

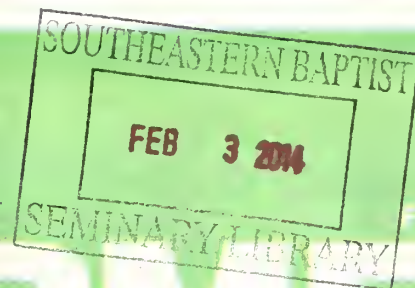
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BAPTIST INFORMER

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February 2014



Race perception gap widening, study shows

WIRE REPORTS

Fifty years after Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech envisioned unity between blacks and whites, a new study finds a growing gap in racial attitudes and experiences in America.

"We do not live in a post-racial nation, ... but in a land of two Americas divided by race, and less willing than ever to find a common ground of understanding," David Briggs of the Association of Religion Data Archives wrote, describing findings of the 2012 Portraits of American Life Study.

The study, a second wave of a major study on religion and race led in 2006 by sociologists Michael Emerson of Rice University and David Sikkink of the University of Notre Dame, found increases in the percentage of both whites and blacks who felt they have been treated unfairly because of their race. One in four agreed with the statement: "It's OK to have a country where the races

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2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet

MEMORIAL GALA - The life and legacy of Dr. King was celebrated by hundreds of clergy, church leaders and laypersons associated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. during the Annual MLK Memorial Banquet held on January 10 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham, N.C. President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. (center) is pictured with Vice President Reverend Dr. Nilous Avery, II, and MLK Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York. (Additional photos inside The Informer.)

Dr. Gaddis Faulcon - New Acting President at Shaw University

PRESS REPORTS

Shaw University's Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Joseph N. Bell recently announced the appointment of Dr. Gaddis Faulcon as Acting President of Shaw University. The appointment was made during a meeting of the Board of Trustees Executive Committee on December 30, 2013. Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, who previously served as Shaw's president, retired on December 31st.

Dr. Faulcon's appointment began January 1, 2014 and will continue until the national search for a permanent president is completed. The Acting President is not eligible to apply for the permanent presidency.



"Dr. Faulcon has a proven record of excellence in higher education and has been committed to our students, faculty and staff for more than 15 years," said Dr. Bell. "We are confident that the University will continue to flourish and advance under his leadership."

Prior to Dr. Faulcon accepting the appointment of Acting President, he served as Dean of Shaw's College of Graduate and Professional Studies and as an Associate Professor of Public Administration. His career in academia spans more than 25 years with both teaching and administrative positions, including serving as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Saint Augustine's College and as the Acting Executive Director for Northeastern North Carolina Tomorrow, Inc. at Elizabeth City State University.

University.

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Renew!

TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form

Race perception gap widening, study shows

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are basically separate from one another, as long as they have equal opportunity.”

In 2012, nearly half of blacks, including 52 percent of black Protestants, said they thought about their race daily. Just 10 percent of whites reported the same degree of racial awareness.

Nearly six in 10 white Americans — including 69 percent of white evangelical Protestants — believe one of the best ways to improve race relations is to stop talking about race. That's up from 45 percent in 2006. The percentage of black Americans saying the same thing also rose from 31 percent in 2006 to 39 percent in 2012, including 44 percent of black Protestants.

In 2006, slightly more than a third of white respondents said the government should do more to help minorities increase their standard of living. In 2012, just a quarter of white respondents favored such government action. During the same period, the percentage of black respondents favoring a greater role for government rose from 71 percent in 2006 to 79 percent in 2012.

Both races increasingly view themselves as victims of racial prejudice. Fourteen percent of whites said they had been treated unfairly because of their race in the last three years, up from 8 percent in 2006. The percentage of blacks reporting prejudice rose from 36 percent in 2006 to 46 percent in 2012.

Observers termed the findings sobering in a year that saw 50th anniversary commemorations of the Civil Rights Movement — including Dr. King's Aug. 28, 1963, words at the Lincoln Memorial, considered one of the top 100 speeches in American history, and the Dec. 5 death of Nelson Mandela, a symbol of racial reconciliation for his work to end apartheid in South Africa.

A recent controversy over a television reality show hinted at how differently Americans perceive the issue of racism. “Duck Dynasty” star Phil Robertson, in the news for expressing his views on homosexuality in a magazine interview, also commented that he never heard blacks he knew in pre-Civil Rights Louisiana complain about their treatment by whites.

Dwight McKissic, a prominent black Southern Baptist pastor who has in the past pointed out his own denomination's shortcomings in matching its rhetoric on racial reconciliation with concrete action, gave Robertson a pass, saying there was some truth to his comment and that it didn't suggest all Southern blacks were happy under Jim Crow.

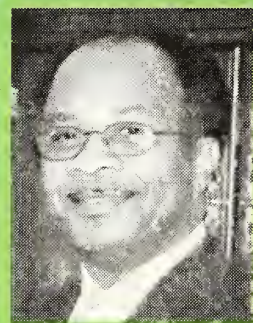
Fred Luter, the first African-American to be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that he agreed with Robertson about homosexuality but took exception to his views on race.

Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, said in a story distributed by Associated Press that there was nothing happy about segregation or “being hung in a tree because of your race,” adding that blacks were definitely complaining, if not to Robertson.

Alan Bean, a white American Baptist minister who leads Friends of Justice — a ministry that spotlights racial inequality in America's criminal justice system — said people like Robertson and Fox News personality Megyn Kelly, criticized for saying both Santa Claus and Jesus were white, “don't mean to be mean” but think like they do because of “social isolation.”

Bob Allen is managing editor of Associated Baptist Press.

The Power Of Love



Dr. Joseph R. ROGERS, SR.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that love not knoweth not God; for God is love”. (1 John 4:7, 8)

Love = feel affection for, to adore, to be devoted to, to care for.

Valentine's Day is a national holiday honoring love and acts of love. It is a time when many people get into, what I term, the “Love Mode” and do special things for the ones they love and care for. It is a time when flowers, candy and rings (diamond) are often purchased. Valentine's cards are often designed with red hearts to symbolize love.

Without a doubt, it is very important that you and I understand what love is and its place in relationships between (God & Man), (Husband & Wife), (Parent & Child), and (Friend & Friend). God loved man (mankind) so much that he gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; therefore, real love is more than just feelings or thoughts.

They are ‘actions’ or ‘applications’ of those feelings and thoughts.

Love is what God is all about. Love is what should drive all that we do toward God for relationship and our mankind for companionship (male & female).

Our Christian faith is based on L.O.V.E. Jesus told His disciples and us today to love one another as I have love you and by this will others know that belong to Me, (Jesus), because you love. What a wonderful atmosphere it would be if LOVE saturated our intentions, thinking, motives and actions.

There would be no broken relationships.

There would be no divorces.

There would be no crime. There would be no problem in the church fellowship.

What is Love = A strong feeling of affections according to the dictionary, but the biblical definition goes somewhat deeper. The Greek language offers us three (3) words describing LOVE. Two of these are conditional; while the other one has no condition.

“Eros” love = relationship love,

“Philo” love = friendship

love, and

“Agape” love = God's love for humanity.

The love that is discussed in this short essay is “Agape Love” = love because of and in spite of.

This love of God put up with you and me regardless to our actions.

