two responses imply that the throng is actually moving. They

chant their confession in words long familiar to them, much as we sing our favorite, beloved hymns. After they have come into the worship area a solo voice takes over with a word from the Lord warning the worshipers not to ignore what God says. He recalls the failure of their forefathers who wandered and died in the wilderness because of their failure to listen. Verses 1-2.- This initial call to worship issued to the congregation outside the Temple, or perhaps in the outer court of the Temple, invites them to come inside. This is an invitation to “sing” and “make a joyful noise.” Joyously we come into the presence of God. What a privilege is ours. How fortunate we are. Verse 3. The response of the people is confessional. They affirm their conviction that the Lord is worthy, of praise, and thanksgiving. He is all powerful. Verse 4-5. Praise is proper also because God knows the unknown depths of the earth, and the unexplored heights of the mountains. In addition, joyous acclaim belongs to the Lord for he made the sea and formed the dry land. Verse 6-7. The mood changes with this second call to worship. The exuberance of entering congregation changes to solemnity and awe. They are instructed to bow down and to kneel; homage is to be absolute. The people respond with a solemn awareness that

their relationship with God is very personal. Verse 7c-11. The prophetic message from God is for today. This beautiful psalm expresses fundamental qualities of congregational worship. However, joy and awe are not automatically conferred. A person can choose to attend but not actually be present. As C. Oscar Johnson once said, “we can park our bodies in the sanctuary at eleven A.M. on Sunday, and then

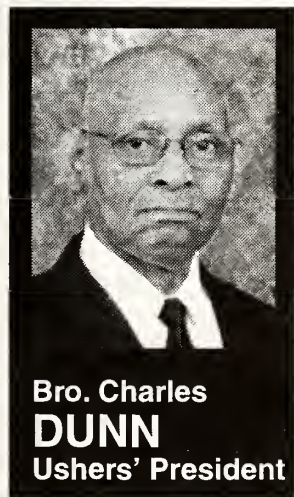
take our minds to the office or off to the golf course.” But the privilege is ours of joy and thanksgiving and a time spent in the presence of God. Many Blessings!



Reach Dr. Banks at: [pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com).

## The Usher's Ministry: You May Never Know the Impact

**C**hurch ushers are involved in a visible and vital ministry and it is important that they perform their assignments with utmost skill. They work greeting, smiling, respecting and acknowledging people helps individuals feel engaged and important in a family worship experience. It is important that their light shines so that others will not only see their good works but embrace them, feel them, receive them and praise God for them.



**Bro. Charles DUNN**  
Ushers' President

The Apostle Paul told the saints in Galatia to simply keep on doing their job: “Be ye not weary in well doing, for in due season you shall reap if you faint not.” In other words be ye steadfast and unmovable always abounding in this ministry of caring, concern and hospitality. It is extremely important to always take time to let people know that as ushers we are excited and enthusiastic about your presence here this morning.

As ushers we come into contact with people each and every Sunday. It is not the choir member, the musician, the deacon, the trustee, the nurse or other ministry member, but it is the usher/greeter ministry that has the best chance to interact on a one on one basis each Sunday with the parishioner. Because ushers have the best chance we do not want our interaction with our regular members or guests to be negative, but to be positive. You may never know the outcome or impact of greeting people in such a manner that they do not feel the love, do

not feel respected or do not feel wanted. You must continually evaluate your efforts and ask, “Is my service encouraging people or is it discouraging people?” Every Sunday, the usher ministry will deal with a variety of personalities and our attitude has to be on point and says, “If loving you is wrong, I don't want to be right.”

The few seconds and moments that we have with each worshipper is a small window in which we must utilize our skills and gifts to share and display the love of God. We must have the mind of Christ to reach out and touch someone's hand.

The dynamic usher will have a mindset and attitude that consistently and continually says, “I care about you.” Whether it is good or bad, people will

always remember how you make them feel. As we therefore have opportunity let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

You may never know the individual impact you have on Sunday morning, so that is why it is important that we remain committed to excellence in our service to everyone who passes through our doors on Sunday. We have to be committed to smiling, sharing, caring, and pleasing God's people one hundred percent of the time.

- Submitted by Bro. Rodney McCormick, Assistant Dean, Ushers. Reach Bro. Dunn at: [justicem@bell-south.net](mailto:justicem@bell-south.net).



### General Baptist State Ushers' Convention

## Mark Your Calendars • 2014 Calendar

**December 7, 2013 (Saturday) (10:00 am)**  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting  
Mount Peace Baptist Church  
Raleigh, NC.

**February 22, 2014 (Saturday) (8:00 am)**  
**One Day Session**  
Friendship Baptist Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Mark Your Calendar

**April 12, 2014 (Saturday) (10:00 am)**  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting  
Mount Peace Baptist Church  
Raleigh, NC.

**July 2014**  
Place TBA (To Be Announced)  
Raleigh, NC.

**August 2, 2014 (Saturday) (10:00 am)**  
Ushers' Executive Board Meeting  
Mount Peace Baptist Church  
Raleigh, NC

**September 20, 2014 (Saturday) (8:00 am)**  
Ushers' Workshop  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Tone of Voice

In our previous article we focused on nonverbal communication, which arguably makes the difference in our preaching. In making such an argument, we pointed out that the congregation receives 65% of our message through channels "other than words." The inference is, our most effective means of communication is through nonverbal channels. What this means is people will more likely determine whether we preach well based on the kind of explicit and intentional nonverbal behaviors we use.

This may also come as a bit of a surprise: how you say words are just as important as what you say as shown in the illustrations below. (Of course this is another whole argument that will sustain another article). To ensure that you understand the nature of nonverbal communication, we pointed out also that such behavior during the actual delivery of the sermon involves various channels including tone of voice, facial expression, gestures, appearance, movement and even the particular way we stand. While all of these channels are worthy of discussing more deeply, we will focus on tone of voice.

On the one hand, if someone walks in a theater

filled with movie-goers and announces in a very calm and soft voice, "the building is on fire, please stand, form a line, take your time and move slowly toward the exit." Predictably, people would not take this person seriously. And if they did take this person seriously, they would probably believe that it was a very small fire that poses little danger. On the other hand, should that same person waving hands while running in the theater, screaming "fire, fire please get out of the building as quick as you can." Not surprisingly, their response would be all together different due, largely, to nonverbal behaviors which carries greater impact in terms of



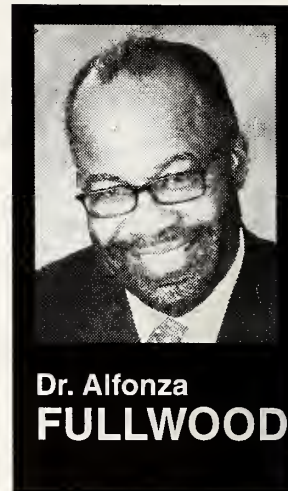
believability and persuasion.

Consider this one, when we were kids the extent that we took our parents seriously depended on their tone of voice. Even more to the point, the Raid commercial shows how tone of voice carries the message. In this commercial termites in an unsuspected way find themselves facing the deadly bug spray. They cry out, "RAID!" Their tone of voice needs no interpretation. The tone in which people communicate a message dictate the way that it is received. With this said,

people are affected more by channels such as your tone of voice. Why, your tone of voice says it all, it communicates urgency, meaning, anger, joy, shock, and other emotions that serve or carry the words effectively. How much more important is this channel in our preaching?

Additionally, remember the biblical text carries certain emotions (pathos) of the author based upon what is happening in the textual event. Likewise, our preaching should capture and reflect those same emotions in a way that conveys what is happening in the text. In doing so, we impact the congregation in a persuasive and convincing manner. We are urged not to allow this truth to be lost: tone affect listeners in a positive or negative way. In our next article we will focus on facial expression which is another channel of nonverbal communication.

*Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



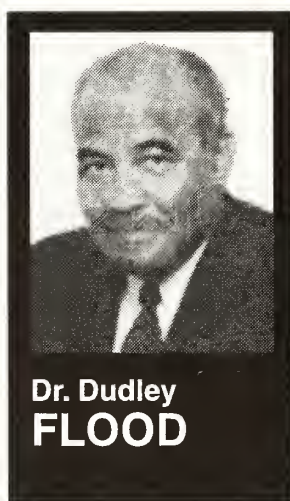
**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

## Did You Miss Your Calling?

When you have had an exceptional showing in an area outside of your known specialty, someone may have said to you, "you missed your calling." This expression on its face may sound as if you were ill-suited for your chosen area of concentration and that you would have been better suited to have selected another area. A great likelihood is that they were merely acknowledging that you had a talent of which they were unaware. Furthermore, they are generally of the opinion that this is a God-given talent.

Most of us truly believe that everyone of us has a God-given talent in some area. In Christian annals, we refer to your special gift as a calling. We believe that God endows each of us with a special gift that He expects us to use for the improvement of the human condition. Therefore, each of us is driven to answer the question, "What is my calling?"

No "normal" person is exempt from his or her duty to labor in God's vineyard. God equips us to do that which He would have us to do. Whether we hear and follow His call is left to us to determine. Some of us hear the call and, like Moses, see ourselves as ill-



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**

equipped to answer. Others of us hear and understand the call but, like Sampson, substitute our will for God's will. Still others hear the call, but like Jonah, decline to submit to the directive of the call.

An even greater number of us believe that they have not been called. They believe that only the pastor and possibly the deacons are called to their respective areas of service. The most certain way to miss your calling is to assume that you have not been called.

I am blessed to have known since my early childhood that I was called to improve the human condition through instructing and setting an example for those who were seeking direction. My God-given gift is to be able to teach effectively and to behave well, even when under difficult conditions.

For those whose call is less clear, I offer this advice: If you were expecting a call from a friend and it had not come in a timely manner, you would likely call him or her. In that same vein, were it not clear to me that God had called me, I would call him. I would ask for a revelation of my purpose on this earth and would set out to follow that calling to the best of my ability. I would not want to risk the possibility that on the day that I stand at the judgment bar, I might hear the words, YOU MISSED YOUR CALLING!"

*Dr. Dudley Flood, is a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, and serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Reach him at: floodspeaker@bellsouth.net.*



**I will lift up mine eyes  
unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord,  
which made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot  
to be moved; he that  
keepeth thee will not slumber.  
Psalm 121: 1-3**

# Prepare Him Room: Are You Getting Ready for Christmas?



Luke 1:68-79

In a world of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, we are continuously drawn into messages from a variety of sources. People carry on throughout their days with Smartphones that bind them into an unending web of conversations, solicitations and headline captions all begging for their attention. During the Advent season, we are bombarded with messages that tell us to “Get ready for Christmas!” More often than not, this means to prepare your postal and electronic Christmas greetings, to schedule our tours of the closest malls. It’s an urge to buy the latest gadgets, to decorate the tree and to catch the recent holiday blockbuster on the silver screen.

Before we get caught up in the frenzy, let us focus on the real meaning of “getting ready for Christmas.” To prepare for Christmas is to intentionally prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ! As the hymn writer puts it, “Let every heart, prepare Him room.” It is to open ourselves to the mystery of the Divine becoming one of us. This is the whole point of Advent that consumed the thoughts of Zachariah and Elizabeth. They had presented their infant, John, in the temple to be circumcised. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit overshadows Zachariah and reveals to him that their long awaited son will be “a prophet of the Most High” and will “go before the Lord to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.”

In those days, there were no billboards, no radio stations nor television commercials to clutter their minds. But, I am certain that there were countless other forms of distraction that challenged Zachariah’s attention from the central message. Fear, doubt, rejection and isolation were constantly interrupting this couple’s wellbeing. Who would believe that this so-called prophetic message was anything more than an ego trip, an attempt to make-up for the years of shame for being childless? Moreover, who could even imagine that this couple would play such a critical role in salvation history? After all, they were just ordinary people like you and me. Just as Zachariah and Elizabeth had a vital role in preparing the stage of human history for the first coming of the Lord (the birth of Jesus), you and I are also members of the sup-

porting cast. Believers are called to prepare for Christ’s second coming.

Dear Lord,

Help us to focus on this call as we seek to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly before our God. Empower us to embody this message as we love and care for the least of these.

Shalom in the Name of the Coming King - Jesus the Christ,

Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Dean, Shaw University Divinity School



Bruce T.  
**GRADY,**  
EdD

## SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



Shaw University Divinity School is currently seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. ATS will be making a site visit to the Divinity School **April 7-10, 2014**.

Anyone who wishes to make comments about or provide information relevant to the Divinity School’s accreditation may send an email to:

[SUDSATS@shawu.edu](mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu) <<mailto:SUDSATS@shawu.edu>>

or may contact ATS directly at:

**The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada**

The Commission of Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110

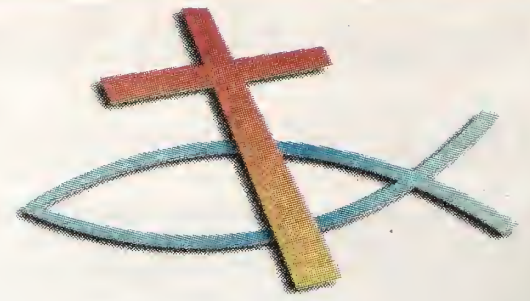
Telephone: 412-788-6505 • Fax: 412-788-6510

Learn more <<http://http/shawu.edu/QEP/>>  
about Shaw University’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

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# Body Injuries: The High Turnover of Clergy in Churches



The statistics in an article "Revolving Clergy Harms Religion" by Gerald Zelizer indicates, "Clergy firing has the highest of any profession in the United States. Pastorate longevity has decreased from an average of 7 years to an average of 5 years in the last 20 years." These statistics are very



Rev. Dr. Roy L. DENNIS, JR.

alarming because the saints of God are causing confusion in the house of God. The calling to pastor a church is a spiritual experience and ordained by God. God would not lead his flock in the wrong direction therefore it seems that churches do not have spiritual leaders making decision when it involves actions of dealing with and dismissing a pastor.

I feel there are many reason but will articulate on three primary factors that impact the demise of

the pastorate and contribute to the uncalled for high turnover. Those reasons are church unrest with previous pastors, small vocal segments against the pastor's leadership and personal misguided decisions by the pastor.

