

137:2 NC



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BAPTIST INFORMER

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

Reaching the Masses

As we celebrate Women's History Month and the 2014 theme: Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment, we pay homage to the



Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham

women who framed the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina in 1884. Why Woman's Convention vs Women's Convention? Well, Dr. Priscilla Brodie said it best and the gist is worth repeating.

The Woman's Convention is so named to allow each woman to be treasured and empowered as an individual in the context of a fellowship of women. Adding to that, just as our founders established their personal commitment to our Baptist heritage and our Baptist Convention as, "A Charge to Keep I Have..." the Woman's Baptist Convention of North Carolina continues in that sacrificial tradition of, "Reaching the Masses" through missions. Now, 130 years later, our Convention is bright with promise as was evidenced at our 61st Annual One-Day Session on January 11,

(continued on page 8)



ONWARD CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS - The Bi-Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education attracted Pastors, ministers, church leaders, Sunday School teachers and laity to Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. An assortment of empowerment classes included "Pastoral Counseling Techniques," "Handling Church Finances," "Blending Generations," "Spiritual Formation in Children," "Praise Dance Ministry," "How to Study the Bible," and dozens of other topics. Dr. Frank J. Byrd, Jr. is President of the GBSC Congress. (See additional images on Page 9)



SISTERS IN CHRIST - The 61st Annual One-Day Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, Inc. attracted hundreds of church leaders from across the state to Durham in January for business meetings, workshops and worship services. President Linda D. Inman's theme for 2014 is "Reaching the Masses" as prescribed in Matthew 2:19-20. (See additional images of the session on Page 8)

'Missions is a mandate, not an Option...'

Q&A with the President, Linda D. Inman
By Ophelia Johnson



her election as President, she served as First Vice President during the tenure of Dr. Audrey Battle.

Since taking over the helm of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina in August 2013, the Reverend Linda D. Inman has been working to build on its solid past while also looking to expand into new territory.

The Chadbourn, N.C. native has served the Convention for more than 39 years, including work with the Youth Department, Youth Adults, and Senior Department. Prior to

In a recent interview with The Baptist Informer Newspaper, Reverend Inman talked about the continuing work of the organization, as well as her evolution as a servant leader who has been tasked to help carry the missionary message of Jesus Christ.



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'Missions is a mandate, not an Option...'

(continued from page 1)

The Baptist Informer: How would you describe the work of the WBH&FMC-NC?

Reverend Inman: The Woman's Convention, Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., (1901) represents more than 4,000,000 National Baptist women who have membership in National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. churches. It promotes missions education, missions-in-action, and missions support. We're spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone who will believe and receive it, from Dare to Cherokee, and joining hands together in unity and love - grounded in faith.

The Baptist Informer: In what areas are women across the state involved with the Convention?

Reverend Inman: Our ministry of missions refers to the same ministry of missions as that of the parent body, General Baptist State Convention (GBSC), in relation to individual churches. Consequently, it relates to the functions of proclamation, teaching, worship, fellowship, witness, and service. To omit or deemphasize any of these is to dwarf our responsibility and expression of the mission God has entrusted to our hands. It is our belief that "missions" is an imperative mandate, not an option or alternative.

The Baptist Informer: What are some areas of focus for WBH&FMC-NC?

Reverend Inman: A part of our expression of this ministry includes Leadership Training Conference, Missionary Institutes, Youth Bible Camp, State-Wide Leaders Workshop, Annual Convention, One-Day Session, Family Missions Conference, Young Adult Retreat, Ministers' Wives Retreat, and Youth Evangelism Conference. We invite ladies to join us in all of our mission efforts, whether its volunteering to serve on one of our committees or applying for positions as institute workers and/or Executive Board members. Our mission work will be completed and God will get the glory. We MUST continue working together, reaching out to others who will help us to carry the banner of hope, peace, understanding, giving, patience and love in honor of our Lord and Savior.

The Baptist Informer: Describe your role as Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life at your

alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C.

Reverend Inman: My work includes management, supervision, development, implementation, coordination, assessment and evaluation. I've supervised 40 full time employees, 100 resident assistants with an annual budget of \$10 million, and I've been responsible for providing appropriate programming that integrates student life, academic co-curricular activities and "living community" development.

It is also my role to ensure quality staff selection and staff development training, sufficient collaboration with all programs on campus, and suitable budgeting management of facilities. I also assist with new student and parent orientation programs. Responsibilities also include the coordination of orientation programs for new students and parents and the development of policies and procedures for each residence hall.

The Baptist Informer: How did you arrive at this juncture in your career?

Reverend Inman: My grandmother, the late Jessie Margaret Stephens Inman, no doubt planted the seed over 39 years ago for me to serve in this Convention. The influence of my grandmother, who both taught and trained me, made the difference. To God be the Glory for the things he has done!

The Baptist Informer: How has your upbringing impact your work ethic as a church leader?

Reverend Inman: I grew up on our family farm and from two years of age, I always had a job. I began by working in the family community grocery store, handing out snacks to the workers, picking up trash from my Uncle and Aunt's school bus, and working in the pack house with the tobacco, school work program in the summers. I can remember my grandmother saying to me, "learn how to do several things, and you can make it through life."

The Baptist Informer: What gives you a sense of

"joy" in your work with the WBH&FMC-NC?

Reverend Inman: I love my job and I love this great convention. I am humbled that God has allowed me to do both at the same time. Through this process, I must continue to surround myself with daily scripture and prayer knowing that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The Baptist Informer: You're a member of the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C., where the Rev. William F. Wright, Jr. is Pastor. What are some of your favorite Bible scriptures?

Reverend Inman: "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" Proverbs 3:5-6. It is written in 2 Timothy 3: 14-15, "but continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the

holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Baptist Informer: What about a favorite Biblical character?

Reverend Inman: Being appointed to this position reminds me of "Ruth's Great Choice."

The secret of Ruth's faith is found in three facts: (1) She had an open mind to the teachings of Naomi and believed in Naomi's God. (2) She had made a definite personal choice at a time of great crisis and commitment. (3) She was loyal to her choice and true to her vows in the face of great difficulties and temptations. Finally, Ruth's faith and love were such value as could only be fully revealed in eternity alone. Remember how this book closes- Obed, Jesse, David and Ruth became the ancestors of the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

The Baptist Informer: How could church women across the state add more support?