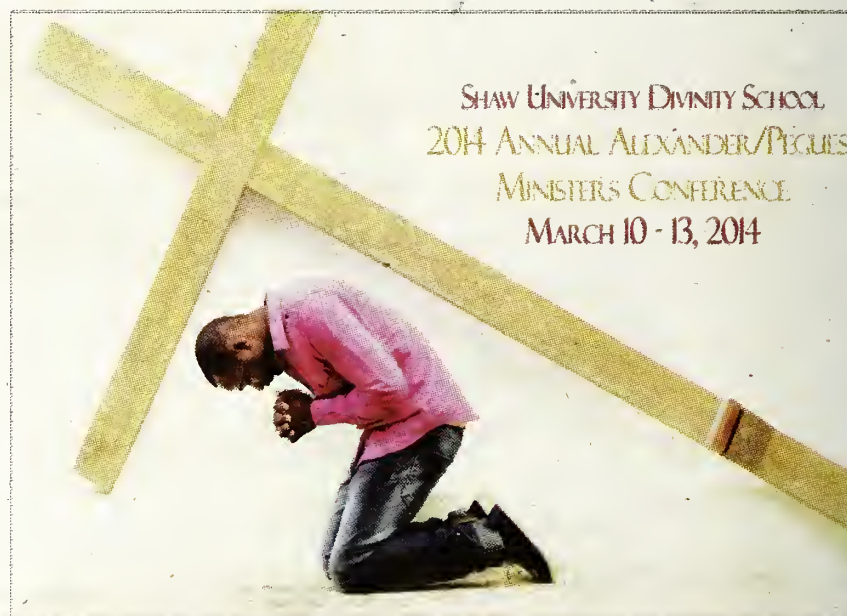
1 John 4:7-“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love”.

Therefore, if a person loves God, he becomes a loving person; he takes on the very nature of God. If a person really loves God, then he does what God does: he loves everyone.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

This text states that we must do what God does - love and care for other people: rich and poor, healthy and suffering, deserving and undeserving, acceptable and unacceptable, good and bad.

Dr. Joseph R. Rogers, Sr., is an Associate Minister at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. You may reach him at rojger3420@aol.com.



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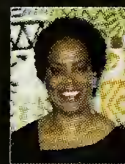
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From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large ...

You Are the Light to 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

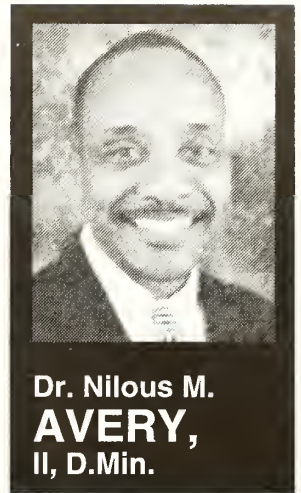
God's power strengthens Christian communities.

The work of our convention is "light-shining" work. Missions is what we do. We do it through your

support of the following objectives: State Missions, Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children's Home of North Carolina, J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention. We have done this since 1867! Under the leadership and insight of our President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. 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 can be reached at: averyrevkin@aol.com.



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

The Stigma Associated with Mental Illness

Mental illness, especially anxiety and depression, is on the rise among adolescents and young adults in America. Like many other illnesses affecting the physical body, mental illness's effect on poor and minority communities is huge, and its cost to society in general is incalculable. Many families, irrespective of race, ethnicity or nationality, are affected by the painful and debilitating illness of depression and other forms of mental illness. These illnesses often go untreated because of the age-old stigma that accompanies the diagnosis.



Joe WEBSTER
Guest Columnist

Several years ago I met a young man who told me of his struggle with depression. He told me he had enrolled in college and, without warning, became very depressed. He did not know what was happening to him. He stopped associating with his classmates and stopped going to class. There were days when he could not even get out of bed. His mother took him to the doctor, but when the doctor diagnosed him as suffering from severe

depression requiring immediate in-patient treatment, the mother refused to admit him. Being a person of faith, she thought she could help him get well.

The stresses of the legal profession most likely affect its members disproportionately. In recent years around the state there have been several suicides among members of our profession. Each member of the legal bar should do his or her part to get rid of the mental health stigma.

On December 20 and 27, 2008, I accompanied several others, including psychologist Dr. Alfee M. Breland-Noble, to the Shaw University campus to appear on the radio talk show, "Traces of Faces & Places." We discussed adolescent mental health, depression awareness and suicide prevention.

I had the opportunity to describe the many ways in which I see the manifestation of poor, unmanaged mental health in the juvenile justice and adult court system as well as the stigma associated with mental health within diverse communities. Another guest, whose teenage son had committed suicide, emphasized the significance of parents having the ability to distinguish between "typical teenage behavior" and clinically significant depression.

Dr. Breland-Noble mentioned on the program that some of her own patients had discussed that their reluctance to seek treatment was because they felt that as a black male in America, they already had enough strikes against them. "Being black and crazy" would make life even more difficult for them, they remarked.

Indeed young black males, who disproportionately make up those appearing in state and federal criminal courts, are particularly affected by undiagnosed mental illness. Often they end up being the victim of our court system which most often is illequipped to address the emotional and behavioral problems that lead many juvenile offenders into the judicial system.

As contributing author of the article titled, "Juvenile Mental Health Courts for Adjudicated Youth: Role Implications for Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses" in a 2011 publication of the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing (ISSN 1073-6077)(2011), I wrote, "the court system, like society in general, continues to ignore the fact that many of our juveniles come from broken homes, broken dreams, and broken minds brought on

by mental illnesses that they cannot control. Society, including the judicial system, has done far too little to rid society of the stigma that goes along with mental illness."

A recent Washington Post article (7/9/2013) reported that some therapists from major metropolitan areas have seen an increase in the number of African Americans seeking help for mental illness. The North Carolina Bar Association's BarCARES program, a confidential short-term intervention program which provides cost-free services to members of participating bar groups and their families, has also seen increasing numbers of those seeking professional care.

We need more members of the bar and others to publicly tell of their struggles with mental illness and how they have overcome and been successful in spite of their mental illness. It is not difficult to find well-known examples. Thank you, television reporter Mike Wallace, for telling your story. Thank you Mary J. Blige, Janet Jackson, Drew Carey, Halle Berry, Ellen DeGeneres, Harrison Ford, Sheryl Crow and others who have publicly talked about their own experiences with depression.

Perhaps unknowingly, you have contributed to the commendable goal of ridding society of the stigma related to mental illness. To those who suffer on a daily or periodic basis with depression or other mental illnesses, be encouraged and know that you are not alone, and just as importantly, there is treatment that will help you. NCL

Since November 7, 2012, Joe L. Webster has served as a United States Magistrate judge for the Middle District of North Carolina with chambers in Durham. He serves as 2nd Vice-President of BarCARES. More information about BarCARES may be found at www.bar-cares.org or by phoning 1-800-640-0735.

Developing and Maintaining Accountable Relationships

Continuing Strand 2: Discipleship

We have explored Making Disciples and Training Leaders. Now, two additional elements that must be discussed include Developing Accountable Relationships and Teaching People to live Effective Christian Lives (2 Timothy 2:2). I am anxious to bring to a conclusion the 2nd strand to the Great commission – Discipleship.

After all, discipleship is a way of life. Not a program.

In the book, Discipleship for the Man in the Mirror by Patrick Morley, he lists seven steps to a wise life. The seventh step is learning to “Develop personal Accountability.”