The highest percent of pastor turnover involves conflict with the congregation because of issues with the previous pastor. It seems this is more prevalent in small churches that are family based. The family dom-

inated churches are normally set in their ways and are not acceptable to change or vision. A pastor often begins in a church charged with energy and has a strong desire to the will of God while making a difference in the life of the church. The family-run church often wants to tell the Pastor how to conduct the service and use their guidelines for leading the church. The conflict normally takes place when the family members do not want to follow the pastor's vision. The Pastor whom is considered the outsider ends up being pushed out.

The second highest statistic for high Pastorate turnover is a "minority manipulating the majority" of the church. This often happens when an out spoken longtime leader within the church does not support the Pastor's ideas and believes the pastor is over stepping his or her boundaries. When this happens a misguided leader forms alliances and works against the vision of the pastor. This sect that a minority group has formed then convinces the majority that a pastoral change is needed. The discord often damages the church and has a spiritual impact that results in some members questioning Christianity.

The least statistical reason for high turnover but probably the most damaging to the saints of God is the misconduct of the pastor. Some pastors come into the pastorate position without any formal training. They have never been in leadership positions over people and start to abuse

the power that comes with being a pastor. The leadership style usually is dictatorship while using the bible to win the arguments. The people grow tired and lose confidence in all preachers. Though it does not happen often it has tremendous lasting effect on God's people. The people form barriers against all ministers and resist chances to grow spiritually.

I feel know there are many other factors that contribute to high turnover such an economics of the church, demographics and rural verses urban location of the church. I do believe the data paints a very true picture of what the clergy faces as the world becomes more selfish and makes more decisions on what I feel at the moment. The high turnover is a weapon that is used against the growth of the Christian church. The members of the Christian community must take self out the picture when making decisions about the future of the church Pastorate.

— Pastor Roy L. Dennis, Jr.

## Pastor Vacancy Announcement

### Position:

Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, North Carolina is seeking a full-time pastor called by God to serve as spiritual leader of the congregation.

### Personal & Professional Qualification:

1. Must be guided by the principles set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
2. Must be a person of prayer, good faith, Godly character and Divinely called to God's ministry.
3. Must be baptized by immersion as set forth by Baptist Doctrine.
4. Must be licensed, trained and ordained in the Baptist ministry.
5. Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university, college or seminary.
6. Minimum of 3 years of pastoral experience preferred.

### Duties of the Pastor:

1. Serve as spiritual leader for the congregation.
2. Plan and conduct worship service.
3. Provide Pastoral guidance and counseling to congregants as needed.

All interested and qualified persons must submit a candidate packet consisting of the following information:

1. Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church Application Form (download from – beautyspotmbc.org)
2. Cover Letter.
3. Current Resume (include email address and phone number).
4. Two professional references (pastors).
5. Copy of certificate of license and ordination.
6. Copy of your degree(s).
7. Proof of theology training.
8. Two DVDs of recent sermons within the last six months (optional).

Please mail these items, NO LATER THAN February 28, 2014 to

Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church  
ATTN: Pulpit Search Committee  
P.O. Box 25268  
Fayetteville, NC 28314

The candidate packet must be postmarked NLT February 28, 2014. Any packet postmarked after that date will be destroyed without consideration. The committee will acknowledge receipt of all items by email notification.

## Men and Boys Retreat 2014



The Annual GBSC Laymen League "Men and Boys Retreat" will be held from 10 a.m. to Noon on Friday, July 11, 2014 at the Rouse Community Center. The annual retreat will be hosted by Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Raeford, N.C. where Dr. Matthew Rouse Jr. serves as Pastor. Additional details will be made available in coming months.

For details, contact GBSC Laymen League Youth Coordinator, Samuel Teague at (919) 426-4489 or via email at samuel\_teague2000@yahoo.com

# Christmas 2013: Championing 'Cheap Grace'

With the Hallmark television channel showing Christmas programs before Thanksgiving, and store merchants decking their walls with ornaments, wreaths, and tinsel, it is easy to get into the mood, or is it? Do we really honor the legacy of Advent? Do we truly understand the meaning of the birth of Christ? Or, have we become such shop-aholics and have so commercialized and so glut-tonized Christmas that Jesus gets lost?



Some of us cheapen Christmas by how we celebrate the birth of our Lord. By cheapening Christmas, we practice cheap grace. While Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945), German Lutheran pastor, theologian,

dissident anti-Nazi popularized this phrase, Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., (1865-1953), a pastor who developed the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York as the largest Protestant congregation in the country, with 10,000 members, coined the phrase cheap grace. Bonhoeffer attended Abyssinian Baptist for six months while studying in New York at Union Theological Seminary before World War II, and was greatly influenced by experiencing the preaching, social ministries, and Black spiritual music of Abyssinian. Cheap grace is the acceptance of forgiveness and God's gifts without repentance and obedience; embracing the benefits of Christianity without dealing with the costs.

Do we think God really wants us to go into debt to purchase gifts we cannot afford to fulfill someone else's desire, or our need to give outlandishly? Where is the Jesus in such foolishness? Do we think God really wants us to indulge in three and four helpings of turkey, dressing and dessert, until we almost pass out, knowing that this is unhealthy and that there are people who are starving in our own communities, and they will have no Christmas meal?

Christmas 2013 is an opportunity to practice good stewardship, recognizing that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, thus everything belongs to God. It is an occasion for us to remember the reason for the season, to not get into extraordinary debt, to

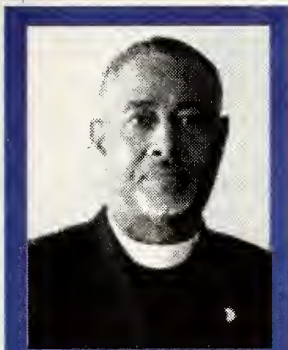
not gain ten pounds because of gluttony: let's have one serving of each food, take the second helping and make a plate for someone who is in need. Let us remember that Christmas is about love, God self-revealed by giving the Son, to be born in a manger, to help restore and renew the divine-human relationship with us. Let us not cheapen Christmas with commercialization; rather let us elevate this event by working harder to be more loving; to do things more simply; to spend within reason; to spend more time with, rather than money on the people we love. When it comes to life's end, few people want more things. If they have any regrets at all, it is a distress that they did not spend more time with the ones they loved.



Rev. Cheryl  
KIRK-DUGGAN

*Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Religion and Director of Women's Studies at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, NC. Reach her at: [cduggan@SHAWU.EDU](mailto:cduggan@SHAWU.EDU).*

## New Year, Renewed Commitment to Ending Hunger



Bishop Don DiXon  
WILLIAMS

Wire Reports

What will it take to end hunger? Some might say, "more food" or "more charity." Still others might say that it simply cannot be done. But at Bread for the World, we believe ending global hunger is quite possible and that we already have the means to do it. There is more than enough food to feed the world, but it will take strong political

will—not simply charity—to make it happen.

You may be familiar with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These eight international targets range from cutting extreme poverty in half to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS to providing universal pri-

mary education—all by 2015.

Since the MDGs were established in 2000, the world has made significant progress toward achieving the targets, but there is still much to be done. In 2015, leaders from around the world will decide on a new set of global development goals. Achieving them will depend on the commitment of global political leaders.

Bread for the World's 2013 Hunger Report, "Within Reach—Global Development Goals," calls for a renewed push to meet the MDGs and a dedicated commitment to ending hunger and poverty after 2015. To ensure a strong U.S. commitment, the 2013 Hunger Report specifically calls on President Barack Obama and other U.S. leaders to rally the rest of the world.

However, the buck doesn't stop with world leaders. If we are serious about ending hunger here in the United States, we must do our part as citizens to motivate our government. Any effort to alleviate hunger is commendable; many of us help people in need by contributing to food pantries and charities. This is crucial and we need to continue efforts to feed hungry

people in our communities. But we cannot "food bank" our way out of hunger. All of the food that churches and charities collect for hungry people equals only about 5 percent of what federal nutrition programs provide.

Internationally, ending hunger depends up improving access, development, agriculture, and trade. In other words, hunger and poverty are bigger than charity. We must take action and hold our lawmakers accountable. As Proverbs 31:8-9 tells us, "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

*Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World and sits on the Board of Bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

**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.

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**Dr. Frank J. BYRD**  
Congress President

**W**ebster's Dictionary defines giant as one of extraordinary size – one of extraordinary power or importance. We can translate that definition into anything or anyone of tremendous importance or power to or over you.

My sister was recently asked to give moments of empowerment to the

church. I knew right away that her giant was standing out front speaking to an audience. To encourage her and to help her reduce her fear, I thought of a story in the Bible of a young man and a giant.

We all know the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Goliath was the Philistine giant who challenged and taunted the Israelite army for 40 days for them to choose a man to come and fight him. Goliath was such a huge man and was dressed in such fine battle attire that finding one to challenge him was difficult. But God always has a ram in the bush. David, the son of Jesse, the Ephrathite, volunteered to go fight with this giant. Now David was just a youth; but Goliath was a man of war from his youth. The giant taunted David; but David stood up to this giant and told him the Lord would deliver him and he would be victorious. The Philistine giant came to David armed with a sword, a spear, and a shield. David came in the name of the Lord of hosts and was armed with five smooth stones and a sling in his hand. David took his sling and a stone and smote the Philistine and slew him.

A giant is any forcible opponent in your life. David definitely had a forcible opponent; however, he trusted in the Lord and was able to slay his giant. Do you have any giants in your life? What is it?

Is it substance addiction? The Word of God says (1st Cor 3:16,17) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is Holy, which temple ye are? If this is your giant, pull out your sling and slay it down. Watch it fall.

Perhaps your giant is cursing, or a lying, gossiping tongue. The words that we speak, do they give us hope or discouragement? Do they speak life or death? Do the words we speak glorify God or ourselves? Since we are responsible for every word we speak, we should make a conscious effort to think before we speak. Is God being glorified by what I'm speaking or am I receiving instant glory? Matt 12:34 - 37 states "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." If we lived our lives by this verse, it would be a lot easier to conquer that giant of cursing or a lying gossiping tongue.

Is it that generational curse we sometimes fall back on? That generational curse can be broken! We can knock that giant down. We can do and be anything we want to. Life is what you make it. What our parents did helped them to "get by" but we don't have to follow that same path. Seek Godly counsel. Psalms 1:1 says blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel

# Giants: They Do Fall

of the ungodly; for his delight is in the law of the Lord. If you don't like the way your life is, do something about it. The decisions that we make today will prepare our future for tomorrow. We will do well to remember Ecces. 9:11. "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, not yet riches to me of understanding, nor yet

favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." When your time and chance comes, don't let it pass you by. Get your sling shot ready!

*Dr. Frank J. Byrd is the President of the GBSC Congress of Christian Education Auxiliary. Reach Dr. Byrd at fbrd1@aol.com.*

## Four key elements to help you knock down giants, whatever they may be:

**Prayer** – 1st Thessalonians says "Pray without ceasing." Talk to God about our giants. We should always pray and make our petitions known to God. After making them known, don't forget in everything to give thanks.

**Faith** – Hebrews 11:6 Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:1 states that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Have faith that God is going to help us remove that giant.

**Believe** – Matt 19:26 – "With God all things are possible. Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." It's important to believe that through prayer and faith, that the petitions we ask of God will be received. Mark 11:24 states "what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

**Trust** – My favorite scripture – Proverbs 3:5 & 6 – Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Trust God and allow Him to direct you on how you can slay your giant.



## GBSC Congress of Christian Education 2014 Classes

February 8, 2014

Friendship Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

GBSC Family,

Prepare to attend to attend the Bi-Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education. Listed are some of the classes you can look forward to attending.

Pastors, ministers, church leaders, Sunday school leaders and teachers, ministry leaders, and lay persons, there is a class for you!

| Division  | Session Title  |
|---|--|
| Division I<br>Ministerial<br>Division                     | 1-Pastoral Counseling Techniques                           |
|   | 2-The Spiritual Life of the Preacher                       |
|   | 3-Characteristics of Expository Preaching                  |
|   | 4-The Five Star Church                                     |
|   | 5-Why Men Hate Going to Church                             |
| Division II<br>Leadership<br>Development                  | 1-Creating a Compensation for Pastor                       |
|   | 2-Spiritual Characteristics of Leadership                  |
|   | 3-The Ministering Role of the Deacon                       |
|   | 4-How to Start A Counseling Ministry                       |
|   | 5-Handling Church Finances                                 |
|   | 6-Help I am a New Leader                                   |
|   | 7-The Work of a Trustee                                    |
|   | 8-The Legacy Of the GBSC for the Church Today              |
| Division III<br>Sunday                                    | 1-Recruiting Teacher's                                     |
|   | 2-Teacher Training   |
|   | 3-Doubling Your Class Size                                 |
|   | 4-Leading An Effective Sunday School                       |
| Division IV<br>Evangelism<br>and Mission                  | 1-An Overview of Evangelism                                |
|   | 2-One on One Evangelism                                    |
|   | 3-Developing A Mission Minded Church                       |
|   | 4-Prayer Walking Your Community                            |
|   | 5-Evangelism and Church Growth                             |
| Division V<br>Biblical and<br>General<br>Studies          | 1-Six Secrets to Lasting Love                              |
|   | 2-Overview of a Book???                                    |
|   | 3-Church Covenant??  |
|   | 4-Doctrine of the Holy Spirit??                            |
|   | 5-How the Bible Originated                                 |
|   | 6-Blending Generations                                     |
|   | 7-Essential Church   |
|   | 8-Sexuality in the Black Church                            |
|   | 9-Praying Your Way Through Life                            |
| Division VI<br>Teacher                                    | 1-Teaching Biblical Concepts to Children                   |
|   | 2-How to Study Your Bible                                  |
|   | 3-Gifted to Serve  |
|   | 4-Contemporary Techniques for Teaching Youth               |
| Division VII<br>Youth<br>Ministry &<br>Young Adult        | 1-Children's Ministry 101                                  |
|   | 2-Oratorical Contest                                       |
|   | 3-21 <sup>st</sup> Century Youth Ministry                  |
|   | 4-Spiritual Formation in Children                          |
|   | 5-Teaching Discipline to our Youth at Home and at Church   |
|   | 6-Training Young Adults for Ministry                       |
|   | 7-Understanding the Millennials??                          |
| Division VIII<br>Youth Division<br>Children's<br>Division | 1-Praise Dance: Flags & Billows                            |
|   | 2-Praise Dance Ministry                                    |
|   | 3-The Gospel Hymn: Blending the Sacred and Contemporary??? |
|   | 4-Teaching & Reaching Black Males                          |
|   | 5-Puppet Ministry  |
|   | 6-Children & Their Bible                                   |



**Amara Leak**  
**Second Place Winner in James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Preparatory Division (grades 6-8)**

Amara, an eighth grader, is the daughter of Heather Leak and lives in Murphy, N.C. She is a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Her Pastor is the Rev. John P. Webb in the Waynesville Missionary Baptist Association, Rev. Charles Lee, Moderator.