Reverend Inman: They can work to organize and to improve missionary circle among senior, young adult, and youth departments in Baptist churches across North Carolina. Other possibilities include:

Promoting a broader spirit of missionary endeavor, encourage the study of the Bible and other missionary books in order to awaken a greater interest in missionary work.

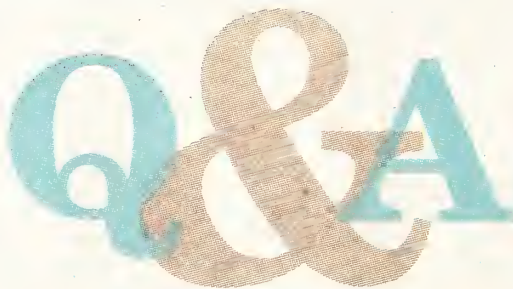
Supporting missionaries on the State and Foreign Field and Christian Education.

Support our six objectives: Shaw University and Divinity School, J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Central Children's Home, State Missions and Foreign Missions.

Cooperating with the General Baptist State Convention.

The Baptist Informer: Is there a need for greater financial support of the WBH&FMC-NC?

Reverend Inman: We welcome your checks or money orders. Checks may be made payable to: The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention or the Woman's Baptist State Convention. Please send with your contributions the appropriate financial blank of WBH & FMC form so that each department can receive proper credit. All contributions may be made to the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina. Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, PO Box 1818, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602. The telephone number is (919) 833-4823.



GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

N.C. LAYMEN'S LEAGUE 2014

UPCOMING EVENT

April 4 - 5, 2014



Laymen's Annual Session

Neuse River MBA, Neuse River Baptist Assembly
Rocky Mount N.C.

(919) 821-7466 or email Bro. Turner at Iturn60@aol.com

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

Glorifying God Through Our Generosity

"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 mis-

sion.

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

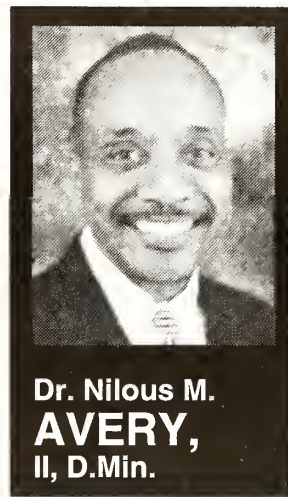
University Divinity School, Central Children's Home of N.C., J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention.

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.



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



Between God's Spoken and Delivered Promises



"I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith."

— Habakkuk 2:1-4 (NRSV).

Waiting about it, talk about it and often hear sermons that give attention to it. But, if we are honest with ourselves we must admit that one of the most challenging lessons in the Christian journey is discipline of waiting on the Lord. This understanding is particularly evident when we have tried every substitute for waiting that we could possibly conceive. Our experience, talent, skills and

abilities are not substitutes for waiting on the Lord. Yet, waiting is an ongoing struggle for many of us who have decided to follow Jesus.

In the passage, Habakkuk 2:1-4, there is hope for all who have become weary in their waiting. The minor prophet delivers an encouraging message that sheds light on the dark shadows between God's spoken promise and God's delivered promise.

Have you ever been in that place between the already and the not yet? Have you ever found yourself waiting so long for a promise to be fulfilled that your fatigue settled inside and began to drain your mental, physical and emotional capacity? If so, then you are not alone. Abram was in that silent gap after God had promised to make him [and Sarai] "a great nation." In Genesis 14:2, he cried out, "God, what use are your gifts as long as I am childless...?" David was in a similar desert place. After he had been anointed to lead Israel, King Saul summoned three thousand men to capture David (1 Samuel 24:1-2). Queen Esther who intervened for the release of her people and the Apostle Paul who spread the gospel to the Gentiles were people of great faith who endured the challenge of waiting on the Lord. Like each of them, we eventually discover that we do not have the power to control our destiny. It is from this perspective that Habakkuk provides words of hope.

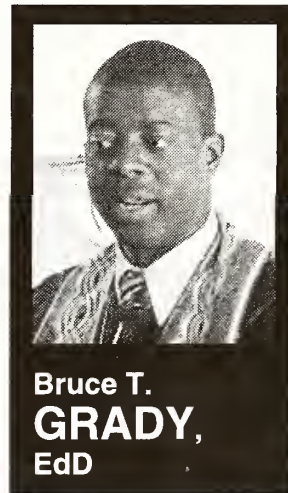
What do you do when you are not certain how God will fulfill His plans in your life? How do you go on from day to day when you are dissatisfied with your present circumstances, yet you do not know where your journey will lead? How do you make authentic meaning of your life when, no matter what you do, there is no progress in sight?

More often than not, we allow our egos to get in the way and we try to take matters into our own

hands. We try to force an end to our season of waiting only to discover that it is beyond our control. While we may not be able to opt out of waiting, we can choose how we will wait. Will we walk through our waiting periods with anger? From this perspective, we might complain and make everyone around us miserable. Will we withdraw from our faith and stop praying, serving, loving and seeking the way of the

Lord? Or, will we turn to idols that are made by our hands or our imagination? Will we cease to acknowledge God's presence in the midst of our waiting period?

Habakkuk has an excellent response to these questions. He encourages us to wait with hope. This minor prophet urges us to wait with an expectancy that God will do whatever God said that He would do. Habakkuk struggled with what God was doing in his own life and in the lives of God's people. But, God spoke to him in a vision whose fulfillment was in an appointed time. Like Habakkuk, we can cling to God's vision because the one who created it has the power bring it to pass. In closing, I leave you with a prayer entitled "Give Me the Courage to Live" by Howard Thurman.