Note: I must pause here for a moment of transparency. I grew up in a non-discipleship congregation, as most of us, if we were to be honest. Therefore, I’m not writing as an expert, but as a disciple who is growing spiritually.

Now, let’s go back to Morley’s seventh step to a wise



life. People succeed or fail in four ways: Spiritually, Morally, Financially and relationally. No one ruins their life on purpose. Yet people all around us fail regularly. Why? According to Morley’s, “in our era, almost all Christians lead anonymous spiritual lives. Today’s Christians seem to be able to float in and out of the church without having to be accountable for their lives.”

Without accountability we have no one to whom we must give an answer for our lives. We have not given anyone permission to ask the hard questions. Our lives become shrouded in ambiguity of trite responses to questions asked by people who might actually care if we would be honest with them.” With so many problems of our own, we don’t often have the energy to express interest in how others are re-

ally doing. So, they often fail and so do we.

The overarching goal of accountability is to help people succeed in life. This only can come to pass by leading a life that pleases God. How? By living a life of integrity.

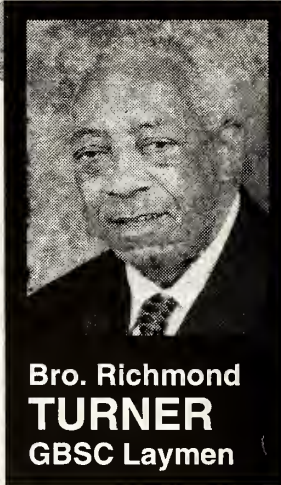
Integrity is a one-on-one correlation between my Bible, my Beliefs, and my behavior.

Walking transparently before some brothers or sisters creates the highest probability for leading a successful life with integrity. Isolation from the valuable views of maturing Christians contributes to failing in life, not succeeding.

At the precise time when we need some friends to help us make the right choices, we are culturally moving toward isolation from each other.”

As I look back on my Christian life, I find that I’m operating more without any meaningful accountability. Therefore, my objectivity is lacking in a lot of cases. Without accountability, we are syncretizing Christianity with Humanism. Let us all make the effort needed to live wisely by maintaining accountable relationships.

Reach Bro. Turner at: Iturn60@aol.com.



Bro. Richmond TURNER
GBSC Laymen

Seeing and Believing: Exploring True Faith in Believers

How can seeing be believing? I maintain that believing must be followed by the deeper understanding that will be possible only after the glorification of Christ.

The relationship of seeing and believing, with reference to the life of Christ, is a major problem in the Gospel of John. We meet the two words ‘seeing’ and ‘believing’ at every turn, so to speak in John’s Gospel. We hear as early as the prologue: ‘we have seen his glory’ (Chapter 1:14) and the book reaches its climax in the account of Doubting Thomas.

We cannot overstress the point that it is not by chance that this is the last narrative of the Gospel proper and it has not been sufficiently recognized that the last words

of Jesus which stands in the Fourth Gospel are these words to Thomas, Chapter 20:29): ‘Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.’

John has placed these words at the end of his book as the crown of his whole work, since his readers are among those who has not seen and yet ought to believe.

John does not claim by any means that the eyewitness is of no account. The words in the prologue

about those who have seen the glory are in accordance with the words at the end of the Gospel. It is obvious that there were those in Jesus’ lifetime who first of all saw and that all of a latter day, who have not themselves seen, can seek support in the witness of those who actually did see with their own eyes. But it is not sufficient to seek support in an eyewitness, however necessary that may also be. There must be added to this an act of faith, which a deeper understanding of the life of Jesus presupposes. In this respect readers are in exactly the same situation as John himself.

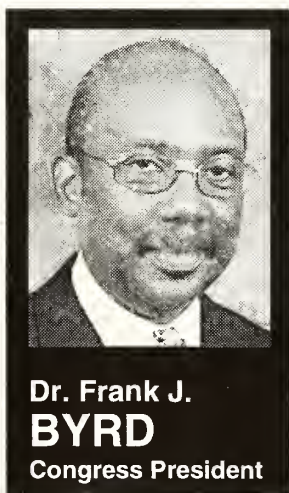
We find therefore in John’s Gospel, on one hand passages which stress the necessity of seeing and, on the other hand, passages which stress the necessity of believing. At first sight it seems a contradiction to say, on the one hand, that seeing is what matters, on the other hand, that not seeing but believing is what matters.

There is no contradiction in the fact that the necessity of seeing in the flesh is stressed on the one hand and that of faith on the other hand. In actual fact, this method of setting two things side by side is characteristic of all of John’s thinking and the aim of which he pursues.

Seeing alone is not sufficient to enable one to come to this faith. The eyewitnesses had to see, but for them also something else had to be added to the seeing. Thomas seeing had to be followed by faith.

faith which is based exclusive on seeing is not sufficient. A faith derived from things seen and nothing else is not true faith. True faith is an act which fulfils itself in the hearts of those who believe.

Reach Dr. Frank J Byrd at fjbyrd1@aol.com



Dr. Frank J. BYRD
Congress President

Mark Your Calendars
GBSC Laymen’s
Upcoming Events

March 8
Western Region, Liberty Hill MBC,
Claremont, NC

April 4-5
Annual Session, Neuse River MBA/
Neuse River Baptist Assembly
Rocky Mount N.C.

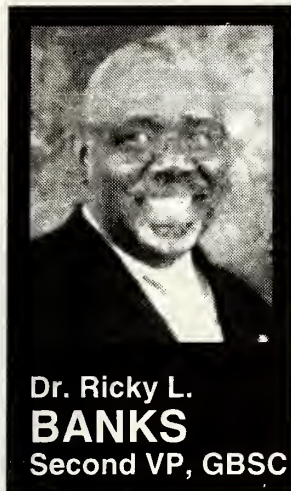
June 14
Eastern Region Ebenezer MBC,
Rocky Mt. N.C.

July 11-12
Men and Boy’s Retreat, Rev. Matthew
Rouse, Jr. Community Center

September 13
Piedmont Region Buffalo Springs MBC
Raeford N.C.

December 13
Central Region Redbud MBC,
Henderson N.C

Possible Obstacles to Receiving the Truth



Dr. Ricky L.
BANKS
Second VP, GBSC

As wonderful as it is to be pleasing to God, what are internal obstacles that keep us from reaching out and grasping this reality?

Addiction to the approval of others:

Because other people can give us such approval when we are successful and because we are addicted to obtaining that approval, we often do not want to live only the approval based on what

Christ provided for us. It is not that we should not enjoy the approval of others. The problem is when we have to have it in order to live in peace and joy.

A Sense of Hopelessness:

A sense of hopelessness can drive us to depend on God or drive us into passivity. We will never know the victory that God has for us when we are passive. God's way is for us to actively cooperate with Him.

A Desire to live by some formula:

Some of us only know our faith as a series of rules or steps. In order for you to experience what Christ has provided through justification, you must receive it through your relationship with Him, not by performing some ritual.

A Need to control:

Most of us have a priority system that goes something like this: air, water, food, control. We can hardly stand not to be in control. We can hardly stand not to be in control. However, if we are going to base our worth on what Christ did for us, then we will sense a loss of control.