## I Am Blessed

Aren't we all blessed? We sometimes tend to take all of our many blessings for granted. Sometimes I find myself complaining over the craziest things. Like the fact that I have nice hair, but I want it to be longer or straighter. But, you know, what would I do if suddenly I became bald. And sometimes I complain about my house-and the fact that I don't have my own room. But I could be homeless. We are blessed in so many ways and we have to start being thankful to God for what we have, rather than focusing on what we don't have.

Blessing means, "The act or words of one that blesses. It also means approval and encouragement." So basically, we get our blessings from one who blesses. We get our blessings from God.

The first "blessing" by God was in Genesis 1:31.

"God was all that He had made, and it was very good." So basically, God created the heavens and the earth, and then He stepped back and looked at all His creations and said, "It was good."

God approved and blessed man all throughout the Bible and He is still blessing man today. He is the Supreme Ruler. He alone has the power to bless.

I know that all my many blessings come from God. He does, however, allow man to help take part in blessings.

Now that I know who blesses me, I can begin to count my blessings. My first, and greatest, blessing of all, is that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. John 3:16 states; "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This act of love from God basically wipes away my sins, as if I had never sinned at all.

Second, I am blessed that I can communicate with God through Jesus. By accepting Jesus Christ as my Saviour, I have the ability to reach God through prayer at any time.

Third, I am blessed that God is in control of my destiny. Life is like a road that leads off in many directions and I know that God has a clear path set for me. Through my rebellious ways, I may get off track from time to time, but when I realize I am traveling on the wrong road, I can ask God to redirect me. I am blessed He will set me back on the right path.

Fourth, I am blessed with everything I need to live and prosper in this fallen world. God gives me air to



breathe, food to eat, clothes, shelter and the list goes on and on.

Fifth, I am blessed with an earthly family to love and that loves me back. I am being raised by a single mom and life has not always been easy, but I am so glad that my mother has hung in there and provided for me and my sister.

Sixth, I am blessed with friends who encourage, love and pray for me and who holds me accountable when they see me acting in a way that is not pleasing to God.

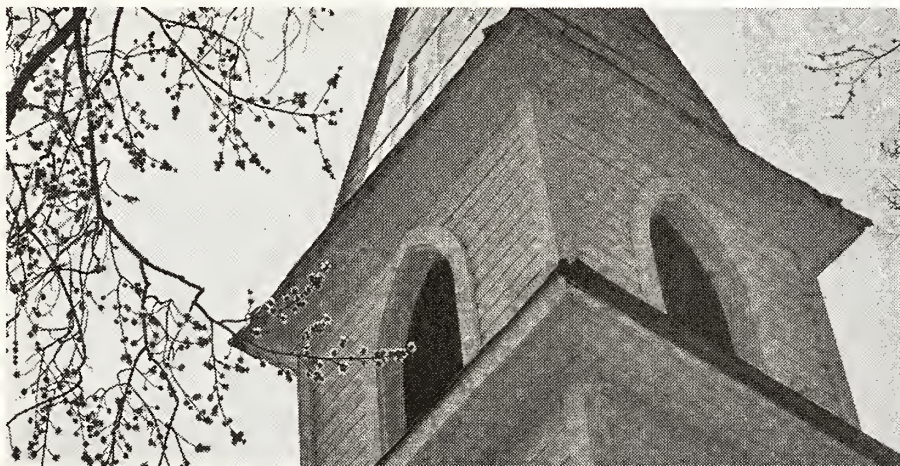
Seventh, I am blessed with a place to worship with other people of the same spirit and mind.

I am blessed today to stand before you and say this speech. Everything I am doing now is shaping and molding me for my life with God in the future.

So, in conclusion, I have given you many examples of how I am blessed and how we are all blessed. We have God, in heaven right now, supplying everything we need. He blesses us in so many ways we cannot even count and all He asks in return is that we love Him and put Him first. I know, and can say boldly, that I AM BLESSED.

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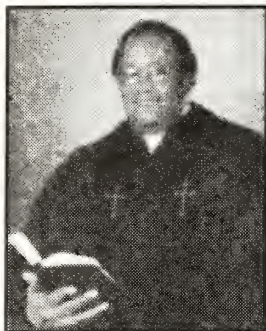
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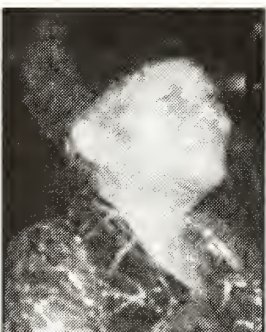
*With deepest Sympathies....*



**Dr. J. C. Harris**  
The Reverend Dr. J. C. Harris, Jr., former Pastor, First Baptist Church, Statesville, N.C., passed away on November 9, 2013 and was funeralized on Friday, November 15 at the church located at 464 Garfield Street in Statesville, N.C.

He was born in Louisburg on September 27, 1932, and was the son of the late Jordan Clifton Harris Sr. and Elizabeth Davies Harris. He was twice married, first to Leola Thompson Harris, who preceded him in death, and second to Janet Leigh Lackey Harris, who survives. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Jordan Lewis Witt, two brothers, Claude Harris and Rev. Percy Harris, and a sister, Doretha Massengburg.

Dr. Harris was the pastor of First Baptist Church, Statesville, North Carolina, for over fifty-one years and served on numerous committees, and organizations throughout the city, county and state. Dr. Harris had a long record of service in Rowan Baptist Association having served as Moderator and Executive Secretary. He served for many years and in numerous capacities in the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina culminating in 1986 when we was elected Vice President-at-Large. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Convention's General Board.



**Turner Funeral**  
Wilhelmina R. Turner, the sister of the Rev. William C. Turner, Jr., Ph.D.,

Pastor of Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., was funeralized on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at Saint John's United Holy Church in Richmond, Virginia.



**Bishop Davis**  
Bishop Sarah Frances Davis, Presiding Prelate of the 16th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Vice President of the World Methodist Council, was funeralized on Saturday, November 16 at The Church Without Walls in Houston, TX. Bishop Davis was a

friend and partner of the Lott Carey Global Christian Missional Community.

# Court strikes down clergy tax break

*(continued from page 4)*

ened by a godless and anti-religious world movement we should correct this discrimination against certain ministers of the gospel who are carrying on such a courageous fight against this foe. Certainly this is not too much to do for these people who are caring for our spiritual welfare."

The IRS has interpreted the exemption broadly, taking "ministers of the gospel" to mean not only those who preach from the New Testament, but also applying to thousands of ministers, priests, rabbis, imams and other faith leaders.

In her 43-page ruling, however, Judge Crabb said because a minister's primary function "is to disseminate a religious message, a tax exemption provided only to ministers results in preferential treatment for religious messages over secular ones."

"Some might view a rule against preferential treatment as exhibiting hostility toward religion, but equality should never be mistaken for hostility," Crabb opined. "It is important to remember that the Establishment Clause protects the religious and non-religious alike."

Crabb said if members of Congress believe there are "important secular reasons" for granting the exemption, they can rewrite the law in a way that includes ministers as part of a larger group of beneficiaries, but as currently written the tax code "is unconstitutional."

Freedom From Religion Foundation co-presidents Annie Laurie Gaylor and Dan Barker celebrated the ruling as a "major federal court victory."

"This decision agrees with us that Congress may not reward ministers for fighting a 'godless and anti-religious' movement by letting them pay less income tax," Gaylor and Barker said in a joint statement. "The rest of us should not pay more because clergy pay less."

Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, disagreed.

"The ministerial housing allowance does not violate the First Amendment's Establishment Clause," Walker said in a statement. "Government violates the Establishment Clause when it gives religion a tangible benefit, such as grants to churches to finance their ministries or vouchers to parochial schools to pay for the teaching of religion. However, accommodations of religion, such as tax exemption and other exclusions, are generally permitted."

Walker says the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment does not require such accommodation but also does not forbid it. While Section 107 of the tax code applies specifically to clergy, he said, other sections give similar relief to other segments of society including members of the military, taxpayers living abroad and employees required to live on premises or who are on 24-hour call.

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## States continue to place clinicians where they are in short supply, despite recession

Despite the recent recession, states increased the overall number of loan repayment programs designed to recruit health care professionals to live and practice in underserved communities, according to research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"This is good news for our country's health care system and people's access to care," said Donald Pathman, a physician and professor of family medicine who led the study. "The study shows that states recognized the importance of loan repayment and other incentives and were willing to create more programs even during the early, toughest years of the recent recession when states' budgets were stretched thin."

The work, published as a research letter in the Nov. 13 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, not only highlights states' activities

in placing clinicians where they are needed most, but also comes at a time when the Affordable Care Act puts a focus on primary care and preventative care.

The most popular of these incentive programs offer young physicians, dentists, mental health providers and other health professionals the opportunity to have their student loans repaid while serving in communities with limited access to care. These loan repayment programs from states help practitioners pay off their debt and simultaneously help states' neediest communities attract clinicians.

Pathman and his colleagues at UNC's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and School of Medicine took inventory of all incentive programs offered by states from 2007-2010. They found that in 2010, there were 93 programs for health professionals of all types across the United States – an increase from 87 programs in 2007. During the study period, 47 states offered at least one incentive program for clinicians, compared to 37 in 1996, the last time an official tally of these programs had been made.

One quarter of programs in 2010 were sponsored jointly by states and the National Health Service

Corps, which offers its own, entirely federally supported loan repayment program which also increased in size during the recession to help assure access for the many unemployed who lost health insurance.

As of 2010, a total of 3,325 clinicians were serving in these state programs across the nation. Of these clinicians, 1,395 were primary care clinicians (physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives) who were serving in solely state-funded loan repayment and direct incentive programs – double the number from 1996.

The states with the highest clinician counts serving in these programs include California (488), Texas (267), North Carolina (235), Wyoming (214) and New Mexico (153).

"Research tells us that an important way to improve health, lower costs and increase people's satisfaction with their care is through a relationship with a primary care provider," said Pathman. "States are doing a lot of the heavy lifting in attracting clinicians into these rural and underserved areas – and that's what many areas need if people are going to get quality care."

## Pushing for Change: Network Seeks to Chip Away at Southern Region's Deficiency

For North Carolina bred Rev. Robin Joynes, the non-profit she birthed last year was a labor of love for Southern women—particularly those in rural areas—who are challenged with access to quality healthcare, education, and opportunities for personal and financial growth.

"How you move forward with an agenda such as this is to move against the norm. For my Southern sisters, it is a matter of connection and partnership, pointing each other in the direction of help," says Rev. Joynes, who will officially launch the Southern Daughters of Faith Network (SDFN) in early 2014.

SDFN is a regional, non-profit membership organization of women of faith that endeavors to leverage ecumenical, interfaith, and private/public partnerships

to access affordable, quality healthcare, education and pathways to green economic development.

Joynes, whose justice work has taken her across the globe, deliberately included the word 'network' in the organization's moniker because she is committed to strengthening links among organizations that can support SDFN's mission, as well as creating those that will provide a safety net sans the dehumanization that often occurs.

The word 'faith' is equally as significant and serves as the Network's pillar.

"Our role and goal is to understand the issues that serve as barriers to living a life of quality and direct ourselves accordingly so that we can be directed into specific prayer. Such will empower women of faith to lead collaborative change in their communities through best practices, stewardship, and advocacy to reverse the trend of generational poverty in families," she says.

To ensure her work gains traction, Joynes has met with local, state, and national stakeholders to include White House representatives, community members, clergy, higher education officials, the AARP, and staff of the local Johnston County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) to announce SDFN's work and explore the process of effective connectivity on behalf of women in the nation's southeast region.

The White House, for example, announced an initiative in June directed toward accessing high-quality early childhood education in South Carolina. The release notes that every year, more than 23,000 low-income mothers give birth to a new baby and could benefit from President Barack Obama's early learning proposal "to build a strong foundation for success in the first five years of life." The investments, which would be made possible through State partnerships and the President's budget, would help to close the nation's school readiness gap and prepare children for

kindergarten.

At Voorhees College, SDFN will collaborate on an initiative with health outreach education as one of its components. A lecture series is also planned to begin and deepen the conversation about the issues SDFN champions. Concurrently, the lecture discussions will serve to encourage action that will promote the Network's agenda.

"As a network of interfaith women, the tenets of our various faith practices call us to advocate for the safety, well-being, and security of the most vulnerable in our communities and global society.

Those wanting more information or who are ready to serve may contact Rev. Joynes at [sunnia@verizon.net](mailto:sunnia@verizon.net).

*Crystal Kimpson Roberts can be reached at [crystalkimpsonroberts@gmail.com](mailto:crystalkimpsonroberts@gmail.com).*



**Crystal Kimpson ROBERTS**



Southern Daughters of Faith Network

**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.*

# Modern Family not the first story of unusual households

One of the most popular programs on television these days is ABC's *Modern Family*. The sitcom makes fun of the fictional characters Jay Pritchett, his second wife, their infant son, his teen stepson and his two adult children and their families. The idea is to show how people manage during these modern times of unusual family structures.

However, in reality, it doesn't take a lot of flipping through the pages of the Holy Bible to discover that what most of us consider modern or unusual families today were actually modern in biblical times, as well.



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

Although we traditionally think of a typical family as a husband and wife raising 2.5 children, the Bible talks about many other types of households.

Jacob, for example, had 13 children with four different women. He had 12 sons and at least one daughter. The children were by his two wives, Leah and Rachel and their handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpha. Also, TV character Jay Pritchett isn't the first person to have a child at a senior age. Isaac was 60 when he had Jacob and Sarah was 90 when she had Isaac.