Bruce T. GRADY, EdD

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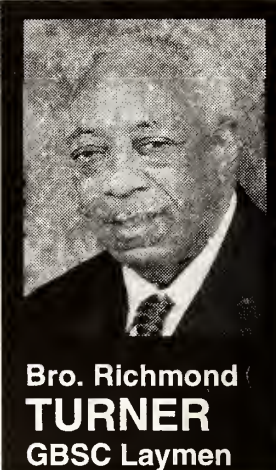
www.facebook.com/GBSCNC



- To receive breaking news about GBSC
- To receive updates on events, meetings, etc.
- To be in the know about Baptist life in NC

Becoming a Great Commission Christian

LAYMEN OUTLOOK

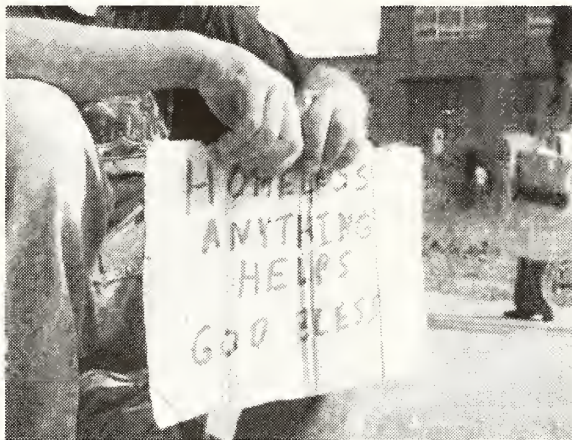


Bro. Richmond
TURNER
GBSC Laymen

Strand Three: Remembering the Poor

In "Discipleship for the Man in the Mirror," author Patrick Morley illustrates the plight of the poor through a pseudo-journalist named Robert. In one scene, Robert was upset with a new beggar working the street corner in front of his office, but he eventually gave him a handout. The beggar's response was "Jesus loves you. Blessed are you when you remember the poor."

Thus we have Strand 3: "Remembering the Poor." The discussion elements in this strand include: Meeting human need, the social gospel, taking care of widows and orphans, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned (Galatians 2:10; Matthew 25: 31-46). Obviously the third strand of the Great Commission addresses outreach ministries of the modern church.



The need for believers to care for the poor is a constant theme in scripture, but we sometimes become so caught up with our own needs and desires that the needs of broken people go unnoticed and unmet. In many ways, our everyday routines screen them from our eyesight.

The word - "poor" - is also somewhat of a misnomer. It includes the downtrodden, the homeless, the rejected, and the despised of the world. They are the unemployed, the underemployed, and the unemployable.

Author Herbert Lockyer, the author of "All The Teachings of Jesus," expresses Jesus' emphasis on the poor in a similar way.

He wrote: "He looked around Him and saw how slender was the livelihood of those, stunted undeveloped and having few pleasures, who worked the grudging soil or toiled all night at sea and found nothing. Such

toilers had little time to pray or to cultivate spiritual beauty, yet He called them to seek first food for their souls before bread for their bodies."

"One of the purposes of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount was that as God feeds the Ravens and arrays the lilies in all their glory, so He will provide all that is necessary for those who put Him first in their lives. His mercy is more necessary than money, and His grace more necessary than gold."

The importance of remembering the poor is clarified by Jesus in Luke 4:18a: "The spirit of the Lord is on me, because He anointed me to preach good news (the gospel) to the poor." This gives us the connection to the Great Commission. Pray with and for us, as we develop the third Strand of Becoming a Great Commission Christian.

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

Mood of Worship, Praise and Thankfulness

This beautiful Psalm evokes worship in us almost in spite of ourselves.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" — Psalms 95

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. 8-11). 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



Dr. Ricky L.
BANKS
Second VP, GBSC

hymns.

After they have come into the worship area a solo voice takes over with a word from the Lord warning the worshippers 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. We sing the well-known hymns with an exuberance that bubbles over. Joyously we come into the presence of God.

Verse 3. The response of the people is confessional. They affirm their conviction that the Lord is worthy of worship, of praise, and of thanksgiving. Si Israel affirms that the Lord is above all other gods. 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. He created all things.

Verse 6-7. The mood changes with this second call to worship. The exuberance of the entering congregation changes to solemnity and awe. They are instructed to bow down and to kneel; homage is to be absolute. The people respond, He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Verse 7c-11. 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. But the privilege is ours of joy and thanksgiving and a time spent in the presence of God. Praise God let go to Worship.

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



Between God's Spoken and Delivered Promises

(continued from page 3)

Give me the courage to live!
Really live— not merely exist.
Live dangerously,
Scorning risk!
Live honestly,
Daring the truth—
Particularly the truth of myself!
Live resiliently—
Ever changing, ever growing, ever adapting,
Enduring the pain of change
As though 'twere the travail of birth.
Give me the courage to live,
Give me the strength to be free
And endure the burden of freedom
And the loneliness of those without chains;
Let me not be trapped by success,
Nor by failure, not pleasure, nor grief,
Nor malice, nor praise, nor remorse!

Give me the courage to go on!
Facing all that waits on the trail—
Going eagerly, joyously on,
And paying my way as I go,
Without anger or fear or regret
Taking what life gives,
Spending myself to the full,
Head high, spirit winged, like a god—
On... on... till the shadows draw close.
Then even when darkness shuts down,
And I go out alone as I came,
Naked and blind as I came—
Even then, gracious God, hear my prayer:
Give me the courage to live!

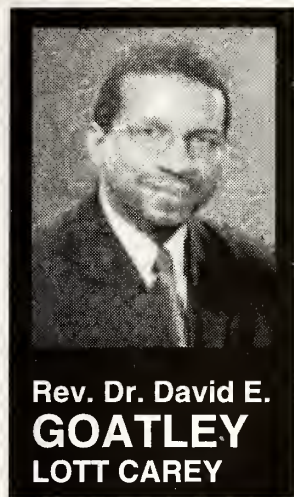
In the name of our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ, Amen

Bruce T. Grady, EdD is Dean and Associate Professor of Religious Education at Shaw University Divinity School.

2014 Lott Carey Spring Missions Conference will convene on March 27-28

Dear Lott Carey Partner:

I rejoice to invite you to the 2014 Lott Carey Spring Missions Conference that will convene on March 27-28, 2014 at the Central Baptist Church, at 3625 Clement Road, Columbia, South Carolina. Rev. Ricky



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

Ray Ezell, Sr., is pastor and can be reached at www.centralbaptistofcolumbia.org.