Reasons for Obedience

The love of God and His acceptance of us are based on grace, His unmerited favor. They are not based on our ability to impress God through our good deeds. But if we are accepted on the basis of His grace and not our deeds, why should we obey God? Here are some compelling reasons to obey Him:

Christ's Love:

Understanding God's grace compels us to action because love motivates us to please the One who has so freely loved us. When we experience love, we usually respond by seeking to express our love in return. Our obedience to God is an expression of our love for Him (John 14:15, 21), which comes from an understanding of what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

Sin is destructive:

Satan has effectively blinded man to the painful, damaging consequences of sin. The effects of sin are all around us, yet many continue to indulge in the sex, status, pleasure seeking, and rampant self-centeredness that cause so much pain and anguish. Satan contradicted God in the Garden when he said, "You surely shall not die!" (Gen. 3:4). Sin is pleasant but only for a season. Sooner or later, sin will result in some form of destruction.

The Father's Discipline:

Our loving Father has given us the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin. Conviction is a form of God's discipline and serves as proof that we have become children of God (Heb. 12:5-11). If we choose to be unresponsive to the Holy Spirit, our heavenly Father will discipline us in love.

His commands are good for us:

God's commands are given for two good purposes:



to protect us from the destructiveness of sin and to direct us into a life of joy and fruitfulness. His commands are guidelines, given so that we might enjoy life to the fullest.

Eternal rewards:

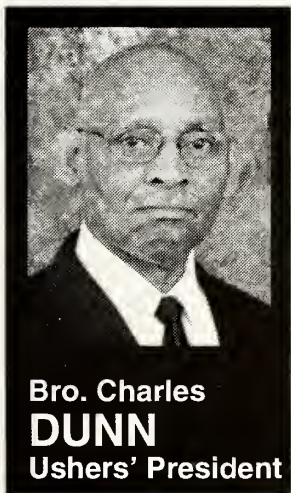
Through Christ's payment for us on the cross, we have escaped eternal judgment; however our actions will be judged by Christ. There, our performance will be evaluated and rewards presented for service to God. Rewards will be given for deeds that reflect a desire to honor Christ, but deeds performed in an attempt to earn God's acceptance, earn approval of others, or meet our own standards, will be rejected by God and consumed by fire.

Christ is worthy:

Our noblest motivation for serving Christ is simply that He is worthy of our love and obedience. Christ is worthy of our affection and obedience. There is no other person, no goal, no fame or status, and no material possession that can compare with Him. Our hearts will reflect the psalmist's perspective: Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth... But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all Thy works" (Psalms 73:25,28).

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

What is God's Standard for Worship



Bro. Charles
DUNN
Ushers' President

The only standard that has remained unchanged throughout history is the standard of God's word. God has revealed who he is and how his creation is to relate to him. When God speaks, that is it, for in his word we find his standard for worship, and it is as unchanging as God himself. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, so is his standard for worship. While man may shop for a God

that fits his personal standards, this does not change the standard against which all God's children are judged.

In the encounter which Jesus had with the Samaritan woman, Jesus made a startling announcement. He told the woman, "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the father in spirit." (John 4:23) Jesus was announcing that matters

of the exterior would become secondary and the matters of the interior were God's primary interest and requirement. Jesus would be looking to see if worship comes from within our innermost being, our hearts.

When our Lord said to the Samaritan woman a time is coming and now come when true worshippers will worship the father in spirit, He was making a direct reference to our inner being or our human spirit. Jesus told her that the place of worship would no longer have to be the temple of Jerusalem, but that wherever God's children gathered they could offer the father the worship He seeks as long as it was in the spirit. The apostle Paul knew what God wanted. He understood that our worship and service come from the inside. Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ, said "God whom I serve in my spirit in preaching of the gospel of His Son." (Romans 1:9) Paul's ministry itself was a form of worship. It was not something he did because he felt he had to rather it was something he did out of love for his Lord.

Worship comes from within. God is not at all impressed with outward expressions of worship that do not come from our hearts. No matter how excellent we may think we have executed worship, God only hears and receives what is offered to him in spirit.



Jesus noted this with great sorrow in his heart when he said, "These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain." (Matthew 15:8-9)

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. (Romans 12:1).

We look forward to seeing each of you at the One Day Session Feb. 22, 2014. Featured will be our Dean, a health seminar and the youth in action speaking on ushering.

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

What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching Is Hand Gesture

Facial expression was the focus of our previous article. In this article we argued that the preacher's face is worth a thousand words during actual delivery of the sermon. During the presentation of the sermon the question is not necessarily what Chris Tucker asked Jackie Chan in the movie Rush Hour, "Do you understand the

words that are coming out of my mouth?" Rather, the question the preacher should ask is "do you understand the message that is coming from my face?"

Such a question underscores how important and decisive facial expression is during the delivery of the sermon. This article continues the discussion concerning non

verbal communication with a focus on use of gestures as another effective channel of communication beyond words. In doing so, the question now is this: "Do you understand the functions or the words coming from my hands?"

Hand gestures communicate effectively beyond the use of words. One of the ways hand gestures communicate beyond words is through magnification. When



preachers use gestures they magnify their words or meaning during the delivery of the sermon. In many ways gestures underscore, complement, reinforce and add greater meaning to the preacher's argument. As argued by one writer, another way gestures function is not only to support words but serve in a manner,

which substitute the words of the preacher. In other words, hands talk even when the mouth does not. In this sense gestures function as a type of signal as a way to direct. For an example, traffic cops use their hands to direct traffic without saying a word. They simply tell motorists what to do by giving gestures or pointing hands. In a similar manner, soldiers when in bat-

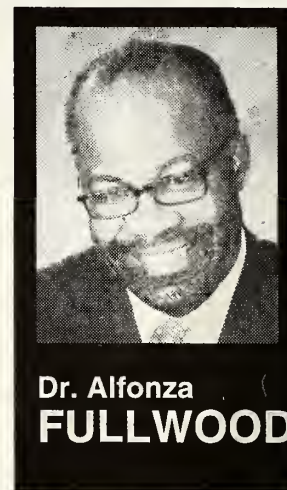
tle sometimes use hand signals for obvious reasons of remaining undetected by the enemy. Hand gestures in and of themselves help the listeners get the point.

Thus, preachers do well to remember that gestures can either help in communicating or hindering the message. To ensure that gestures serve and not obstruct the message, the preacher should make sure they are in step with the words. To achieve such a bal-

ance there must be harmony and rhythm between words and gestures. God forbid, if your words should travel in one direction and gestures another. No one enjoys seeing band members out of step with the music they are playing. Even worse, it is not appealing to see a dancer out of step with his or her partner. Likewise, non verbal communication lacks effectiveness when gestures are not in timing with the preacher's words. Finally, make sure your gestures are natural. Do not get carried away and overuse them. To do so defeats the purpose and becomes a distraction that takes away from the message.

In the next article, we will discuss the importance of eye contact in 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

Lott Carey Baptist Mission (India) Opens A Church at Bethany Leprosy Colony Gannaur, Haryana

Lott Carey Baptist Mission (India) recently opened its fourth church. It has been 40 years since we opened a new church in India, and we rejoice that the Bethany Baptist Church at Bethany Leprosy Colony, Gannaur, Haryana has been dedicated to the Glory of God.