Ruth and Naomi created a household headed by two females. After Naomi's husband, Elimelek, died, she was left alone with her two sons. Both married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth, but after 10 years, the sons died and the three widows were left together. Ruth tried to convince both Orpah and Ruth to go back to their homelands so they could find new husbands, but Ruth refused to go.

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16 NIV)

And don't forget Moses. He wasn't exactly raised in a typical household. After the pharaoh, fearing the power of the Israelites, decreed that baby boys in Israel were to be thrown into the Nile, his mother created a new lifestyle for him. Jochebed, the mother of Moses, hid him and later constructed a container that allowed her to float baby Moses into the Nile. His sister, Miriam, looked out for him until he was found by the pharaoh's daughter. In the end, Jochebed became the



nanny for little Moses who lived in the pharaoh's household.

Some customs would be considered odd today. A custom existed in which a man married his brother's widow if she has not given birth to a son. Also, the idea of wives was handled a little differently with Solomon having 700 wives and 300 concubines.

Speaking of wives, we have to mention that unwed couple, Mary and Joseph, who became the parents of our savior, Jesus. Although they were planning to get married, the wedding hadn't occurred when Jesus was born, and a person could have been stoned for giving birth out of wedlock back then. The couple's relationship was different, but so was their gift to the world.

So as the characters on the television version of *Modern Family* continue to stack up awards and ratings, remember that there are probably some unusual families in even closer reach — just a few pages away, in the Bible.

*Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*

## Pastor Vacancy Announcement

### First Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.

505 South Wilkes Street  
Post Office Box 482  
Chadbourn, NC 28431

(Phone) 910-654-3225 / (Fax) 910-654-1710

[www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org](http://www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org)

First Missionary Baptist Church of Chadbourn, North Carolina is seeking a full-time pastor called by God to serve as the spiritual leader of the congregation. The pastor will be responsible to God and the church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach the Bible, to provide Christian leadership in all areas of the church and to engage in pastoral care of the congregation. The pastor will also be responsible for the overall leadership of the day-to-day operations of the church, services, membership and promoting the spiritual interest and growth of the church.

#### How to Acquire Required Documents:

- Candidate packets are available online at [www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org](http://www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org)
- Call the church office at 910-654-3225 to request a packet by mail or fax

The deadline for all information to be postmarked or submitted is **January 31, 2014.**

Any candidate's package postmarked after **January 31, 2014** will not be considered.

## Mount Zoar Missionary Baptist Church

2400 Cheek Road  
Durham, NC 27704

#### Qualifications

- ◆ Must be a born-again Christian
- ◆ Be a Baptist, Licensed and Ordained Minister
- ◆ Must have a minimum of 2 years experience as a Missionary Baptist Pastor
- ◆ Prefer married and manages household well, as in 1 Timothy 3:3-7
- ◆ Must have a good reputation
- ◆ Must be able to communicate with the church congregation and community at large
- ◆ Demonstrate leadership skills and enhance spiritual counsel with clarity and understanding
- ◆ Prefer a graduate of an accredited school of Theology and/or work experience
- ◆ Must be able to share your vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- ◆ Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership, and management skills
- ◆ Must be willing to teach, attend Sunday School, Prayer meetings, Bible Study, visit the sick and shut-in, and participate in administering Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in and support functions

Salary negotiable

Deadline for receiving resumes is **February 15, 2014**

#### Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist Church

Attn: Gloria Irving, Chair  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 11159  
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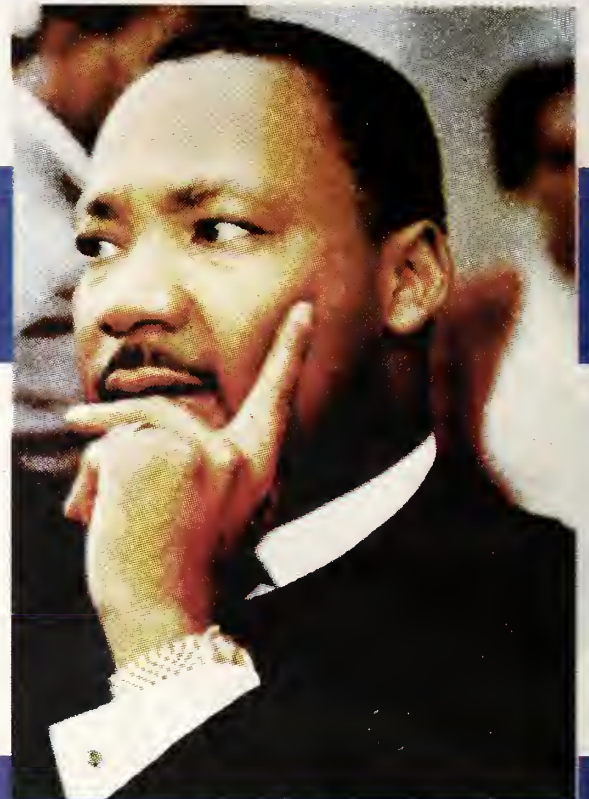
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MLK Banquet

January 10, 2014

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Durham, North Carolina

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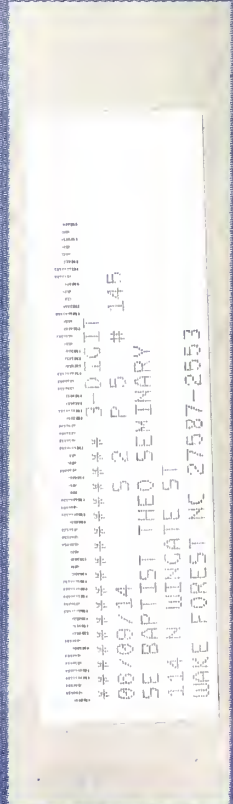


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136:12



Volume 136, No. 12

# BAPTIST INFORMER

January 2014

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



## WGH&FMC One Day Session Returns

The 2014 One Day Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina will convene on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center (4700 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, NC). For additional information about the One Day Session, please contact the WBH&FMC office at (919) 833-4823.

## 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet

### Historic Banquet Slated for January 10 at Sheraton in Durham

#### Staff Reports



Dr. Parker



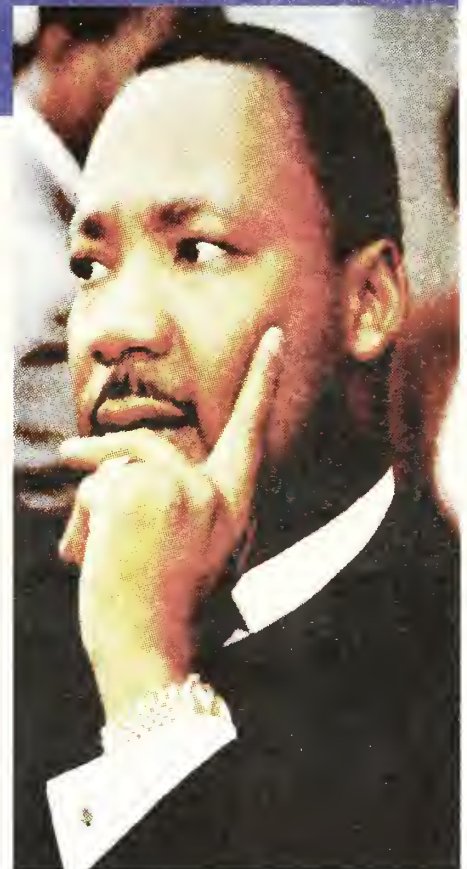
Dr. Butts

The 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. will feature keynote speaker Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Senior Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, New York.

The Banquet will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 2014 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center, 4700 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, N.C. (Located at I-40 at Exit 282 (Page Road). The hotel number is (919) 941-5050.

Tickets are \$65 per person. For hotel reservations, please call the hotel directly at (919) 941-5050 or call Central Reservations at (800) 325-3535.

As Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, Dr. Butts is committed to the expansion and maintenance of its Christian mission to win more souls for Christ. He is President of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, a community-based, not-for-profit organization responsible for more than \$600 million in housing and commercial development in Harlem. A world traveler and theologian, he also serves as President of State University of New York (SUNY) College at Old Westbury.



## Shaw University Accreditation is Reaffirmed

Shaw University, the first historically black university in the South, recently announced that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmed the University's accreditation during its annual meeting in Atlanta, GA. The accreditation was reaffirmed for 10 years.

"The reaffirmation of accreditation is great news and validates all the hard work our students, faculty and staff do every day to make Shaw one of the best universities in the country," said Shaw President Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "We look forward to continuing our rich legacy of educating the next generation of global leaders."

SACSCOC is the recognized regional accrediting body in eleven U.S. Southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and in Latin America

for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. The Commission on Colleges' Board of Trustees is the representative body of the College Delegate Assembly and is charged with carrying out the accreditation process.

To gain or maintain accreditation with SACSCOC, an institution must comply with the standards contained in the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement and with the policies and procedures of the Commission on Colleges. The Commission on Colleges applies the requirements of its principles to all applicant, candidate, and member institutions, regardless of institution type.



Dr. Yancy



INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

P3

From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

P7

Laymen's Study Commission Motivates Men to Action

Renew!

TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form



# CHURCH EVENTS



## BLESSINGS IN BAGS

Transforming a 'food desert' into a market site in the heart of Raleigh

**F**or more than a year, the Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. has partnered with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle to serve as a food distribution site. They communicate the availability of food products, including fresh produce, from various sources, including restaurants and grocery stores and customers are allowed to shop once a month at no charge. Since the church held its first market in June 2012, it has attracted many volunteers and served thousands of people from the surrounding communities in Raleigh. "The program would not be successful without the commitment and kindness of the volunteers who give their time each month," according to Mrs. Rhonda Currie, the Mobile Market Coordinator at MSBC and Sunday School Superintendent. "The need to find ways to improve nutrition and help fight hunger in the community also led to innovative approaches to get healthy food items into the community."

To learn more about the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, visit [www.foodshuttle.org](http://www.foodshuttle.org)



**SHARING GOD'S LOVE** - Each month, dozens of volunteers from MSBC set up and distribute food items, including fresh produce, canned goods, bakery items. The Reverend Dr. Earl C. Johnson, Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church, said that the mobile food markets are an extension of the church's commitment and mandate to remember "the least of these" as outlined in Matthew 25. "It is part of our efforts to create the 'Beloved Community' through service, volunteerism and good will," Dr. Johnson said. "We're working to address the serious issue of hunger and poverty in our community. It's our hope that more churches and organizations in our community and in our state will come together to do the same. That'll make an ever more significant improvement in the fight against hunger and poverty."

Photos by Horace Smith



*From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...*

## New Year Provides Opportunities

*"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Galatians 1:3-5, NIV).*

The New Year provides opportunities for new commitments, new goals, new objectives, new lessons, new experiences, new challenges, and new victories. The Christian community must be equipped and empowered to learn from the lessons, embrace our opportunities, confront the challenges, overcome the obstacles, cultivate our gifts, and celebrate our victories with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and enlightenment.

The Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the be-

liever to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this way: "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others" (CEV).

Consequently, prophetic ministry must match our proclaimed mission. Our congregational in-reach and community outreach must always lead to a God-honoring up-reach that glorifies God and edifies others. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others.

Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to fulfill our spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Our time, talents, treasures, and prayers are needed, encouraged,

welcomed, and appreciated.

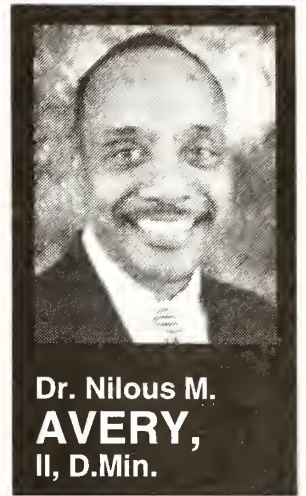
The convention and the local ministries we serve are gifts from God that God has entrusted to us as

faithful stewards. There is no better way to glorify God and edify others than through your generous and cheerful contributions to your General Baptist State Convention and its objectives.

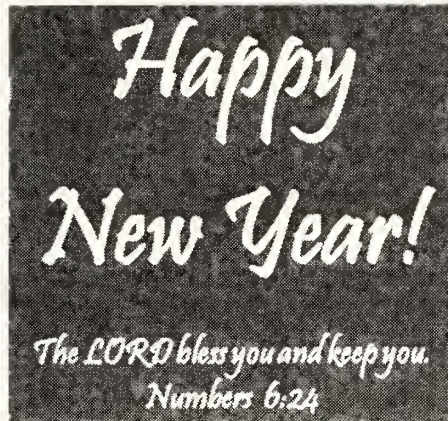
The harvest is ripe for a prophetic ministry that preaches good news, and proclaims freedom, restoration, release, and the year of the Lord's favor (from Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4: 18-19). God's peace be with you all for a joyous, fruitful, fulfilling, and Holy Spirit-filled New Year as we increase our commitment to missions with generous and ongoing support.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY and "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV).

You may contact Dr. Avery: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.



## Understanding the Power of Prayer



Dr. Joseph R. ROGERS, SR. Guest Columnist

*"And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying." (Acts 12:12)*

The Bible teaches us that we should 'pray' continually, that is, always. When we pray it is not the positions of our body that determines whether or not we will hear from God. A few positions include:

- Bowing our heads in total submission.
- Kneeling in reverence to God's majestic power.
- Lifting our hands in total surrender.

The above positions are all good, but the most important position that we should be concerned about is the position of our attitudes, hearts, minds, and spirits.

This is what is called, "Praying With Power"! Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ gave/gives us a good example in His Model Prayer or what is we call, "The Lord's Prayer". This prayer addressing primary three (3) things and they are:

- First, it acknowledges God The Father—"Our Father"
- Second, it respects the Father's Will—"Thy will be done"...
- Third, it gives us opportunity to ask forgiveness and needs for our lives—"give us this day our daily and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors".

Our prayers must be persistent, that is, without giving up or falling into doubt, unbelief or fear. When we pray, we must not position ourselves and pray like the "Pharisees", saying, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as others men are; extortioners, unjust, adulterers: I fast twice a week and I give tithes of all that I possess". (St Luke 18:11, 12).