The Spring Missions Conference includes four critical emphases:

The Executive Board Meeting. Churches and organizations that contributed at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) last year have one representative (pastor, president, or a designee) who serves as a member of the Lott Carey Executive Board. Members of the Executive Board have demon-

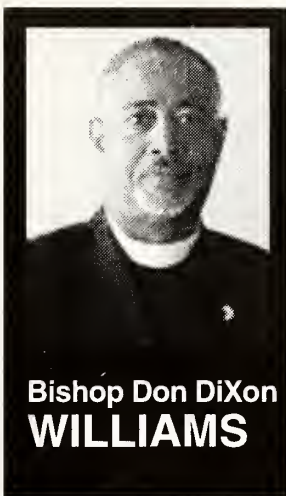
strated their commitment to Christian missions around the world, and we count on this community of missional leaders to help shape strategy, imagine new missional directions, and guide our efforts to deepen and widen our network. Beyond an update on the implementation of our strategic drivers, we will have a special presentation about our new socially responsible investment opportunity for individuals, churches, and organizations in South Africa.

The Women in Service Everywhere and Men on Missions will review accomplishments; evaluate their deliverables; plan for the 2014 - 2015 year; and strategize to promote the Lott Carey global missional thrust, propose short-term missions assignments, strengthen special projects, and recruit new partners to the Lott Carey family.

The Pastoral Excellence Network will hold two conferences. One conference will focus on pastoral health and wellness. The second conference will focus on ministering to people who are returning from war and re-entering community.

Missions Empowerment Summit. Thursday evening is a time of celebrating missional impact and of challenging us to seize new opportunities for global Christian witness.

Bread for Life



Bishop Don Dixon WILLIAMS

This year is looking promising. President Obama's State of the Union address started the year by reiterating his focus for the next three years on creating sustainable jobs, strengthening the economic safety net, providing access to education and equal employment opportunities, and developing strategic community

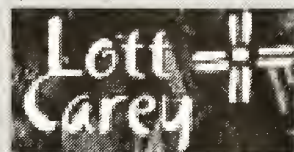
Expanding our Network Reach. Lott Carey has never had significant support from South Carolina. Taking our Spring Missions Conference is a strategy for bringing the Lott Carey experience to parts of the United States where we believe we can successfully make the case for collaboration. Future Annual Sessions will take us to cities like Birmingham, AL, Atlanta, GA, and Grand Rapids, MI. We hope you will join us in making a strong case that the Lott Carey experience is worthy of the consideration of congregations in this part of the country.

The registration fee: \$50.00. Make your reservations online at www.lottcarey.org, under the Annual Gatherings tab or call our reservation line: 1-800-362-2779 and mention the Group Code: LOT for your housing at: Embassy Suites - Greystone, 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Most of the country has experienced harsh weather this winter. We have also had a difficult "wintery" financial season since November. Consequently, we have had to reduce the monthly budget allocation for our partners all around the world until we can recover. This has created a hardship on them, but we keep pressing on. Please bring or send an offering for missions to support the global Christian witness. You can also give online at www.lottcarey.org.

Despite the financial challenges we are facing, we continue to make good impact around the world. We have deployed teams to Liberia, Haiti, Zimbabwe, and Atlantic City, New Jersey in recent months. We recently signed Memoranda of Understandings with the American Red Cross for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery partnerships that we are rolling out in six regions from January through March and with a major in-

Conference Schedule ...



Thursday:	
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Executive Board Meeting
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Pastoral Excellence Network/ Women in Service Everywhere/Men on Missions
5:30 PM - 6:45 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Missions Empowerment Summit
Friday:	
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Pastoral Excellence Network/ Women in Service Everywhere/Men on Missions
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Working Lunch/Adjournment
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Disaster Response Training
Saturday:	
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Disaster Response Training

ternational relief, development, and management company to collaborate around community development projects globally. One of our young adult leaders was elected as President of the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department, and we have 40 young adults preparing to deploy to Jamaica in July for a short-term missions assignment to lead Vacation Bible School in the poorest parish in the country.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

Reach Rev. Goatley at dgoatley@lottcarey.org.

SAVE THE DATE ...

117th Lott Carey Annual Session to be held in Louisville, KY

Registration is now open for the 117th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Global Christian Missional Community. This session will be held on August 10-15, 2014 at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.

More than 2,000 church leaders and laypersons are expected for the 117th Lott Carey Annual Session. The goal is to help extend the Christian witness around the world - in your community, your country, and throughout the earth. Join Believers from the United States and leaders from around the world to inform, inspire, and invest in ministries of evangelism, compassion, empowerment, and advocacy.



On the Road to Ending Hunger

partnerships both domestically and abroad.

The State of the Union address came soon after the president's address on income and opportunity in December. The 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty was an occasion to talk about poverty again, and both political parties started proposing various ways to combat poverty and strengthen the economy. An air of optimism seemed to have swept through Congress, which finally was able to pass the farm bill.

Before I get into the farm bill, I want to tell you about Lucy Jeffers. At 87 years old, she has had her share of ailments but has never been one to complain. Her knees ache constantly, but she doesn't let the pain prevent her from attending church on Sundays. She takes advantage of a van service that picks her and other tenants up in front of their apartment building and drives them to the store. However, Ms. Jeffers

does not join the shopping trips after the second week of the month. That's when her monthly SNAP benefits run out.

As we researched this year's Hunger Report, Ms. Jeffers did not hesitate to speak her mind about the difficulty of feeding herself for a whole month on just \$35 in food-stamp benefits. She told us how she braces for the day her SNAP benefits run out by cutting back on portions. By the last week of the month, she eats only one meal per day, usually rice with a little butter to add some flavor.

Ms. Jeffers was barely staying afloat before the mandatory SNAP cuts that went into effect on November 1, 2013. The \$11 billion in cuts essentially eliminated 200 million meals. The cuts meant more meals of only rice and butter for Ms. Jeffers. Now the

(continued on page 6)

What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Eye Contact

Our last conversation dealt with non-verbal communication involving the use of hand gestures to strengthen the words (verbal) of your sermon. In this sense, hands “talk” in ways that help listeners “get the point” with clarity and greater impact. Accordingly, hand gestures function in several ways including magnification and substitution of words intended to signal and direct. Not forgetting, the use of the hands during the delivery of the sermon reinforces and compliments the “words that are coming out of your mouth.” Keep in mind your hand gestures are only as effective as the choice and quality of your words. What this means is no matter how effective

your hand gestures, they are of little use if you have a poor sermon relative to substance and content. With that being said, now the focus turns to eye contact as another effective non-verbal tactic in your preaching.