Gannaur is a small town in the state of Haryana, about 45 kms from Delhi on the National Highway. The late Dr. Dorothy Chacko, a missionary from the United States, established a leprosy colony by the name Bethany Baptist Village in the early 1960s. She also started the first Broiler Chicken Farm in India in the village to help the unfortunate leprosy patients there to be self sufficient rather than begging for their livelihood. A small community hall was later built which Christians of the colony used for their Sunday worship service led by a Methodist Pastor. After a period of time this Pastor stopped coming, and there

was no worship service for many years. Some of the inmates of this colony approached the Lott Carey Baptist Mission to send a Pastor to this colony to conduct the Sunday Worship Services. Rev. C V Valson; Pastor of our Anandgram Leprosy Colony Church, was sent to conduct Sunday worship services once a month. There were already 22 Christian families and a congregation of 60.

Due to some litigation, the old community hall, which was already in a dilapidated state had to be demolished, and the Christian inmates did not have a place to worship. Lott Carey Baptist Mission then decided to build a proper Church at Bethany Village. The foundation stone of the church was laid by Lott Carey Superintendent,

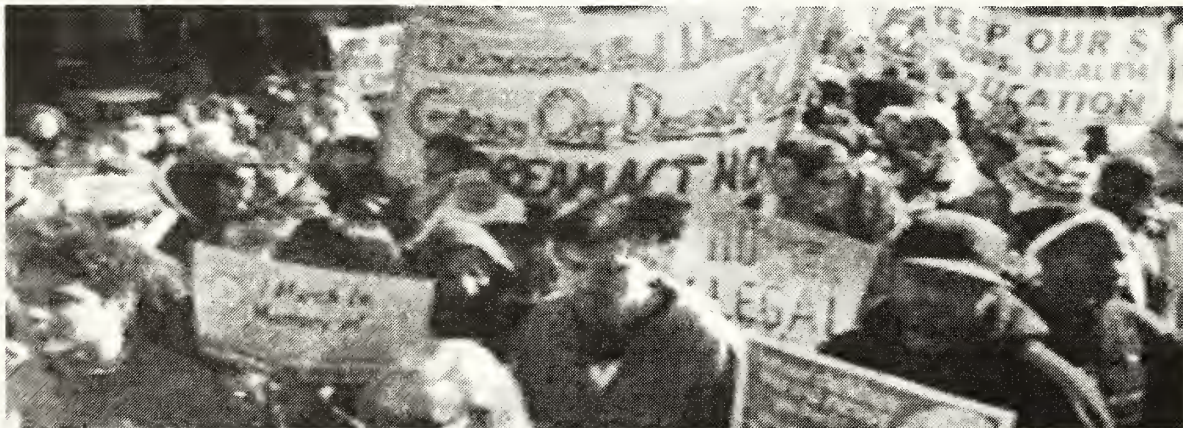


Thomas T. Roy on 28 July 2012.

The congregation started collecting donations from their friends and relatives, and Rev Valson also collected a considerable sum. The total cost of the building came to \$25,500.00 and the Mission contributed \$15,500.00 The rest of the amount was collected by the congregation and Rev. Valson.

By the Grace of God the church building was completed by May 2013. Superintendent Thomas T. Roy had the honour of inaugurating the Bethany Baptist Church, Gannaur, on 11th May 2013, and Mr. D K Chetsingh, President of Lott Carey Baptist Mission in India and Mrs. D A Tressler, Director of Somerville Schools graced the occasion. About 400 people from our other leprosy colony churches and staff of our headquarters at Daryaganj attended the Inauguration.

The size of the Church Building is 25'x40'. There is a balcony also which can accommodate around 30 people. The Head (Pradhan) of the Colony, a non-Christian, Mr. Kishan Murthy worked harder than anybody for the construction of this church. His father, Mr. Govind Samy, who was the former Pradhan, also supported and actively participated in the construction of the church. The Lord works through miraculous ways.



File photo

FORWARD TOGETHER - The historic Moral March HKonJ People's Assembly returns to Raleigh, N.C. on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Crowds will begin assembling at 9:30 a.m. at the campus of Shaw University, South Street. The march begins at 10:30 a.m. "The moral march on Raleigh is part of the anti-racist, anti-poverty, pro-labor, deeply moral Forward Together Moral Movement," according to Dr. William Barber, State President of the NAACP. "With diversity and solidarity, thousands will stand together against extremist policies being passed by the NC Governor and legislator and demand the 14-Point People's Agenda." For additional details, contact the NAACP at (919) 682-400 or www.hkonj.com.

Marbet Debuts on Broadway: Being called 'the new great dramatic soprano'

Raleigh native Maria Marbet recently debuted on Broadway in an opera composed by one of the 19th century's pre-eminent composers Giuseppe Verdi.

Maria, a dramatic classical opera soprano, played the lead role of Amelia in *Un Ballo in Maschera* (The Masquerade Ball) at Peter Norton's Symphony Space located at 95th Street and Broadway in New York.

The opera is filled with passion, mysticism and misunderstanding as it explores the love relationship between Amelia and her jealous husband, Renato. The enraged husband, Renato, ultimately executes revenge on his wife and their friend, Riccardo, during the 3.5-hour opera which was performed in Italian.

Maria's stage performance garnered positive reviews from theater critics, including Balentin Peytchinov who commented in his review that "this new young artist is the next dramatic soprano."

"It was an awesome, humbling experience and I was just very honored to be able to glorify the Lord with what He gave me," Maria said, during a recent interview. "The Word says that your talent will make room for you."

For nearly three months, Maria worked with an international cast of singers, linguists and acting coaches to create the 3.5-hour physically demanding production, which sold out on its first night.

Maria, who grew up singing in the youth choir at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, is a graduate of Broughton High School and North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. She is the daughter of Manny and Iris Marbet of Raleigh. She's a member of Philippians Community Church in Raleigh and divides her time between Raleigh and New York.

Reach Maria Marbet at venividi8@gmail.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 Ministerial 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 Leadership 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 Sunday	1-Recruiting Teacher's
	2-Teacher Training
	3-Doubling Your Class Size
	4-Leading An Effective Sunday School
Division IV Evangelism 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 Biblical and General 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 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 Youth Ministry & Young Adult	1-Children's Ministry 101
	2-Oratorical Contest
	3-21 st 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 Youth 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
Children's Division	



Shaw University Divinity School 41st Annual Alexander / Pegues Ministers' Conference

"Resurrecting the Dream:
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March 10-13, 2014

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Registration fee:

Early Bird (by February 29)..... \$100.00

Regular/On-Site..... \$135.00

Seminary/College Students..... \$50.00

(Must Present Valid Student ID)

Return Registration Information and Payment to:

Shaw University Divinity School
Annual Ministers' Conference
118 East South Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

For questions and/or additional information,
Contact Shaw University Divinity School
(919) 546-6569

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BAPTIST INFORMER

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Voice of 500,000 Baptists

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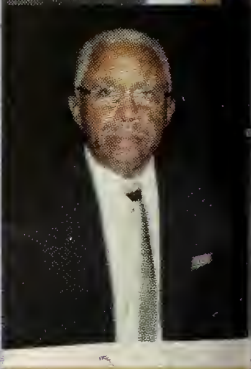
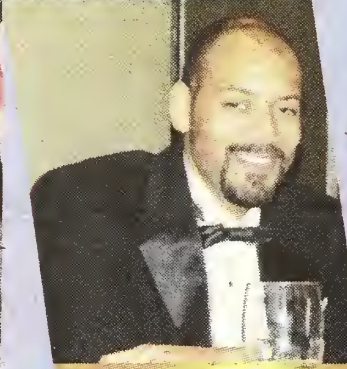
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Rev. Anthonette Wright, (Advertising)
Nwrightgbsc@aol.com