What we must do is, position ourselves and couch our prays as the "Publican" that stood afar off and would not lifting up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." (St. Luke 18:13)

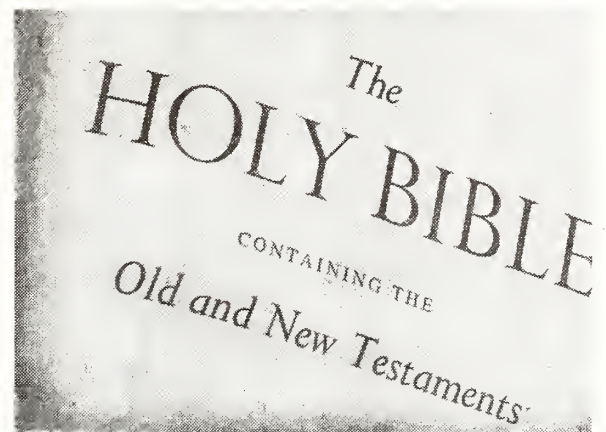
Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons that God has placed in our spiritual arsenal; others being but not limited to, The Word, Faith and Fasting. Prayer will...

- Destroy Satan's Strongholds!
- Halt Satan's Principalities!
- Cause Satan to bow in Surrender!
- Set the Captive Free!
- Heal The Sick!
- Save Lost Souls!

It is without question that each individual, home and local church assembly understands what it means to saturate our lives with reverent effectual godly prayer. This is not a Wednesday night and Sunday morning theatrical act; it is a daily lifestyle.

There is a question that we need to examine and that is, "What Is Prayer"? Prayer is sincere talking or dialoguing with/to the Lord for oneself or in intercession for others; confession (admitting wrongs) and giving thanks (giving adorations God for His Blessing) in the Spirit (in Jesus' Name) according to His Will).

Prayer comes in cans, that is, prayer can...  
Make the -impossible-possible!



Make the -improbable- probable!  
Give -hope- to the -hopeless-!  
Turn -bitter defeats- into the -sweet victories-!  
Just as the Lord opened the jail doors for The Apostle Peter, He can/will do the same for you and me.  
The Lord can open doors to a rich and joyful destiny.  
The Lord can dry up our Red Seas and Jordan Rivers.  
The Lord can cause our Wilderness to flow with water.

The Lord can cause our torn down Jericho walls to be rebuilt.

The Lord can dry tears from our eyes.

Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ prayed and left us a model to follow; therefore we must embrace His teachings, if we expect to have spiritual power in our lives.

Dr. Joseph R. Rogers, Sr., is an Associate Minister at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. You may reach him at [jrger3420@aol.com](mailto:jrger3420@aol.com).

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[www.GBSConline.org](http://www.GBSConline.org)

# Our Focus Continues: Becoming a Great Commission Christian

The new year 2014 is significant on a very personal note. It is a beginning and also an ending since my term as President of the N.C. Laymen's Auxiliary ends this year. The self-evaluation grade is low. However, by the Grace of God, my spiritual growth has been positive.

We are continuing to focus on: "Becoming A Great Commission Christian." What we have attempted to convey is that there is more to becoming a Christian than accepting a set of doctrines and striving to live out a particular life style. Using the words of Tony Campolo, author of: "The Kingdom of God is a Party," A Christian is a person who is possessed by Christ in such a way that feelings, thoughts, and attitudes are all changed.

For the Christian person, loving becomes a spiritual exercise because God is love, and the Christian knows that "everyone that loveth is born of God." God wants to indwell you and affect your conscious-

ness for many reasons, but above all is His desire to be able to reach other people with His love through you...If you will pray and ask Him to be an indwelling reality and you are willing to yield to His will in all things. He will enter into your consciousness and begin to effect a transformation in your life...You will recognize that being a Christian involves a commitment to treat others as He would treat them."

As we begin the year 2014, a Bible study from the Book of Revelation gets my attention; where God is The Great I am — "I am the beginning. I am the end." Our churches are very concerned with beginnings, but we hesitate to reach the end.

The Alpha/beginning, the Omega/end, means that I am your all-in -all. Do you want to stay an Alpha Person (Church) always at the starting line of faith? That is a safe place-where you say you believe me, where you champion truth, but you don't move.

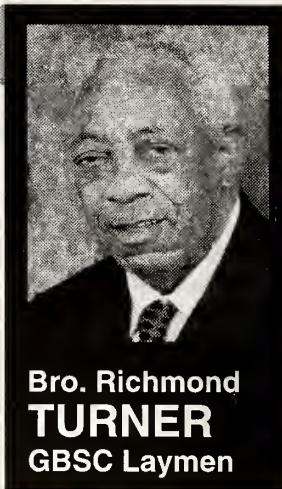
Move, I say! Feel the wind of trials and victories in me. I am the finisher, the Omega. Lift your eyes from the starting line and focus on all that lies before you-on the intelligent golden faith awaiting you at the finish. Learn of me; digest my word, always in communion with me. I am your health, your energy: I bring you to a "finish" that is not the end of all things: Not a place where you collapse, emptied out, done. It is a place where you allow me freely to live through you.

My finish means new development, new discoveries, new victories, new holy charges. My dearest and most effectives servants are those who move in "finished" faith.

As we closed out 2013 remembering the birth of our Savior; and beginning 2014, let us be resolved to move with zeal, favor and drive in being obedient to the Great commission.

What is "The Great I Am" moving you to do this New Year?

Reach Bro. Turner at: [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com).



## UNC selected as clinical site for NFLPA program on former players' health

WIRE REPORTS

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been selected by the National Football League Players Association to participate in a new initiative aimed at providing medical services and support to its former players.

The NFL Players Association unveiled its new program, called "The Trust," on Wednesday. UNC's Brain and Body Health Program, which was created by the Center for the Study of Retired Athletes in the College of Arts and Sciences in collaboration with the School of Medicine, was selected to be a medical partner of The Trust to provide former NFL players with a comprehensive evaluation and treatment plan for their cognitive and physical functioning. Other medical partners in The Trust are Tulane University and the Cleveland Clinic.

"This partnership with the NFL Players Association will provide former NFL players with better access to our expert sports medicine professionals for comprehensive assessment and clinical care," said Kevin Guskiewicz, co-director of the Brain and Body Health Program and a leading expert on the long-term impact of head traumas at all levels of sports competition.

Guskiewicz also is research director for the Center for the Study of Retired Athletes, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Exercise and Sport Science and senior associate dean of natural sciences.

"Through this award, our team of nationally recognized physiatrists (physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation) will monitor and manage the health of former NFL athletes with an interdisciplinary team of specialists, neuropsychologists, therapists and other colleagues to give each individual highly personalized care," said Brain and Body Health

Program Co-Director Michael Y. Lee, department chair of physical medicine and rehabilitation in the School of Medicine.

The Brain and Body Health Program, which saw its first patients in spring of 2012, was designed to address the needs of former players who are in need of a baseline medical evaluation upon leaving the NFL, as well as those who may be experiencing both physical and mental problems as a result of abusing their bodies for years on the playing field. These problems can include musculoskeletal pain that has led to lifestyle changes and psychological problems, anxiety about transitioning out of the sport, chronic headaches and other post-concussion signs and symptoms, increased

episodes of sadness, irritability or depression and early signs of memory impairment.

Services that will be offered to former players include an initial screening and medical history, an evaluation with a sports medicine physiatrist and internist, a neuropsychological evaluation, an evaluation by a cognitive neurologist, magnetic resonance imaging, a body composition and dietary consultation by an exercise physiologist and life skills coaching and transition counseling. These services will be provided at the UNC Health Care System's new UNC Center for Rehabilitation Care and at the Center for the Study of Retired Athletes, located in UNC's Stallings-Evans Sports Medicine Center.



**In The Spirit of Christmas**  
(pictured) Clarence Mann, Jr., Ashley Embry, Kaye Russell, Ministers Larry and Barbara Wilder with Malaby's Crossroads Baptist Church Family in Knightdale, N.C. prepare to celebrate the holidays. The Pastor is the Reverend Dr. James S. Utley.

# Honoring Nelson Mandela's 'Long Walk To Freedom'

When I heard that Nelson Mandela died December 5, I quickly went to my family room bookcase searching for the "ANC" (African National Congress) T-shirt I received when traveling in southern Africa in the 1980s. That shirt is a tangible reminder of the fight that was waged in the late 20th Century to end apartheid (racial separation and oppression against black people) in South Africa.



A recipient of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, Mandela was president of the African National Congress (ANC) and head of the anti-apartheid movement. One of the world's great moral and political leaders, Mandela was imprisoned in 1964 for opposing the white South African government's racist policies. He was not released from prison until 1991. In April 1994, under global pressure to dismantle the apartheid system, South Africa held its first-ever multiracial elections and Mandela was elected president of the country with more than 60 percent of the vote.\*

A group called TransAfrica, led by Randall Robinson, was a key organization that created tremendous public pressure to free Mr. Mandela and to end the apartheid government in South Africa. TransAfrica

designed a systematic campaign—while Mandela was imprisoned—calling for daily demonstrations at the South African Embassy in Washington, DC along with lobbying on Capitol Hill for economic sanctions against South Africa. Hence, the Free South Africa Movement arose in 1984.

From 1984 until 1986, thousands of people were arrested while protesting at the embassy. Among those arrested were Harry Belafonte, Stevie Wonder, Charles Rangel, Ronald Dellums, Jesse Jackson, Coretta Scott King and her children, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, and too many other celebrities to print here. But thousands of ordinary people formed the backbone of the protest. It became a powerful movement that applied great pressure on Congress and the Reagan administration.\*

One day in 1985, I was among about 200 protesters arrested at the South African Embassy. I and a friend of mine, James Steele, were proud card-carrying members of TransAfrica, and we were determined to play our small part. We were loaded up in police wagons and held in a large room near downtown Washington. Congressman John Lewis was arrested with us that day and we were blessed to share a conversation with him about his civil rights experiences.

By early 1986, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act was passed. President Reagan vetoed the bill, as he and Great Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher supported South Africa's white government. But in September 1986, the U.S. House and Senate overrode the Reagan veto. This bill sounded the death knell of apartheid in South Africa.

Therefore, as we in North Carolina continue the struggle against racist and unjust laws enacted by our state legislature (voter suppression and others), and as the Governor of our state refuses federal monies to help thousands of people without health insurance, let

us not grow weary in our fight. Mandela endured prison for 27 years before gaining victory. The race is not always to the swiftest but to the one who endures to the end. Let us continue to support Moral Mondays and the NAACP's efforts to restore sanity and fairness to Governor McCrory and to our state's government leaders.

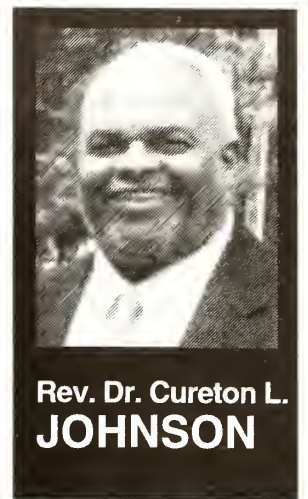
In his autobiography—Long Walk To Freedom—Mandela said upon leaving prison, "if I still hated them, they would still have me. I wanted to be free. And so I let it go."

This extraordinary man learned to forgive and he became the salve needed to heal South Africa's many races and ethnic groups. Let us pray for South Africans as they yet face many economic, political, and social challenges. So, too, let us celebrate one of the great political and moral leaders of our time. Surely, Nelson Mandela stands alongside of Gandhi and King as he has gone home to be with God.

And I wear my ANC T-shirt proudly!

\* Information from Long Walk to Freedom, by Nelson Mandela and from Defending the Spirit, by Randall Robinson were used in this article.

Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: [cjohnson035@nc.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson035@nc.rr.com).



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON



Madisyn Elam  
Second Place Winner in James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest  
Junior Division (grades 9-11)

Madisyn, a 10th grader, resides in Durham, N.C. and is the granddaughter of the Rev. Wesley Elam and Mrs. Sylvia Elam. She's a member of Northeast Missionary Baptist Church where the Pastor is the Rev. Wesley Elam. The church is in the New Hope Association (the Rev. Dr. C. Battle, Moderator).

Please see the winning speech below:

## The Shepherd's Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd. I know that the Great shepherd truly is the owner of the rod and staff that comforts us in all things. The Shepherd's Psalm is well known and many sermons have been preached on it. The 23rd Psalm is the most perfect picture of happiness that ever can or will be written. I have selected several thoughts from the verses so that we can get a better understanding of why the Lord is our Shepherd.

The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want.

Can you say that the Lord is your Shepherd, right now? Not was, like He helped you in the past. The Lord woke me up yesterday and it is a blessed memory. I pray each night that the Lord will wake me and let me see another day. Now that is just a hope for tomorrow.

But is the Lord your Shepherd right now? Today is

our reality. The Shepherd's Psalm is very personal, the words "I, my, me and He" are used thirty times in the six verses.

We need to give the Lord His rightful place over our lives. We are greedy creatures and always seem to have different wants. But thankfully, the Lord gives us what we need. The Shepherd is the one that provides spiritual nourishment and rest for our souls.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me besides the still waters.

Jesus is the Shepherd not you, not you, not you and definitely not you. He has plans for us. He arranges time of rest for you and He also arrange the quiet water. The quiet waters are times when there are o waves and no troubles. I ask the Lord each night to let me see another day.

He brings rest for our souls. The paths that the Lord takes us on are righteous. If we follow Him, He will always lead us in the right way.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

As the Shepherd lead the sheep from one place to the next they often pass through valleys. The valleys are dark. This is the perfect place for people to hide. The valleys tell of trying times in our lives where that is darkness confusion and fear. It is not a stop. Not place to give up. Or to set up camp. Even in the darkest and most trying hour God is always near.

When the presence of the Lord Jesus is in our lives we can go through tough times without fear. Two things



give comfort — the Shepherd Rod and the Shepherd Staff. The rod, which the Shepherd uses to protect His sheep and the staff, is used to guide the sheep in the way in which they should go. These are two tokens of the Shepherd's presence. With GOD being our Shepherd, we can partake at His fear without concern for the enemies. Only one person can lead us through death's dark valley and bring us safely to the other side and that is God, our Shepherd. With life being uncertain, we should follow our Shepherd where He leads us for eternal comfort.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

God, our perfect Shepherd, protects and provides for His sheep during their life on this earth, but there is a greater blessing yet to come. And when the days this life are over, we shall enter into that which we can only imagine. God, the perfect Shepherd, promises to guide and protect us into His house forever. For now, let us follow where He would lead us and thank Him for His wonderful grace.