For the preacher, establishing credibility is crucial during the actual delivery of the sermon. To achieve it one of the most effective levels of connecting with your audience is eye communication. Not surprising, the question is “do you understand the words that are coming from my eyes?” Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson notes, “An eye can threaten like a loaded and leveled

gun; or can insult like hissing and kicking; or in its altered mood by beams of kindness, make the heart dance with joy.” In many ways, your eyes are capable of communicating different types of messages. It is said you can tell what’s in a persons’ mind and heart by his/her eyes. They are the doorway to the inner



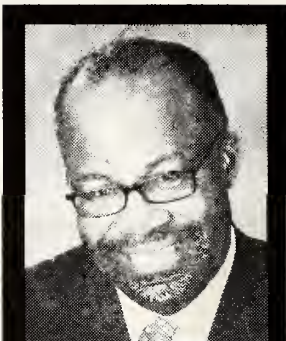
thoughts and soul of a person. Therefore, the eyes tell the audience something about you. But they also reveal your thoughts, attitude and feelings about them (audience). For the most part establishing eye contact serves several functions including creating rapport, monitoring audience reactions, increasing believability and evoking

emotions and building interest. For this reason, an audience believes the words from your eyes over words coming out of your mouth. In other words, if words of your mouth are in conflict with what your eyes are communicating, the audience is impacted more by your eyes. It is not what your words say but what your eyes communicate that makes the difference in your preaching. You really need to be careful not to preach two sermons at one time. Al Fasol says, “one with your mouth and one with your eyes.”

Finally, eye contact serves important practical pur-

poses in the execution of your sermon. First, in an effort to settle your nervousness, before doing anything else establish eye contact—look before speaking a word. Second, you need to become so familiar with your notes that you are able to maintain eye contact 75 to 90 percent of the delivery of the sermon. Third, maintaining eye contact helps as a tactic or strategy in effectively handling your notes in a way that is not easily seen by the audience. For an example when you need to turn the page of your manuscript or slide another card, do so while maintaining eye contact. Thus, eye contact becomes a way to impact your audience but also a practical tool to effectively handle your manuscript or notes. In the next article we will discuss the use of voice that makes the difference in our preaching.

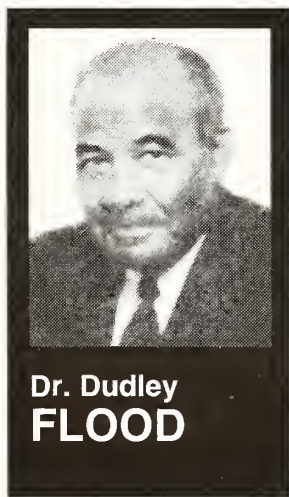
Dr. Fullwood is Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at: RHBC@bellsouth.net.



Dr. Alfonza FULLWOOD

Where Did Our Love Go?

A few years ago, the singer, Diana Ross had a hit song titled “Where Did Our Love Go?” The song was based on the experience of a jilted



Dr. Dudley FLOOD

lover who had been deceived and abandoned. In today’s society, one might ask that question with general application. It seems that “love” is one of the most deceptive and manipulative words in our language.

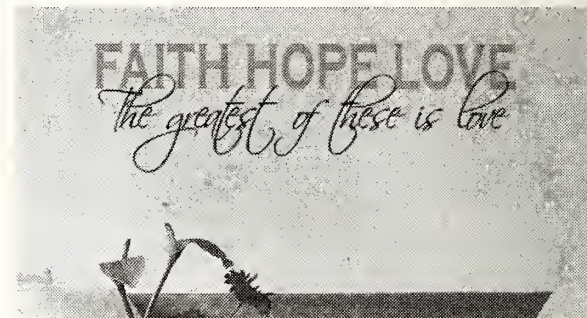
It is fairly common to hear an entertainer say to his or her fans, “I love all of you” when in truth he or she can barely stand any one of them on a personal basis. It is equally common to hear someone say to a potential suitor,

“I love you” when they barely know each other. Gen-

erally, it can be interpreted to mean “I want something from you that may be more readily forthcoming if I were to say that I love you.”

Still another misuse of the word love is that of gaining power over another. I have actually heard an adult say to a child, “I will not love you if you do this or that.” I have never thought that to be true, but it is dangerous to even threaten to withhold love as punishment to a child. Love is never conditional. If it were, fewer of us would be perceived as lovable as we have been.

In Apostle Paul’s elaboration on love (charity), he does not give conditions. He describes love as an absolute and assigns qualities that help us to know love when we see it. These are not weighted qualities, but each must be present for there to be authentic love. It does not behave unseemly. That is to say, real love drives us to treat each other well. It vaunteth not itself. One does not see himself or herself as being more important than another. It suffers long. It gives us patience with each other. It seeketh not its own. Love makes us care more about the fate of others than about our own.



Paul tells us in very clear terms how to recognize love whether we are the givers or receivers thereof. When we hold ourselves to his definition, love endures. When love endures, it almost always will be reciprocated. Whether it is a church, a family or two individuals, the same principles apply. Our well-being is built on faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

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: flood-speaker@bellsouth.net.

On the Road to Ending Hunger

(continued from page 5)

new farm bill will cut \$8 billion more from SNAP. And it will create even more households that are uncertain about their food sources.

Though our battle against hunger may seem impossible at times, there is still a lot of progress. President Obama has signed an executive



order to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10. Fair wages are the cornerstone in our campaign since employment is the best anti-hunger “program” out there. But we must make sure that those who have spent a lifetime working are not forgotten.

At Bread for the World, we truly believe that we can end hunger in our time. We can do this by getting everyone to full employment, having fair wages for workers, investing

in human capital through education, assisting people with disabilities, and extending SNAP benefits to seniors, and ending extreme hunger and poverty worldwide. To find out more about Ms. Jeffers and our plan to end hunger, check out our 2014 Hunger Report.

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.

Blind Listening, Paralyzed Doing

Many of us who have grown up in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, association meetings, conventions, and conferences know the language and customs of the Church, but do we live the language and experience of Jesus Christ?

Scripture reading may be part of our daily devotionals, but do we really hear what's being said? Do we prayerfully listen for how God wants to minister to us so that we can minister to others? Do the words of scripture register with our eyes, ears, and hearts as we read? Or, is scripture reading pro forma: Just one more daily task with no effect on how we live?