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Photos by Greg Thompson



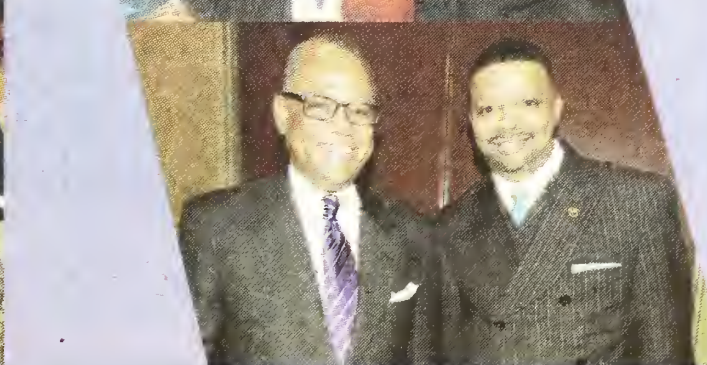
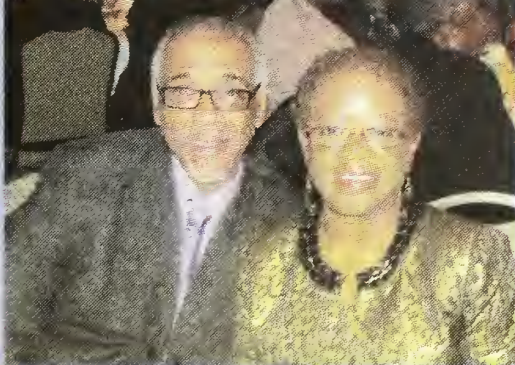
Sheraton L

2014 Memorial Banquet

STRENGTH AND HONOR - During his sermon titled "Searching for the Beloved Community" Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, eloquently explored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a social, economic, political and spiritual giant whose work was a continuation of "a long line of prophets" who sought to uplift 'the beloved community' and save humanity throughout history.



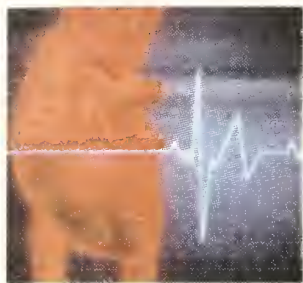
HIGHLIGHTS - The Reverend LaMont J. Johnson lead the banquet guests singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Negro National Hymn written in 1899 by James Weldon Johnson, and "We Shall Overcome," a popular protest song that became an anthem of the African-American Civil Rights Movement of the 50s-60s.



January 10, 2014
Memorial Hotel, Durham, N.C.

February is Heart Month . . .

Heart attack survivors paint a complex picture of adhering to medicine



Heat attack survivors of different races and genders are about equally likely to be on medications that reduce the risk of another heart attack and other potentially life-threatening cardiovascular problems. But,

according to a new study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, that's not the case a year later.

The odds that an patient is still taking the medications as prescribed within a year vary significantly depending on race and gender, and black and Hispanic women are the least likely to adhere to their regimens.

The work, led by Gang Fang at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, suggest that while national initiatives have been effective in encouraging clinicians to prescribe preventive medications for heart-attack patients at the time of discharge, more needs to be done to help patients stay on those medications.

Fang and his team examined prescription records and looked at three types of medications—statins, beta blockers and ACEIs/ARBs—for more than 85,000 Medicare Part D beneficiaries who were hospitalized for a heart attack in 2008 and survived at least 30 days after discharge. The results, published last month in the journal *Circulation*, show that although there is little racial and gender disparity in getting the patients started on preventive medications, keeping them on

those medications long-term is a different story.

“Adherence is a two-dimensional behavior: The physician has to prescribe the medication, and the patient has to fill the prescription,” said Fang, an assistant professor in the School's Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy.

“The policy implication from our study is that we should now put a lot of emphasis on helping patients, especially minority groups, understand the importance of these medications and help them improve their long-term adherence to get the greatest benefits.”

Julie Lauffenburger, a graduate student at the school and first author on the paper, said the findings also point to a need for different interventions for different groups.

“Some adherence interventions in the past have focused on a blanket approach to emphasizing adherence even though patient demographic subgroups may have different needs and perceptions about medication use,” she said. “These results suggest that more targeted interventions need to be considered, especially for adherence after heart attacks.”

Using white men as the reference group for comparisons, the study found adherence was worse among racial minorities.

- Black and Hispanic women were the least likely to be filling their prescriptions as prescribed in the year after discharge,
- black and Hispanic patients had the lowest likelihood of adherence to beta-blockers and statins,
- black patients had the lowest likelihood of adher-

ence to ACEIs/ARBs

The study also found that women, who have worse outcomes than men after heart attacks, had worse adherence within each race group, especially in blacks and Hispanics. One possible explanation is a difference in men and women's beliefs on the severity of their heart attacks and the benefits from the medications.

The findings raise a number of other questions about what might influence adherence. For example, the study revealed different levels of adherence to each of the three medications within a race and gender group. White women, for instance, were more adherent to statins but less adherent to ACEIs/ARBs and beta-blockers.

“There is no clinical evidence that says one of these drugs is more important than the others,” said Fang. “So this brings up a very interesting question about how clinicians and patients perceive benefits from each of the drugs.”

The researchers also adjusted their results to control for out-of-pocket medication costs and whether the patients had a follow-up visit with a primary-care physician or a cardiologist. They did not find a significant connection between those factors and the racial and gender gaps in adherence.

“It's not just how much you pay for medications or whether you visit a primary-care physician or cardiologist after discharge,” said Fang. “For instance, it could be whom you see—the quality of the providers' care and services.”

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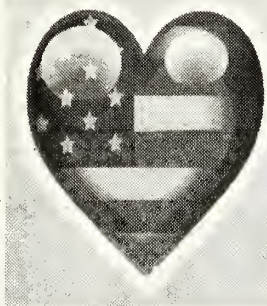
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Heart to Heart: Celebrate America's 'Heart Month'

Every February, the nation observes American Heart Month.

This is a month that raises the awareness of heart and cardiovascular health issues.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year about 715,000 Americans have a heart attack. About 600,000 people die from heart disease in the United States each year—that's 1 out of every 4 deaths. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women.

What Can We Do?

Heart disease is preventable and manageable. It is not uncommon to get caught up in everyday life that we can forget to take care of ourselves properly. Taking the proper steps to take care of your own health will not only help you but can also inspire other. Here are a few things to keep in mind to improve and sustain healthy behaviors and lifestyles:

- Exercise Regularly
- Keep a Healthy Diet

- Maintain a Healthy Weight
- Limit/Moderate Alcohol Consumption
- Monitor Individual Health Levels (blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, etc.)
- Take All Medications As Prescribed
- Follow Advice of Medical Professionals

The American Heart Association (AHA) and American Stroke Association, constantly provide programs and activities to promote good heart health, both locally and nationally. Some of their programs include; Go Red For Women, My Heart My Life, and Power To End Stroke. These programs are done in conjunction with community member and AHA staff/volunteers.

Linda King, Director of Community and Multi-Cultural Health Initiatives with AHA states that, "for 10 years the American Heart Association has sponsored National Wear Red Day to raise awareness about heart disease in women. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, claiming more lives than all forms of cancer combined.