I know The Lord Is my shepherd. What about you?

# What Makes the Difference In Our Preaching Is Facial Expression

In our last article we tolled the bell concerning tone of voice in hopes of reaching the ears of preachers who seek to improve their preaching for no other reasons than exalting Christ. Paul says, "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2Cor 4:5 NIV). In our efforts to preach Christ, keep in mind tone of voice is one of many channels that make up effective non-verbal communication with a view toward persuasion. Not forgetting, non-verbal channels as opposed to words account for 65% of the message received by the audience. Having explored tone of voice as an important channel that carries the message, we turn now to facial expression as another channel having a significant effect on the audience reception of the message.

Believe it or not the face you hold is the actual story told when you deliver your sermon. Your facial expression more than any non-verbal channel reveals and conveys your emotions and feelings about your sermon, audience and yourself. From this standpoint

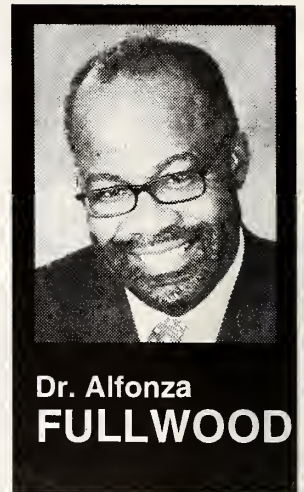
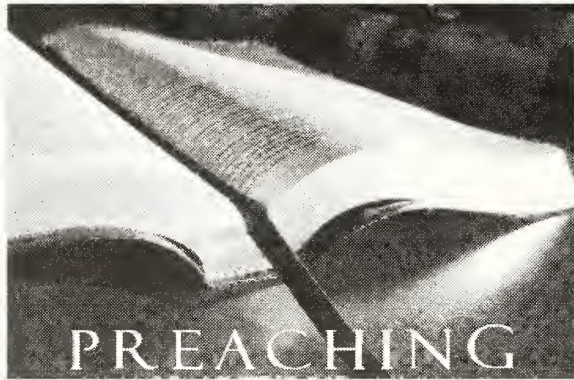
your audience tends to believe the message on your face over the message of your words. If you want your audience to understand the importance of your message, your facial expression must communicate or tell such a story of urgency. Therefore, your face should not communicate one thing and your message something entirely different. It is said that a "picture is worth a thousand words." Well, likewise one's facial expression also is worth a thousand words. "One look is worth a thousand words." In a sense your facial expressions says it all, establishing credibility.

Such a truth is evidenced in the acting industry. An actor has ready access to any emotion that his or her character may need to convey in a powerful and truthful manner. Thus, this skill is the difference between a "good" and not "so good" actor. Likewise, as preachers we must learn to dramatize the emotions (pathos) of the text played out in the delivery of the sermon. If there is joy, happiness, sadness, bitterness, seriousness or anger reflected in the text, our facial expression should carry

such emotions. An emotionless or lifeless face preacher shapes an emotionless response audience. Our facial expression should reinforce the emotional power of the message.

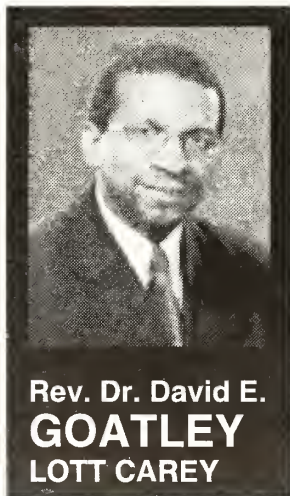
To improve or strengthen our facial expression presentation skills, we suggest a simple step. In the privacy of our home we can practice facial expressions in the mirror. Observe yourselves holding certain emotions on your face. What you see in the mirror is likely what the audience sees on Sunday morning. If for any reason you are surprised by what the mirror reveals, then, take the time to "tweet" your facial expressions to your liking. In the next article we will discuss gestures as another channel of non-verbal communication.

*Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.*



**Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD**

# Inspired by Madiba and His Well Lived Life



**Rev. Dr. David E. GOATLEY LOTT CAREY**

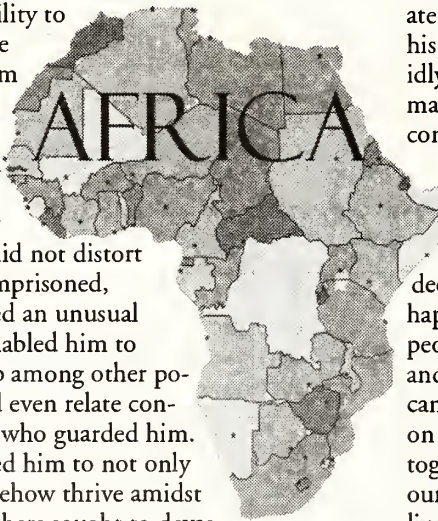
The headlines around the death of Nelson Mandela, the first democratically elected president of South Africa, the first Black president of South Africa, the moral center of South Africa, and one of the most respected world leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries, talk about people mourning. While I understand the emotion of grief and the language of loss, I find myself thankful for, and inspired by, Madiba and

his well lived life.

Madiba lived a life of principle. He was committed to freedom and equality for all South African people. When Mandela was on trial for treason in 1964, he ended his address to the court by saying: "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people, I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." The Pretoria courtroom was silenced. His core principle of life was equality for all. While he was willing to adapt strategies, he preserved his core.

Madiba lived a life of patience. How else do you describe someone who spends 27 years of life imprisoned by an unjust system, yet upon release demonstrates a lack of bitterness and a dedication to reconciliation rather than retribution? How else do

you describe his ability to negotiate with those who imprisoned him for the cause of a peaceful and prosperous country and continent? Injustice did not destroy him. Oppression did not distort him. Even while imprisoned, Mandela maintained an unusual equilibrium that enabled him to maintain leadership among other political prisoners and even relate constructively to some who guarded him. This patience helped him to not only survive, but to somehow thrive amidst adversity. When others sought to devastate him, he would not be devastated. When others tried to compromise him, he would not be compromised. This is not to say he was perfect, but he was patient. He seemed to be able to tolerate and negoti-



ate the failures and foolishness of people because of his vision of what could be. Patience is not sitting idly and waiting for something to happen. Patience is making the most of one's circumstance until change comes.

Many will mourn the loss of Madiba. They will cry and sing and then return to unprincipled and impatient lives. Perhaps we should celebrate his life by committing ourselves in words and deeds to living lives reconciled to one another. Perhaps we can live with the principle of equality for all people without fighting between rich and poor, black and white, conservative and progressive. Perhaps we can live with the principle of patience where we draw on the strength of God and on one another to work together for good no matter the circumstances we find ourselves. In this way, Mandela does not leave us, he lives on through us. We do not have to mourn our loss. We can celebrate his life.

*Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott Carey can be reached at: degoatley@aol.com.*

## Men and Boys Retreat 2014

The Annual GBSC Laymen League "Men and Boys Retreat" will be held from 10 a.m. to Noon on Friday, July 11, 2014 at the Rouse Community Center. The annual retreat will be hosted by Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Raeford, NC, where Dr. Matthew Rouse Jr. serves as Pastor. Additional details will be made available in coming months.

For details, contact GBSC Laymen League Youth Coordinator, Samuel Teague at (919) 426-4489 or via email at samuel\_teague2000@yahoo.com.

# Finding Forgiveness: Exploring the Eighteenth Chapter of Matthew



**Dr. Frank J. BYRD**  
Congress President

One reason we stay out of fellowship with one another is because we often do not do what the Lord tells us to do in Matthew 18. It states that if we have received any injury from a fellow-member of Christ's Church, we should visit him or her "alone," and tell him or her their fault.

If agreement is not reached, we are to "take with us one or two" companions and tell our

brother of his fault in their presence and hearing. Our Lord commands disagreement between Christian, which cannot be otherwise settled, to be referred to the decision of the Christian assembly to which they belong.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

It is evident that our Lord intends every congregation of professing Christians to take cognizance of the moral conduct of its members. Either by the action of the whole body collectively or of heads and elders to whom its authority may be delegated.

The Lord Jesus lays it down as a general rule, that we ought to forgive others to the uttermost.

Peter knew that the Jews were revengeful people. He therefore thought that it was a great proof of superior virtue to be able to forgive seven times. It was for this reason he proposed this question to our Lord; "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?"

To show how much he esteemed charity, the Lord immediately answered, not only seven times, but seventy times seven times.

Jesus does not mean to say that this number must be the bounds of our forgiving; We must forgive to the end, and never take revenge, no matter how often our brother offends us. When our brother sins against us, we must grieve for his sake over the evil he has committed; but for ourselves we ought to greatly rejoice, because we now are thereby made like our heavenly Father, who bids the sun to shine upon the good and the bad.

To recommend this great virtue more forcibly, Jesus adds the parable of the king taking his accounts: and, from the great severity there exercised, He intimates how rigid will his heavenly Father be to those who forgive not their enemies.

He tells us a story of a man who owed an enormous sum to his master, and had "nothing to pay." Nevertheless at the time of reckoning his master had compassion on him, and "forgave him all."

He tells us that this very man, after being forgiven himself, refused to forgive a fellow-servant a trifling debt. He actually cast him into prison, and would not abate a fragment of his demand.

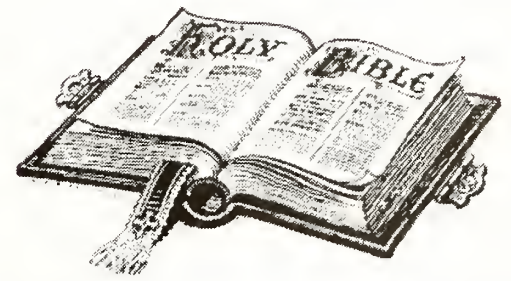
He tells us how punishment overtook this wicked and cruel man, who, after receiving mercy, ought surely to have shown mercy to others. And finally, he concludes the parable with the impressive words, "so my heavenly Father will also do to you, if you don't each forgive your brother from your hearts for his misdeeds."

It is clear from this parable that one motive for for-

giving others, ought to be the recollection that we all need forgiveness at God's hands ourselves.

Day after day we require mercy and pardon. Our neighbors' offences against us are mere trifles, compared with our offences against God. Surely if we intend to stand at the right hand, when Jesus sits on the throne of His glory, we must learn the rules of the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, while we are on earth, to forgive.

Reach Dr. Byrd at [Fjbyrd1@aol.com](mailto:Fjbyrd1@aol.com)



## GBSC Congress of Christian Education 2014 Classes

February 8, 2014

Friendship Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

GBSC Family,

Prepare to attend to attend the Bi-Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education. Listed are some of the classes you can look forward to attending. Pastors, ministers, church leaders, Sunday school leaders and teachers, ministry leaders, and lay persons, there is a class for you!

| Division  | Session Title  |
|---|--|
| Division I<br>Ministerial<br>Division                     | 1-Pastoral Counseling Techniques                           |
|   | 2-The Spiritual Life of the Preacher                       |
|   | 3-Characteristics of Expository Preaching                  |
|   | 4-The Five Star Church                                     |
|   | 5-Why Men Hate Going to Church                             |
| Division II<br>Leadership<br>Development                  | 1-Creating a Compensation for Pastor                       |
|   | 2-Spiritual Characteristics of Leadership                  |
|   | 3-The Ministering Role of the Deacon                       |
|   | 4-How to Start A Counseling Ministry                       |
|   | 5-Handling Church Finances                                 |
|   | 6-Help I am a New Leader                                   |
|   | 7-The Work of a Trustee                                    |
|   | 8-The Legacy Of the GBSC for the Church Today              |
| Division III<br>Sunday                                    | 1-Recruiting Teacher's                                     |
|   | 2-Teacher Training   |
|   | 3-Doubling Your Class Size                                 |
|   | 4-Leading An Effective Sunday School                       |
| Division IV<br>Evangelism<br>and Mission                  | 1-An Overview of Evangelism                                |
|   | 2-One on One Evangelism                                    |
|   | 3-Developing A Mission Minded Church                       |
|   | 4-Prayer Walking Your Community                            |
|   | 5-Evangelism and Church Growth                             |
| Division V<br>Biblical and<br>General<br>Studies          | 1-Six Secrets to Lasting Love                              |
|   | 2-Overview of a Book???                                    |
|   | 3-Church Covenant???                                       |
|   | 4-Doctrine of the Holy Spirit???                           |
|   | 5-How the Bible Originated                                 |
|   | 6-Blending Generations                                     |
|   | 7-Essential Church   |
|   | 8-Sexuality in the Black Church                            |
|   | 9-Praying Your Way Through Life                            |
| Division VI<br>Teacher                                    | 1-Teaching Biblical Concepts to Children                   |
|   | 2-How to Study Your Bible                                  |
|   | 3-Gifted to Serve  |
|   | 4-Contemporary Techniques for Teaching Youth               |
| Division VII<br>Youth<br>Ministry &<br>Young Adult        | 1-Children's Ministry 101                                  |
|   | 2-Oratorical Contest                                       |
|   | 3-21 <sup>st</sup> Century Youth Ministry                  |
|   | 4-Spiritual Formation in Children                          |
|   | 5-Teaching Discipline to our Youth at Home and at Church   |
|   | 6-Training Young Adults for Ministry                       |
|   | 7-Understanding the Millennials???                         |
| Division VIII<br>Youth Division<br>Children's<br>Division | 1-Praise Dance: Flags & Billows                            |
|   | 2-Praise Dance Ministry                                    |
|   | 3-The Gospel Hymn: Blending the Sacred and Contemporary??? |
|   | 4-Teaching & Reaching Black Males                          |
|   | 5-Puppet Ministry  |
|   | 6-Children & Their Bible                                   |

## GBSC Passes Resolution Endorsing Dr. Jones at 146th Annual Session Held in Greensboro



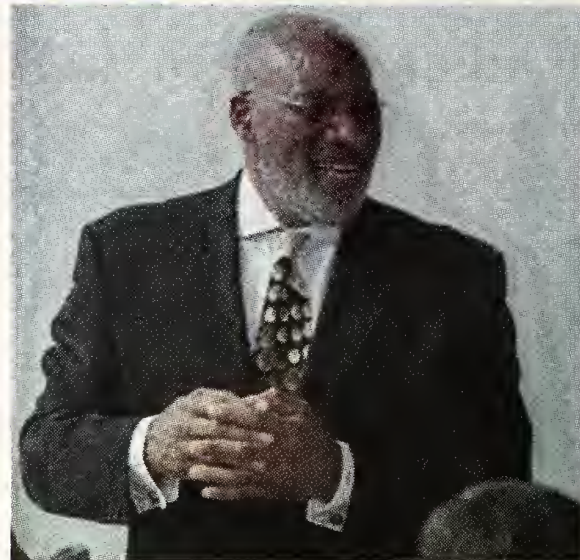
Dr. Jones

The General Baptist State Convention has endorsed the candidacy of The Reverend Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. to become President of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. The NBCUSA will elect its next president at its 2014 Annual Session to be held September 1-5, 2014 in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Jones has organized his campaign for the NBCUSA Presidency around three descriptors: progressive, practical, principled." During the business session of the GBSC Annual Session, former President C. R. Edwards made the nominating speech for Dr. Jones highlighting Jones' record of service and ministry in North Carolina and noting that a North Carolinian has never led the National Baptist Convention. Following Dr. Edwards' nomination speech, a seconding speech was made by fellow Charlotte pastor, Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch (First Vice President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.)