The first chapter of James' epistle reminds us of the foibles of being deaf to hearing and paralyzed to doing the Word. We need to be careful and honest with ourselves. We cannot pretend to listen when our ears are full of wax. We cannot pretend to hear when the words do not

touch our hearts and trouble our minds, so that we feel convicted and compelled to listen more attentively and allow the words to transform our hearts, minds, body, and soul.

We can pretend, but pretending does not help us engage the power of scripture. When we truly listen and hear God's words through scripture, preaching, and our relationship with Jesus Christ, we can be made new. We can be transformed and equipped to forgive and embrace a new life in Christ. If our hearing is not transformed, we cannot love, forgive, or be made whole.

When we are able to listen for God in scripture in every moment of our lives, we come in contact with God's revealed counsel and come to know true freedom. We become free from the weight of being bound by self, other people, places, positions, money, status and other cumbersome distractions. In that freedom, we experience a greater depth of salvation and

are empowered to take action in love. To do the word is to embrace God our Creator, revealed through the light of Christ, as energized by the Holy Spirit transform us and assure that we, as covenant people, take appropriate action.

By hearing, we become aware. We accept those things we cannot change, pray for the courage to change the things we can, and engage the wisdom to know the difference. With awareness and acceptance, we can take loving action, in freedom. When we stay right with God, do our part, and trust God for the results, we know a peace that passes all understanding and we find unspeakable joy and affirmation.

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.



Rev. Cheryl KIRK-DUGGAN



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Reaching the Masses

(Continued from page 1)

2014 at the Sheraton Imperial Durham.

On the heels of GBSC's Martin Luther King Memorial Banquet where Dr. Calvin Butts of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, inspired us to "Search for the Beloved Community," almost 1,000 followers of Christ gathered Saturday morning for the Woman's Baptist Convention meeting! This business meeting and worship experience shared ministry reflections, facts and forecasts for all three departments: Seniors, Young Adults, and Youth. Men and women, boys and girls, clergy and laity throughout the communities of North Carolina caravanned to Durham representing North Carolina's Baptist Churches from the north, south, east and west.

Our Board Chair and Assisting Board Chair (Ms. Edithe McLean and Mrs. Martha Lewis, respectively), laid a foundation in Scripture and Prayer. President Linda D. Inman and her Vice Presidents (Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow, Mrs. Ellender LeMay, Mrs. Lena Johnson and Mrs. Anjanette Wall-Chapman) shared their focus and initiatives within our history and our President's theme for 2014, "Reaching the Masses," as prescribed in Matthew 2:19-20. Dr. Priscilla Brodie (former WB-HFMC Executive Secretary-Treasurer) engaged us in a powerful Bible Study entitled, "How to be a Good Neighbor." Dr. Ricky Banks of St. Stephens Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, expounded upon the subject, "Jesus the Talk of the Town." The preaching and teaching took us to the mountaintop and established an anchor with which we now set sail. In pursuit of the actualization of our Convention Motto, "Christ in Every Home," our itinerary is set to cover the state and help cover the globe through missions for the masses.

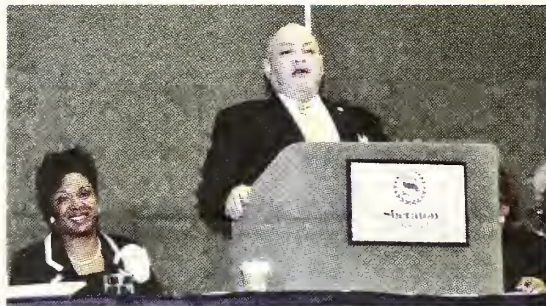
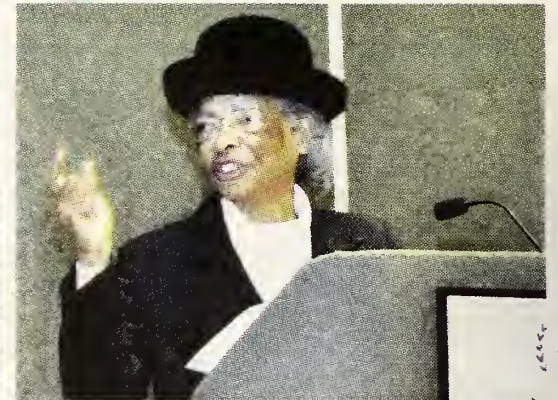
Our next port is Charlotte (Ebenezer) for the State Wide Leaders Workshop on April 5th where Dr. Leonzo Lynch is the pastor. Dr. Lamont J. Johnson will lead our Morning Worship Workshop, other exceptional workshops will follow by department, and Dr. Nathan E. Scovens of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Winston Salem will provide the noonday message. From there we sail back to Durham for the Minister's Widows and Wives Retreat in May, followed by a literal docking off the coast of Shallotte for the Young Adult Retreat at the Beach in early June.

We pray that "you" will stay connected and rededicate your stewardship to the work of the Woman's Baptist Convention. With your help, we can reach the masses through missions for Christ and strive to introduce Christ in every home. Visit us at Baptist Headquarters or on the web at www.wbh-fmc.org

— Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

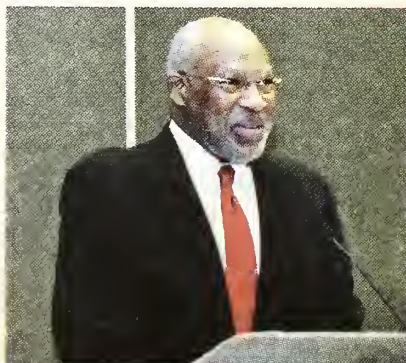
Women's One-Day Session

Photos by



"Reaching the Masses"

— Matthew 2:19-20





WGH&FMC

The 2014 One Day Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina was held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center in Durham, NC.



GBSC Congress of Christian Education 2014

(continued from page 1)

Charlotte, NC • February 8, 2014



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Double Abandonment: Finding Ways to Help and Health the Grieving



Rev. Dr. Roy L.
DENNIS, JR.

The basic theological view of Christians is that the death of those who gave their lives to Jesus Christ will commence from life to eternal life. This means that death is not the end of living, but the start of our living process in the spiritual realm. The spiritual realm meaning the separation from the body but it brings us into the presence of the Lord.