This year we are asking churches, community-based organizations, health agencies, social and civic organizations, and individuals to join us on February 7, 2014 to celebrate

BAPTIST
INFORMER

HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.
WRIGHT

National Wear Red Day and throughout the month of February as we celebrate Heart Month."

For more information about the American Heart Association (AHA) or if you would like to become a volunteer in the Raleigh-Durham or Greensboro-Winston-Salem areas contact Linda B. King, at 919.463.8352 or by email: linda.king@heart.org. To learn more about the AHA events, activities, and resources visit www.heart.org.

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

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

Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church

2330 Indian Woods Road
Windsor, North Carolina 27983

Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church, an African American Congregation established in 1876 and affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., is currently seeking a licensed, ordained Baptist Pastor.

Applicant must possess the following requirements:

- Biblical qualities of a Pastor as defined in Titus 1:6-9 and II Timothy 3:17, be full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, and knowledge.
- A strong reputation of honesty and integrity.
- Be a licensed and ordained Missionary Baptist minister.
- Be familiar with and practices Baptist doctrine.
- Have at least 3 years of Pastoral experience (preferred, but not mandatory).
- Be able to share his vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the Church.
- Have a compassionate approach to visiting members, including the sick, shut-ins and the needy.
- Be willing to adhere to existing policies, procedures, and recommend new policies if necessary.
- Have the ability and desire to work with all age groups in the Church with definite emphasis on spiritual growth and development.
- Possess excellent Biblical teaching skills.
- Must be a graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college, university, or seminary.
- Be willing to work cooperatively with officers and members.
- Be willing to present short and long term goals.
- Understand taxes and financial obligations of the Church.
- Represent the Church at local association, state and national conventions.

To be considered please submit a resume, copies of current license and ordination, and a copy of diploma from accredited college, university, or seminary.

The deadline to submit applications and resumes is April 15, 2014. A CD/DVD recording of a sermon preferred but not required.

Please direct letters of interest or calls to:
Linda Speller, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church
2330 Indian Woods Road
Windsor, North Carolina 27983

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church

12123 Old Lake Road
PO Box 94
Riegelwood, NC 2845

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, a small and rural congregation, is actively seeking a just and devout man as pastor. He must possess the biblical qualities given in II Timothy 3: 1-7; in addition, the following requirements must be present:

1. A minimum of 3 to 5 years experience as pastor
2. Strong knowledge of the Bible and Missionary Baptist doctrine, polity and procedure
3. Spiritual maturity in dealing and communicating effectively with a diverse congregation
4. Born, licensed and ordained in the Missionary Baptist Denomination
5. Can teach and/or attend Sunday School, Prayer Service, Bible Study, Christian Education and other church ministries
6. Seeks constant spiritual improvement through on-going studying of God's Word, training and education
7. Understands, supports and performs all the duties of a Missionary Baptist pastor in a Godly manner
8. Understands and adheres to the beliefs and practices of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Please send resume to: New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 12123 Old Lake Road, PO Box 94, Riegelwood, NC 28456

••• MINISTRY BRIEFS •••

Black Men and Boys Conference at First Baptist - Fayetteville

A nationally recognized speaker and author will be the featured presenter for the first Trayvon Martin Black Male Conference at First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C., on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The conference will run 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, an author of 38 books, will discuss topics advancing black boys and men during the conference. He has been featured on the Oprah TV show and in Ebony and Essence Magazines. He will focus on how to raise successful black boys and how to strengthen men's ministries in the church.

A former instructor at United Theological Seminary, Dr. Kunjufu has preached at the Hampton Ministers' Conference and in hundreds of pulpits nationwide. Among his books are national best sellers, *Adam Where Are You?*; *Why Most Black Men Don't Go to Church*; *Developing Strong Male*

Ministries; and *Raising Black Boys*. His books will be available at the Conference.

The conference is being sponsored by the Laymen of First Baptist Church who have conducted a boys mentoring program called IMANI (Swahili for faith) since 2000. In addition, the Union Baptist Association Ministers Conference (Fayetteville and Cumberland County) will support the event.

"Dr. Kunjufu is one of the best authorities to address these issues and help us prepare our young men for their future. We're so pleased that he will speak on the

weekend preceding the first anniversary of Trayvon Martin's death," said First Baptist Pastor Cureton Johnson.

Pre-registration (\$5 per person) will be available through Thursday, Feb. 20 on a first-come basis by contacting First Baptist Church at (910) 483-6505.



Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

318 Denmark Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530 Phone 919-735-3242

Musician/ Music Administrator

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Goldsboro, NC is currently seeking a musician/ music administrator.

Qualifications

- **Must be a Born again Christian**
- **Must have knowledge of Baptist Doctrine.**
- **Must have a working knowledge of music ranging from contemporary gospel to traditional gospel, hymns, the ability to train voices, and teach songs.**
- **Must have previous church musical experience.**
- **Must be able to work with Pastor to enhance worship service..**
- **Must have great organizational, and interpersonal skills.**
- **Salary Negotiable.**

All interested persons can apply the following ways;

1. Apply by mailing resume to church at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 318 Denmark St., Goldsboro, NC 27530.
2. Email resume to Church email address at mtcalvarygoldsboro@att.net

BAPTIST INFORMER

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Your subscription expiration date will be listed on your mailing label. Please make a note of this date so that you will know when it is time to renew your subscription. The *Baptist Informer* is produced and mailed around the first of each month.

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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.

Brunswick Co. School Board Keeps 'The Color Purple' on Reading List

PRESS REPORTS

BOLIVIA, NC – The Brunswick County Board of Education recently voted 3-2 to uphold a decision by the county superintendent to keep

SHAW UNIVERSITY NEWS

(continued from page 1)

In 1998, Dr. Faulcon joined the faculty at Shaw as an assistant professor in the Department of Allied Health Professions. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Augustine's College and two degrees from North Carolina State University: a Master of Recreation Resources and Public Administration and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration and Public Administration.

"I am deeply committed to the mission and well-being of Shaw University, said Faulcon and I am dedicated to moving it forward during this period of transition."

Shaw Professor Receives Three Awards in 2013

December 19, 2013 - Dr. Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, professor of religion in Shaw's Divinity School, was the recipient of three prestigious awards in 2013.

Kirk-Duggan received the 2013-2014 Outstanding Faculty member of the Year Award from the National Alumni Association of Shaw University. She also received the 2013 Bishop's Empowerment Award winner for meritorious service to church and community from Senior Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Presiding Prelate,

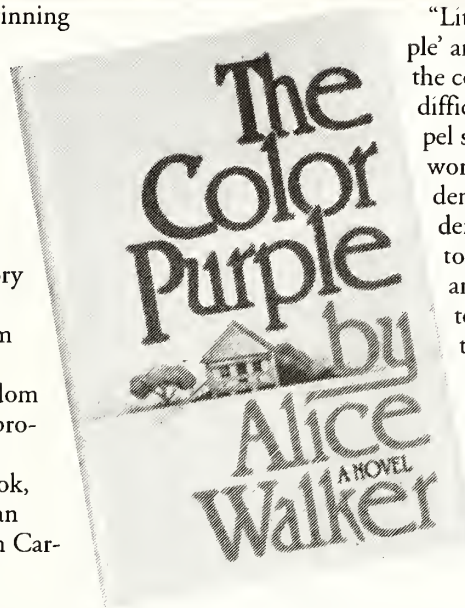


Seventh Episcopal District, of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church [CME]. In addition, Kirk-Duggan received the 2013 Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession of the Society of Biblical Literature Mentor Award. The Society for Biblical Literature, founded in 1880, is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of academic disciplines.