The resolution to support Dr. Jones' candidacy was passed without objection by the messengers to the 146th Annual Session.

Additional information about Dr. Jones' campaign may be obtained by calling (704) 391-6603 or by visiting [www.cjonesforNBCUSAINC.com](http://www.cjonesforNBCUSAINC.com).



The Reverend Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. of Charlotte, North Carolina has announced his candidacy for the Presidency of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Dr. Jones has been Senior Pastor of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Charlotte since 1982. He has previously served as President of the General Baptist State Convention (1993-1997).

## Study Commission Motivates Men to Action

The North Carolina State Laymen's League Study Commission was held at Savannah MBC with the host Pastor and Moderator Rev. Mark Rowden of the Union Missionary Baptist Association.

One of the most important event at the convention was the street ministry held by the Laymen Movement winning soul for Christ when 73 people dedicated their lives to Christ and were Baptized.

Moderator Rowden, Pastor of Savannah MBC, delivered the homily. His sermon, "Graveyard Inside The Church," was taken from the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 37.

"Men need to be alive in the church. We are living in a time where there are spiritually depressed bodies setting inside of the church," he said. "Nothing can happen until God breathes on them the breath of life. They need the power of God in their lives.

"Satan has a weapon he uses against them which is the spirit of discouragement. Don't lose sight of what God has for you. No weapon formed against me will prosper. Any church that causes a graveyard to be inside the church is a sin. Sin will spread through the body of the church if we let it. People are coming to church more, but don't know Jesus. God is the great "I AM." You must be born again."

Additionally, Youth Coordinator Samuel Teague gave a summary of the Men and Boys Retreat held at Mt. Pisgah MBC in Raeford, North Carolina. Workshop facilitators included Bro. Teague, the Rev. Anthonette Wright (Wives/Women Supporters of the Laymen) and Laymen's President Richmond Turner who discussed "Biblical Manhood and Discipleship."

In the Spiritual Men Workshop President Turner ask a question; What type of training in terms of Discipleship are we doing in our churches? After much discussion, he pointed everyone to Matthew twenty-eight chapter, nineteenth thru twentieth verses.

Bro. Turner added, "We should never lose focus that Discipleship, becoming like Jesus, lies at the epicenter of the church task. The Christian Movement, was initiated through Jesus investing His life and His teaching in his followers and developing them into authentic disciples. The quality of the church's leadership is directly proportional to the quality of discipleships. In creating disciples we are creating

leaders."

In other news, greetings came from the presidents of the Savannah MBC LL and Union MBA LL - David Holmes and Lacy McDonald, respectively. Sec-

ond Vice President Anthony Hagans talked to the Laymen about the National Baptist Convention which was held in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Charlotte Civic Center September 2-6, 2013.



Samuel Teague

## Laymen's League On the Move



Willie Pointer Jr.



Rev. Willie Darby

The North Carolina State Laymen League convened with Penn Avenue Missionary Baptist Church for its Study Commission with the host Pastor Rev. Willie Darby in Oxford, North Carolina.

The Executive Board met to discuss the 2014 calendar year. There were greetings from Rev. Willie Darby Host Pastor; Deacon Steven Campbell President of the County Line MBA Laymen League; and Brother Calvin Harris President of Penn Avenue MBC Laymen League.

Our first study commission will be in March 2014. The N.C. Laymen League Annual Session and Banquet will be held April 4-5, 2014 with Neuse River Association serving as hosts. Activities will take place in the Neuse River Association's building near Whitakers, N.C. The Men and Boys Retreat will be held at Mount Pisgah MBC Raeford, N.C. with Senior Pastor Rev. Matthew Rouse Jr. in 2014.

Submitted by Bro. Roger Battle.



**HOLIDAY CHEER** - The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina headquarters staff in Raleigh participated in the Wake County Social Services Holiday Cheer Program for the seventh year. Clothes, warm coats, toys and other gifts totaling \$650 were donated to two families with five children, ages 8 months to 12-years-old. Gifts were purchased, wrapped and presented to the families in honor of GBSC-NC and WBH&FMC Executive Secretary-Treasurers Dr. Haywood Gray and Dr. Sherry Arnold-Graham. GBSC staffers included Darcelle McNeill, the Rev. Selma Hunter, Sherard Johnson, a work-study intern, Sherry Wiggins with WBH&FMC, DeNeen Hunter, a student volunteer, and the Rev. Theodore Breeden (not pictured).

## Is 'Churchy' lingo turning off Millennials?

### WIRE REPORTS

Accepted phrases like "everything happens for a reason" and "God's in charge" can alienate young people and others who are unfamiliar with the deeper truths behind such jargon, some Baptist ministers say.

If there were an 11th commandment, for Millennials it might be "thou shalt ban pious slogans from thy midst." In fact, faith-based lingo — like "everything happens for a reason" and "God is in control" — is coming under increased scrutiny as younger Americans increasingly cite it as a major turn-off to congregational life.

Baptist minister Michael Gregg saw that clearly in a recent Washington Post blog titled "5 churchy phrases that are scaring off millennials," which he reposted on Facebook.

He said the blog reminded him that outsiders looking and listening in on the church may be confused or

offended by deep spiritual concepts reduced to pithy sayings.

"When you hear 'God is in control' you have to think, what about all the bad things that happen?" said Gregg, the minister of educational life at Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta. "Those are the kinds of things Millennials are asking."

Addie Zierman, the writer of the Nov. 7 Washington Post blog, is a member of that generation. She grew up in an evangelical church and abandoned organized Christianity before joining a community church in Minnesota.

Zierman reminded readers that young people are leaving or avoiding church, many times, because of the odd things they hear in sanctuaries and from Christians. Much of it creates an insiders-versus-outsiders feel.

"Here is what I can tell you about millennials," Zierman wrote. "We grew up on easy answers, catch-phrases and cliché, and if we've learned anything, it's

that things are almost always more complicated than that."

*Jeff Brumley is assistant editor of Associated Baptist Press.*



### Shaw University Opens Small Business Resource Center

Shaw University recently opened its first-ever Small Business Resource Center. In partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Center will assist Shaw students and members of the Raleigh community with resources to start, finance and operate a successful business. In addition, the Center will host seminars and workshops on a variety of small business topics, including business planning, credit building and marketing. The Center is a product of the Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) Shaw signed with the SBA on May 9, 2013.

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### BAPTIST INFORMER

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# Continue Mandela's Legacy

The world recently lost Nelson Mandela, one of the most revolutionary leaders of our time. At a moment when our Congress is divided, when people continue to suffer from hunger and poverty around the world, Mandela's passing reminds us of the change that is possible if we unite.



President Obama made a speech on poverty and income inequality earlier this month. He sounded some of the same themes that Bread for the World stresses in its 2014 Hunger Report— investing in good jobs, ending the political brinkmanship that led to the sequester, investing in people, strengthening the safety net, and encouraging community partnerships.

However, we are disappointed that the president didn't draw a line in the sand against further cuts to food stamps or poverty focused development. A drastic cut in food stamps just took effect, and Congress is considering even deeper cuts in the coming days. A

great speech is not a substitute for tough resolve on one of the most effective components of our safety net.

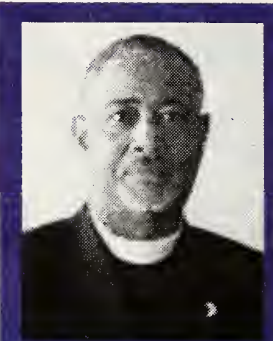
Churches and food charities nationwide are already overwhelmed by increased need resulting from recent cuts to SNAP. The recent cuts slashed 10 million meals a day from the SNAP program, which is more than all churches and charities combined in this country provide. We are in danger of losing more with Congress considering proposals for additional cuts more than twice as large.

Some Republican leaders—Paul Ryan and Eric Cantor, for example—have said that they plan to explain how conservative principles can lead to more opportunity for struggling, low-income Americans. Now is the time for them to explain more fully what they have in mind. I'd love to see our two parties compete to demonstrate their effectiveness in tackling hunger and poverty.

Ladders of opportunity can't exist if the safety net is in shreds. People around the world will continue to live in a perpetual cycle of hunger and poverty if we neglect our poverty-focused development assistance. Now is the time for President Obama and congressional leaders to stand up and forcefully protect programs that enable hardworking people to put food on the table and provide a secure future for their kids.

If we are to continue Nelson Mandela's legacy, Congress must robustly support life-saving humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance in all up-

# Bread for Life



Bishop Don DiXon  
**WILLIAMS**

coming fiscal year 2014 funding negotiations and related legislative activity.

*Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial-ethnic outreach at Bread for the World and sits on the Board of Bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

**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.*

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# Music Matters: Using A Gift To Heal

**H**ave you ever heard a song that triggered a memory or a feeling? Has a song ever moved you to tears? Have you ever been sad, and heard the right song and perked right up? Have you ever been in church and seen how music can affect people around you differently? Don't worry you are not alone if you have ever experienced any of these scenarios or others.



Music has long been used as a way for people to express their feelings and emotions. Music is used to communicate with others and it is also used as a way to channel energy or relax. Daily, music is used to reach large amounts of people, so why not use this element of expression to assist in the healing process. The power in music is often taken for granted but that alone does not lessen its impact on individuals and collective groups of people. Music can heal, connect, and change, so much so that it is used in health-care as a successful model to treat patients.

## What Is Music Therapy?

According to the American Music Therapy Association, music therapy is an allied health profession that utilizes clinical and evidence-based music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship. As one of the expressive

therapies, it consists of a process in which a music therapist uses music and its forms (physical, emotional, mental, social, aesthetic, and spiritual) to help improve a person's health. Music therapy can help improve;

- Mental functioning
- Motor skills
- Emotional/Cognitive development
- Social skills
- Quality of life

Music therapy has been proven to affect a person's behavior, feelings, and thoughts, as well as being able to assist with managing stress, improving communication and expressing emotions. Some types of music experiences included in therapy are free improvisation, singing, and listening to, discussing, and moving to music. These experiences are very helpful to achieving goals during treatment.

## Music Therapy's Roots

Historically, you can trace the roots of music therapy in various cultures and time periods. In the Old Testament, you can read about David playing the harp to rid King Saul of evil spirits. Around 400 B.C. the ancient Greek physician, Hippocrates, often referred to as the father of western medicine, used music on his mental patients. Native American medicine men often use traditional chants and dances as a way of healing the sick. In more recent times, music therapy was used on war veterans in the early 20th Century, especially those soldiers suffering from war-related trauma.

## Music Therapy in Healthcare

Music therapy can compliment other therapies while building upon therapeutic goals to increase and improve; brain power, memory, social skills, confidence, and creativity. More hospitals are utilizing music therapists to help both patients and families. Recently, researchers at Harvard Medical School have found that music therapy can ease recovery from heart ailments. In a study it was found that music can;

- Lower blood pressure
- Slow the heart rate
- Lessen anxiety

# Research reveals simple solution to help address deadly problem

## WIRE REPORTS

**G**REENSBORO, NC – During flu and cold season, one of the most frequent hygiene hints is hand washing.

Sounds simple, right? The problem is how to get people to follow that advice.

Here's how the study was conducted:

Towel dispensers in public restrooms at UNCG were set to present a towel either with or without activation by users; the two modes were set to operate alternately for 10 weeks. Wireless sensors were used to record entry into bathrooms. Towel and soap consumption rates were checked weekly. There were 97,351 hand-washing opportunities across all restrooms.

The results: A visual cue can increase hand-washing compliance in public facilities. Towel use was 22.6 percent higher and soap use was 13.3 percent higher when the dispenser presented the towel without user activation than when activation was required.

"It's so simple that it seems almost intuitive, but the most important study implication is that public facility managers can easily and inexpensively improve the public health of the communities that they serve," said Ford.

It's an important health issue, Ford said, noting that statistics on hospital infection rates show that in the U.S., deaths from flu-related causes have ranged from 3,000 to 49,000 over the years. ([http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/us\\_flu-related\\_deaths.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/us_flu-related_deaths.htm)).

The research grew out of UNCG's sustainability committee, which posed the question, "Does saving towels come at the expense of good hand hygiene?" The study was funded by the Bryan School and was conducted in the spring of 2012.

Ford was the study's principal investigator. Brian Boyer, who was earning a master's of public health during the study, managed data collection and entry from the sites. Colleagues who helped with the study design and analysis were Timothy R. Huerta of the

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

In a recent talk with Mrs. Alma Mickens Jones, Minister of Music at Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, NC; she expressed the first-hand experiences of people's reaction to music therapy.

"People are often taken back to a place that has significant meaning to them by simply hearing certain songs. Music will jog memories and help people express themselves in a way that normal communication does not always permit. It is always good to see people regain cherished moments of life, especially through music."