Through the spiritual lenses, death has a different view, but there are common dimensions of grief that people often experience before reaching the spiritual view.

The mourner will have to process through life and understand that it will never be the same as it was before death. This realization will allow the grieving person to build up coping skills while transitioning through life.

There is often a realistic dose of loneliness that happens when grieving people find themselves in the middle of this intense feelings of grief. The feeling can turn into a feeling of abandonment because they do not want to bother family or the church with the new profound feelings in their life. A grieving person often feels restless, agitation, frustrated, and tearful.

When people closest to them to say "call me if you need anything," and the grieving person may respond by saying, "I am fine," but in their actions, they're crying out for help.

The feelings of loneliness can often turn into the feeling of abandonment by the family and the church, which I have coined as "double abandonment."

Church members may acknowledged the death of a loved one, but they have not systematic process of helping their parishioners as they begin to confront the reality of the death. When the parishioner starts having the feelings of emptiness, sadness, and resentment, it goes beyond the often misdiagnoses and myth that it has been enough time to "get over it."

Churches need to provide a spiritual path that helps the grieving need time to adjust to their loss. It also needs a ministry that will highlight the common dimensions of normal grief and outline the biggest myths about grief and provide training on what it takes to become a good listener. Healing begins when there is acknowledgement of true feelings and the person has a someone who will lend understanding and a caring ear to hear their story.

Dr. Dennis is a frequent contributor to the Baptist Informer.

Save the Date

The Mid-Year Session for the
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
will be held May 13-14
at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 950 File Street, Winston-Salem,
N.C. For registrations information, please call
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or visit our website at www.gbsonline.org.



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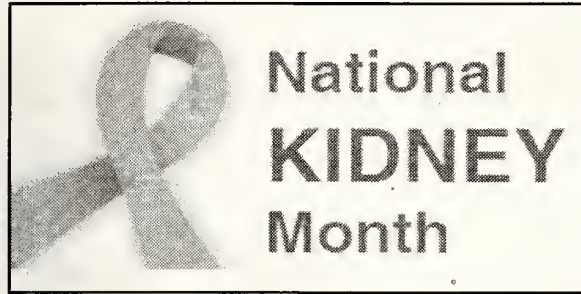
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Kidney Care: National Kidney Awareness Month

When I was a young child, my mother became mysteriously ill and was admitted to a hospital after a series of ailments. An initial medical stalemate led to her being diagnosed with a polycystic kidney disease. According to the Na-



tional Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse (NKUDIC), polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is a genetic disorder characterized by the growth of numerous cysts in the kidneys.

In my mother's case, her kidneys were five times the

normal size and eventually, she was referred to kidney specialists at Duke Medical Center in Durham, NC where she received a kidney transplant. Most importantly, my family learned was a invaluable lesson: It is essential to be informed about the risk factors can save lives.

Every March, we observe National Kidney Awareness Month, which is a time to learn and focus about kidney health and disease. In the human body, the role of the kidney is to remove waste products, produce certain hormones, and regulate the level of chemicals in blood. Kidneys also remove excess fluid from the body.

These waste products and excess fluid are removed through urine. The critical regulation of the body's salt, potassium, and acid content is performed by the kidneys. The kidneys also produce hormones and vitamins that affect the function of other organs. In addition, other hormones produced by the kidneys help regulate blood pressure and others help control calcium metabolism.

Advertisement For Pastor

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
4460 US Highway 13 North
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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

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Kidney Disease

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a condition in which your kidneys are damaged and cannot filter blood as well as healthy kidneys. Because of this, wastes from the blood remain in the body and may cause other health problems. When kidneys stop working, waste can no longer be removed from blood, meaning there is some type of kidney failure.

Kidney failure is also called end-stage renal disease (ESRD) or Stage 5 CKD. When ESRD occurs, there is usually a need for dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. This means that there is an 85 to 90 percent loss of kidney usage. The Nation Kidney Foundation states that when kidneys fail, dialysis keeps the body in balance by:

- removing waste, salt and extra water to prevent them from building up in the body
- keeping a safe level of certain chemicals in your blood, such as potassium, sodium and bicarbonate
- helping to control blood pressure

Risks Factors

The America Kidney Fund states that African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans are more at risk for kidney disease. This may be because these groups tend to have higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, the two leading causes of kidney failure. Access to health-care and other factors may also contribute. Cardiovascular disease and family history play a part in being at risk for kidney disease.

A great way to be informed about health issues is to gain and share information. This not only helps you individually, but also helps the people around you. Knowing the right questions to ask and possessing the ability to make informed decisions, can save lives.

Many campaigns have come to life to assist in the education of kidney disease, such as the National Institute of Health's National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP). NKDEP sponsors a "Kidney Sundays" initiative where faith communities can equip themselves to begin having a dialogue around kidney health issues.

This group also offers a free toolkit online where interested congregations can download and use in their own churches and communities. For more information about the National Kidney Disease Education Program, please visit <http://nkdep.nih.gov>.

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.



WIRE PHOTO

Research on autism interventions helps parents make better choices

WIRE REPORTS

More children than ever are being diagnosed with autism, which means more parents than ever face a dizzying array of often expensive treatment options. Giving parents and professionals authoritative information is the purpose of a new review spearheaded by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Without a thorough review of autism interventions, Allison Smith of Pawtucket, R.I., might never have asked to try video-modeling to help her twin sons, age 4, develop the key motor skill of blowing a feather, a steppingstone to speech.

"Knowledge is power," said Smith, who found video-modeling on a list of proven interventions from the National Professional Development Center (NPDC) on Autism Spectrum Disorders, a multi-university center to promote the use of evidence-based practices. UNC is one of three NPDC operating sites. "Knowing what works has given us the upper hand in acquiring appropriate therapy and tools."

Autism incurs an average lifetime price tag of \$3.2 million per person, according to a 2007 research study in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. But the Autism Society estimates that early diagnosis and effective interventions can reduce that lifetime cost by two-thirds.

"Parents often pay for interventions that have no evidence behind them," said FPG director Samuel L. Odom, who co-headed the new review. "This report will allow them to make the best choices."

In this five-year update for the NPDC, UNC scientists screened 29,000 articles about autism spectrum disorders to find the ones proven to work best. Compared to the 24 proven interventions in the 2008 report, the new report lists 27.