Previously, Kirk-Duggan received the 2011 YWCA Academy of Women in Education Award, a 2011 Black Religious Scholars Group Award and was a 2012 Womanist Legacy Honoree. In 2009 and 2011, she was the recipient of the Shaw University Excellence in Academic Research Award. An author of over 20 books, numerous articles, and membership in several professional societies, Kirk-Duggan has also been featured in Malka Drucker's *White Fire: A Portrait of Women Spiritual Leaders in America*, Skylight Paths, 2003, and in Cleo LaRue's *This is My Story: Testimonies and Sermons of Black Women in Ministry*, Westminster/John Knox, 2005.

Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "The Color Purple," as part of the school system's high school curriculum. The vote came after the board received public testimony from parents, students, educators, and community members.

"Today's vote marks a victory for academic freedom and the rights of students. The freedom to read is just as essential to a healthy democracy as the freedom of speech and all other rights protected by the U.S. Constitution," according to Chris Brook, Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina Legal Foundation.



"Literary classics such as 'The Color Purple' are part of high school curricula across the country precisely because they tackle difficult and challenging topics that compel students to think critically about the world around them. When we deny students access to certain books or ideas, we deny them access to knowledge and the tools necessary for critical thinking. We are glad the board did the right thing today, and we will continue to monitor the situation going forward."

In September 2013, the Randolph County Board of Education voted 6-1 to reverse an earlier vote banning Ralph Ellison's literary classic, "Invisible Man," from Randolph County schools.

Advertisement For Pastor

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
4460 US Highway 13 North
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist is currently accepting résumés for the position of Pastor. Mount Pleasant is a member of the Bear Creek 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 a 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.
- 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.
- Be willing to relocate within a 25-mile radius of the church.
- Be a strong supporter of the Union and the Bear Creek Association.
- The applicant will be expected to attend seminars, conferences, workshops and other Educational programs that will contribute to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church.

Along with your resume, potential candidate must also 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.
- Provide a criminal background and credit check.
- Provide a cover letter/letter of intent.

In case of questions contact Deacon Eddie B. Waters, Committee Chairman @ (919) 734-7715.

If you feel God is leading you to answer this call, please submit your resume to:

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Pastoral Search Committee
P.O. Box 678

God's communication systems surpass all others

In a world of cell telephones, email, text messages, Face Time and instant Messaging, you would think communication would be easy. The reality is that most of us have become so overwhelmed by the world's "always available" expectation that we tend to let one or more of our communication tools slip.



Linda Brown
DOUGLAS

My family's problem is the home telephone voicemail. So, here is a blanket apology to all the people who called with Mother's Day wishes, Father's Day greetings, birthday messages, political campaign pushes, sales pitches, meeting reminders, appointment reminders and just plain chat opportunities: I am sorry that I did not respond to your telephone calls, although I did eventually listen to each and every message. I have not

checked voicemail in a few days or weeks. Well, actually, months. I know... it's bad.

I try to justify my delinquency by telling myself that not checking voicemail is acceptable, because most of the people trying to reach us also have our cell numbers or will call back when we are home. But, I

know better.

What if God was "slack" about receiving our calls? In fact, what if God just said, "That's OK. If she really needs me she will try again later. Surely, she can write down her message someplace."

What if God decided to operate the same as the big companies these days that only accept inquiries electronically? Just imagine it:

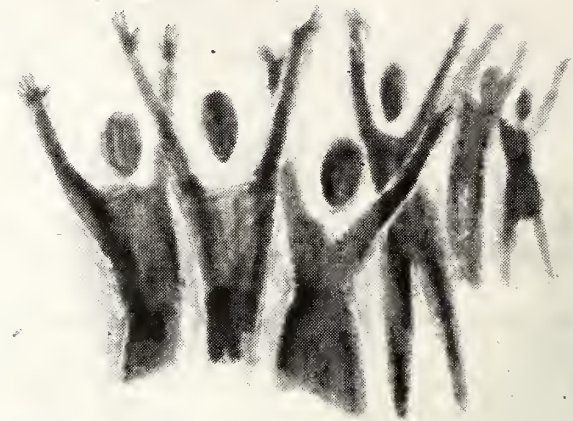
Before your prayer request can be submitted directly to God, you must first type in these zigzag alphabets that look like "b-e-e", but are actually "h-a-a". Please wait 24 hours for God to respond. Thank you for being a loyal believer.

Aren't we glad that God is old fashioned? Despite all the techie stuff, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1 ESV)."

Actually, correct that "old fashioned" thing. God provided the first source of Instant Messaging. People have been "IMING" God throughout time. God offers "Real Time" responses through a system with perfect Voice Recognition.

We are already experiencing a two-way system of Speech Recognition, because not only does God hear us, but we realize when we hear God: "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me (John 10:27 ESV)." Also, "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known (Jeremiah 33:3 ESV)."

God perfected multimedia centuries ago, knowing that "faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ (Romans 10:17 ESV)" And who



Praise the Lord

can forget God speaking to Moses through the burning bush? Now, that's multimedia communication.

God is the ultimate communicator, surpassing any File Sharing, Website Platform or Customer Relations Management (CRM) systems available yesterday, today or tomorrow. And it's all live: "For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 ESV)"

Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: Linda_Douglas@unc-edu.

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. Family, Community and Politically Oriented
6. Effective working with all age groups in the church
7. Bachelor's Degree in Theology from an accredited college or university (preferred) or courses in seminary training and willing to do further study
8. Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
9. Have at least 2 years of pastoral experience
10. Believes/Abides by the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Church Covenant
11. Supportive of the Association and the General Baptist State Convention
12. Expected to teach, preach, (4 Sunday's/month) and counsel in Word & Deed to all age groups in the church
13. Able to guide the critical management function of the church Spiritually, Intellectually and Financially
14. Willing to submit to a criminal background check and credit report
15. Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
16. Implements policies fairly and consistently and respects individual needs and abilities
17. Supports church functions including Sunday School, Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
18. Visits the sick and shut-in "hospitalized & nursing homes"

Please include resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers.

All correspondences must be post-marked by:

February 28, 2014

Attn: Search Committee
P.O. Box 27
Pendleton, NC 27862

Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Rockingham, North Carolina is now accepting resumes for the position of pastor.

Qualifications:

1. The applicant must be a licensed and ordained Minister, and willing to become a member of the Pee Dee Missionary Baptist Educational 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. Must be able to work with all age groups within the church.
5. Must be willing to support all church programs. (Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meetings, etc.)
6. Must be able to build up church spiritually.

Qualified candidates must submit the following items:

1. Letter of intent (Cover Letter)
2. Current resume (include family background and summary of relevant ministry, professional and educational experience.
3. Three letters of reference along with a copy of Ministerial License and Ordination Certificate.

Please forward all correspondences to:

Pastor Search Committee – C/O Dr. Mary F. Swann
Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church
107 Minturn Avenue
Hamlet, North Carolina 28345

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UPCOMING EVENT

April 4 - 5, 2014



Laymen's Annual Session

Neuse River MBA, Neuse River Baptist Assembly
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(919) 821-7466 or email Bro. Turner at Iturn60@aol.com

BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
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