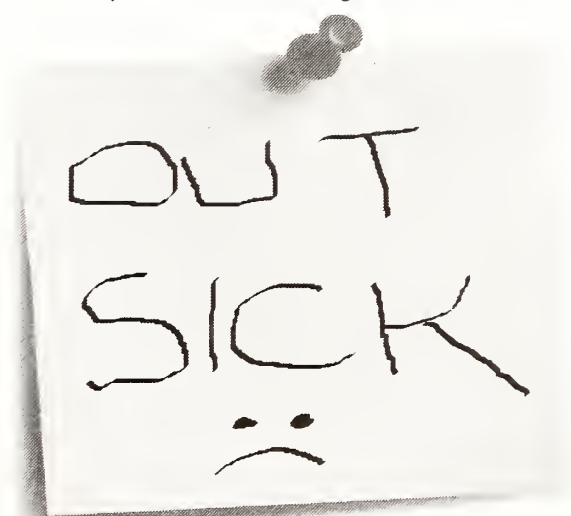
Mrs. Jones holds a Master's degree in Music Therapy and also has the distinction of being the first African American to receive a Bachelor's degree in Music from Duke University.

There are numerous benefits to music therapy. Take time to consider keeping a log of music that personally matters to you and update it often. You never know when that very log might be used to help you or a loved one. To learn more about music therapy, please visit the American Music Therapy Association's website, <http://www.musictherapy.org>.

For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

Cornell P. Wright, MPA, Health Consultant, Center for Health and Healing, Inc., a Nonprofit Affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention, Inc.

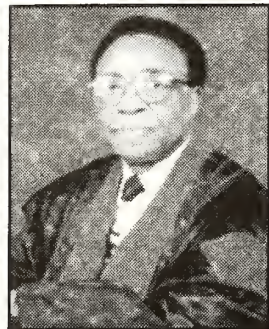
Ohio State University College of Medicine and Nir Menachemi of the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.



# • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

## Dr. Willie B. Lewis Celebrates Fifty Years At First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church

The members of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. held various celebrations during 2013 to honor the long tenure of their Pastor, Dr. Willie B. Lewis.



A Pastoral Banquet of Distinction was held on November 16, 2013 in the Willie B. Lewis Family Life Ministries Building. Dr. George C. Debnam of the Debnam Clinic was the keynote speaker. Additionally, the church celebrated

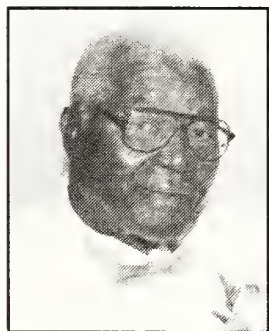
Dr. Lewis' Fiftieth Anniversary on Nov. 17. The guest speaker was Dr. C.R. Edwards, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N.C.

Dr. Lewis, former President of the General Baptist State Convention, is a native of Nashville, North Carolina. He holds A. B. and Master of Divinity Degrees from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. He has done additional graduate study at the Southeastern Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC and earned a Doctorate of Ministry Degree at Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Lewis came to Fayetteville Street Baptist Church, later First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church with pastoral experience in three churches in Wake County and Shiloh Baptist Church in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Under his leadership the church built the present church, a family life ministries building, operated a day care center, and built Cosmo-Lewis Estates for the elderly and handicapped. He is one of the original five ministers to build Rich Park, a 100 unit complex which gives tenants rent supplements. He is married to the former Lillie Mae Hilliard and they have two daughters and two grandsons.

## The GBSC-NC Family sends heartfelt sympathy ...



The Reverend John D. Morrissey, former Moderator of Kenansville Eastern Missionary Baptist Association, recently passed and was funeralized on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at Greater Six Runs Baptist Church in Turkey, N.C. The Rev. Leslie Morrissey (nephew) officiated.

Rev. Morrissey was the Pastor of Graham Chapel Missionary Baptist in Pink Hill, N.C. and Willard Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Willard, N.C.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever ... That He said if you believe in my Son, you will have everlasting Life.*

— John 3:16

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WIRE REPORTS

**Harvard surgeon, best-selling author Atul Gawande to speak at UNC Commencement**

Dr. Atul Gawande, a celebrated surgeon and best-selling author, will deliver the spring Commencement address at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on May 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Kenan Stadium.

Gawande was selected in consultation with the University's Commencement Speaker Selection Committee, which includes students and faculty. He also will receive an honorary doctor of science degree.

"Carolina is privileged to have Dr. Atul Gawande as our spring Commencement speaker," Folt said. "His remarkable career as a distinguished surgeon, writer and researcher is inspiring. He is changing the future of medicine while also serving the public good."

Gawande practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He is professor in the department of health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health and professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School.

An accomplished surgeon, a successful writer, and a popular and dynamic speaker, Gawande offers audiences a unique perspective on the practice of medicine. He encourages incremental reforms that build on the strengths and limitations of the current health-care system, and speaks on how to improve care and lower costs. He is the lead adviser for the World Health Organization's Safe Surgery Lives Program, and is the founder and chairman of Lifebox, an international not-for-profit that implements systems and technologies to reduce surgical deaths globally.

Gawande has been a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine since 1988. He has written three best-selling books. His most recent, "The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right," shows how even a simple five-point checklist can decrease up to two-thirds of intensive-care unit infections. He suggests that as modern medicine—and the modern world—becomes increasingly complex, the proper response is ever-simpler measures. He has won the AcademyHealth's Impact Award for highest research impact on health care and was named one of the

world's 100 most influential thinkers by Foreign Policy and TIME magazine. In 2006, he was named a MacArthur Fellow for his writing and efforts to improve surgical practices and medical ethics.

In 2012, Gawande founded Ariadne Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation run through Harvard and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. The center aims to create more efficient, higher quality health care while simplifying the whole system. He graduated from Stanford University in 1987 before becoming a Rhodes Scholar, earning a degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford.

After Oxford he embarked on a brief political career before obtaining his medical and master's of public health degrees from Harvard.

**Groups Charge NC is Trying to Prevent Voters from Participating in 2014 Elections**

**ACLU, Southern Coalition for Social Justice Seek Judicial Review of Voter Suppression Law in Time for Next Year's Midterm Elections**

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – The American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice today asked a federal court to hear their legal challenge to North Carolina's sweeping voter suppression law in time for voters to participate in the crucial 2014 midterm elections. In contrast, North Carolina asked the court to delay the trial date well into 2015. The law takes effect next month.

"What is Governor McCrory so afraid of?" said Dale Ho, director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project. "If he truly believes in the integrity of elections, he'd want this case resolved as soon as possible. Instead, he wants these suppressive measures in place during the 2014 elections, making it harder for North Carolinians to vote."

Immediately after Gov. Pat McCrory signed the voter suppression bill into law in August, the ACLU, the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation, and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice filed their legal challenge. The

suit targets provisions that eliminate a week of early voting, end same-day registration, and prohibit "out-of-precinct" voting. The groups charge that enacting these provisions would unduly burden the right to vote and discriminate against African-American voters, in violation of the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "These measures need to be reviewed for their legality and their constitutionality before the next election," said Chris Brook, legal director of the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation. "No person's right to vote in North Carolina should be jeopardized without that judicial review."

The case, League of Women Voters of North Carolina et al. v. North Carolina, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. It was brought on behalf of several North Carolinians who will face substantial hardship under the law, and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, the North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Institute, North Carolina Common Cause, and Unifour Onestop Collaborative, whose efforts to promote voter participation in future elections will be severely hampered if the measure takes effect.

"Moving swiftly to resolve these claims is consistent with how other voting rights cases across the country have been tried – more importantly, it's what the voters in North Carolina deserve," said Southern Coalition for Social Justice attorney Allison Riggs, who presented today's request to the court.

More information about this case is at: <https://www.aclu.org/voting-rights/league-women-voters-north-carolina-et-al-v-north-carolina>.

**Philippi Baptist Church  
Pastoral Vacancy Announcement**

Philippi Baptist Church located in Cofield, North Carolina is currently seeking an Under-Shepherd to serve its church family.

**Preferred Qualifications include:**

1. Spiritual and Emotional Maturity
2. Five years of experience as a Pastor, or Associate/Assistant Minister, but will accept less
3. A teacher and preacher of God's Word
4. Seminary degree is required
5. Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Church Covenant or willing to be ordained by the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association
6. Willing to support all church ministries, including Sunday School, Bible Study, Special Programs, etc., as well as attend Church Conference meetings
7. Effective communication skills and the ability to relate all age groups in the church
8. Visit the sick and shut-in
9. Willing to submit to personal background check or other information as needed
10. Perform other pastoral duties as needed.

All applications/resumes must be received by March 31, 2014

Please mail all applications/resumes to:  
Philippi Baptist Church Pulpit Committee  
Post Office Box 5  
ATTENTION: Avis A. Archer, Church Clerk  
Cofield, North Carolina 27922



**Dr. Mary Sharpe**

President of the Baptist Training Union

O taste and see that the Lord is good:

Blessed is the man that trusted in Him (Psalms 34:8)

Dr. Mary Sharpe has been a very instrumental part of the Roanoke Association. She has been the President of the BTU since the 1990's. In her speech, she said, "We must continue to teach, observe and encourage our brother's and sister's in Christ, to dress up each day in the "Fruit of the Spirit."

# Cleaning house can produce treasurers

Sometimes, what starts out as a little tidying up can turn into a major project.

That's what happened one recent Saturday. A friend, who doesn't drive, asked me to take a few things to the dump. I figured if I was going to throw away stuff, I should check to see if I had one or two things that needed to go to the dump, as well.

At first I tossed in a little something here and a little something there. Then, my husband, Ken, mustered up the nerve to ask if I was ever actually going to use the mini trampoline that was supposed to become my source of daily exercise when I bought it last year. I had only used it twice. After I yelled at him for only choosing items of mine to toss, I decided the trampoline didn't need to go to the dump, but should be donated to a thrift store. Pretty soon

we were loading one car for the dump and another for the thrift store. Ken added his baseball gloves and bats from high school and some extra golf practice sets to the thrift store pile.

That was when we found the bucket we stashed away a couple of hours before Christmas dinner two years ago. The plan had been to retrieve it immediately after the holidays, but we forgot. Sorting through the container brought surprises. There were a few bills (sure hope we paid them), a Christmas card we forgot to open, pictures, an unused gift card (nice) and some things that we decided if we hadn't used in two years, we probably didn't need. The best gift that came out of the cleanup, I'm a little ashamed to say, was the ability to finally park another car in the garage. It's as if we gave ourselves an addition to our home.

The pleasant surprises from the garage cleaning made me think about the benefits that come from cleaning our spiritual houses.

Just as cleaning out a garage can make room for the item that's actually supposed to reside there – a car, likewise, clearing out room in our minds and hearts can make room for what's actually supposed to live there – the holy spirit.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19, NKJV).

What's clogging our space? You name it – life stressors such as bills, family and work; misplaced priorities that allow no time for God; unexpected events such as accidents and natural disasters; and poor physical health that reduces the energy to clean our Godly homes.



Our junk is pretty easy to conquer when we consider some of the cleanup jobs in the Bible. Remember the time Hezekiah had to clean out the Temple in the nation of Judah? (Exodus 28:40 – 29:9; 2 Kings 18:1-8) Judah was so cluttered with idols, it had left no space for God. Hezekiah went in there and took out the junk, one item at a time, with God's guidance.

It works with God's guidance. “Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133 NKJV)

Tuck a few things away. Some nooks have hidden treasurers: “Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11 NKJV)

Most of all, remember that Philippians 4:13 (NKJV), guarantees us that we're not working alone, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

*Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda\_Douglas@unc-edu.*



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

## Pastor Vacancy Announcement

### First Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.

505 South Wilkes Street  
Post Office Box 482  
Chadbourn, NC 28431  
(Phone) 910-654-3225 / (Fax) 910-654-1710  
[www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org](http://www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org)

First Missionary Baptist Church of Chadbourn, North Carolina is seeking a full-time pastor called by God to serve as the spiritual leader of the congregation. The pastor will be responsible to God and the church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach the Bible, to provide Christian leadership in all areas of the church and to engage in pastoral care of the congregation. The pastor will also be responsible for the overall leadership of the day-to-day operations of the church, services, membership and promoting the spiritual interest and growth of the church.

#### How to Acquire Required Documents:

- Candidate packets are available online at [www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org](http://www.Firstmbcchadbourn.org)
- Call the church office at 910-654-3225 to request a packet by mail or fax

The deadline for all information to be postmarked or submitted is **January 31, 2014.**

Any candidate's package postmarked after **January 31, 2014** will not be considered.

## Pastor Vacancy Announcement

#### Position:

Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, North Carolina is seeking a full-time pastor called by God to serve as spiritual leader of the congregation.

#### Personal & Professional Qualification:

1. Must be guided by the principles set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
2. Must be a person of prayer, good faith, Godly character and Divinely called to God's ministry.
3. Must be baptized by immersion as set forth by Baptist Doctrine.
4. Must be licensed, trained and ordained in the Baptist ministry.
5. Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university, college or seminary.
6. Minimum of 3 years of pastoral experience preferred.

#### Duties of the Pastor:

1. Serve as spiritual leader for the congregation.
2. Plan and conduct worship service.
3. Provide Pastoral guidance and counseling to congregants as needed.

All interested and qualified persons must submit a candidate packet consisting of the following information:

1. Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church Application Form (download from – [beautyspotmbc.org](http://beautyspotmbc.org))
2. Cover Letter.
3. Current Resume (include email address and phone number).
4. Two professional references (pastors).
5. Copy of certificate of license and ordination.
6. Copy of your degree(s).
7. Proof of theology training.
8. Two DVDs of recent sermons within the last six months (optional).

Please mail these items, NO LATER THAN February 28, 2014 to:

Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church  
ATTN: Pulpit Search Committee  
P.O. Box 25268  
Fayetteville, NC 28314

The candidate packet must be postmarked NLT February 28, 2014. Any packet postmarked after that date will be destroyed without consideration. The committee will acknowledge receipt of all items by email notification.

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# Ushers Convention



# USHERS

**February 22, 2014**  
**(Saturday) (8:00 am)**

**One Day Session**

**St. Paul's Baptist Church**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**

**Mark Your Calendar**

## BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
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