UNC researchers harness sun's energy during day for use at night

PRESS REPORTS

Solar energy has long been used as a clean alternative to fossil fuels such as coal and oil, but it could only be harnessed during the day when the sun's rays were strongest. Now researchers led by Tom Meyer at the Energy Frontier Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have built a system that converts the sun's energy not into electricity but hydrogen fuel and stores it for later use, allowing us to power our devices long after the sun goes down.

"So called 'solar fuels' like hydrogen offer a solution to how to store energy for nighttime use by taking a cue from natural photosynthesis," said Meyer, Arey Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. "Our new findings may provide a last major piece of a puzzle for a new way to store the sun's energy – it could be a tipping point for a solar energy future."

In one hour, the sun puts out enough energy to power every vehicle, factory and device on the planet for an entire year. Solar panels can harness that energy to generate electricity during the day. But the problem with the sun is that it goes down at night—and with it the ability to power our homes and cars. If solar energy is going to have a shot at being a clean source for powering the planet, scientists had to figure out how to store it for night-time use.

The new system designed by Meyer and colleagues at UNC and with Greg Parsons' group at North Carolina State University does exactly that. It is known as a dye-sensitized photoelectrosynthesis cell, or DSPEC, and it generates hydrogen fuel by using the sun's energy to split water into its component parts. After the split, hydrogen is sequestered and stored, while the byproduct, oxygen, is released into the air.

Medicare beneficiaries return to emergency rooms after nursing home discharge

WIRE REPORTS

Nursing homes are widely used by Medicare beneficiaries who require rehabilitation after hospital stays. But according to a recent study led by a researcher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, a high percentage of Medicare patients who are discharged from nursing homes will return to the hospital or the emergency room within 30 days.

"Nearly two million older adults use this benefit every year," said assistant professor Mark Toles, the first author of the study. "Before this study, we didn't recognize the large number of older adults who require additional acute care after they're discharged from a nursing home."

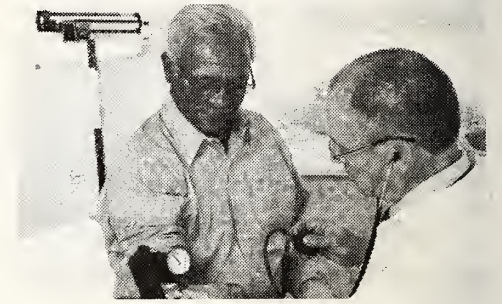
The study included more than 50,000 Medicare beneficiaries who were treated at skilled nursing facilities in North and South Carolina. Analyses conducted in collaboration with the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence and investigators at Duke University revealed that approximately 22 percent of beneficiaries required emergency care within 30 days of discharge and 37.5 percent required acute care within 90 days.

Toles and his colleagues also examined whether factors such as race and diagnosis increased the likelihood that older adults discharged from a nursing facility would return to the hospital. They found that men and African Americans were more likely to need additional acute care along with older adults with cancer or respiratory diseases. Other factors associated with a higher need for acute care included a high number of previous hospitalizations, comorbid conditions, and receiving care from a for-profit facility.

Toles explained that researchers currently don't know how many of these rehospitalizations and emergency room visits are preventable. Because the Affordable Care Act

penalizes hospitals for readmitting Medicare patients, there has been more focus on improving patients' transition from the hospital to their home. Toles hopes this study will convince decision makers to pay attention to transitions from nursing facilities as well.

"The role of nursing homes in communities has changed," he said. "These facilities are increasingly dedicated to transitioning older adults from the hospital back to their own homes. Short-term use of nursing facil-



WIRE PHOTO

ities has grown tremendously over the past ten years and we have to examine interventions that will improve that transition."

The study was published in the January 2014 issue of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. Funding was provided by the John A. Hartford Foundation, the National Institute for Nursing Research, and pilot funding from the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health and the Center for Integrative Science in Aging.

Co-authors include Ruth A. Anderson from the Duke University School of Nursing, Mark Massing from the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, Mary D. Naylor from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and Erick Jackson and Sharon Peacock-Hinton from the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence. The senior author of the study is Cathleen Colon-Emeric from the Duke University School of Medicine.

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"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. (Psalm 27:14)

As Christians, we are to approach life's situations with courage, knowing that confidence in God's will always assures us victory over any satanic attacks, influences or challenges.



Dr. Joseph R. ROGERS, SR.
Guest Columnist

In this text verse King David shares insights and gems that are applicable for today situations. In his youth he showed courage as a Shepherd boy protecting his father's flock against a lion and a bear. (1 Samuel 17). David's courage against the lion and the bear was not foolish valor. Because, in his confrontation, David did not rely only upon his physical skills but his courage was his foundation built upon the Lord.

I believe this is what motivated David to pin Psalm 27:5 - "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock."

To operate in 'courage' we must have and maintain faith in God's Word and rely upon the Holy Spirit for

guidance. To gain 'faith' one must read, ingest, digest and apply the Word of God in its proper context. You see, "The greater the faith, the greater the courage"; which absolutely delivers greater power".

Harold Sherman's book, "How To Turn Failure Into Success (1958)," provides a "Code of Persistence," which includes some, "I Wills...".

To list a few...

- Never give up, in spite of the degree of the challenge.
- Believe that all things will work out for me so long as I am in the Lord's will.
- Be courageous and undismayed in the face of odds.
- Not permit anyone to intimidate me or deter me from my goals.

• Never surrender to discouragement or despair no matter what seeming obstacles may confront me.

The Apostle Paul states a similar fact as he writes to the Church at Roman: Romans 8:35, 37- "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors."



In closing, it is a wonderful thing to know that the Lord has equipped us with the determination, faith, and commitment to never, ever give up, in spite of the challenge.

Always remember and apply the text, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD"

It was 'courage' that led:

- Moses to challenge Pharaoh power!
- Joshua and Israel around the Jericho's Walls!
- Elijah to challenge Baal's power!
- The Disciples to challenge Rome's Power!

It takes courage to continue to travel down dark roads and to be confident when troubling clouds overhang life's situations.

But, when this happens, 'courage' says, "The race is not given to the swift, nor to the strong, but to those that hold on and endure to the end."

Dr. Joseph R. Rogers, Sr. is Associate Minister at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh. Reach him at jroger3420@aol.com.

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

WHITE'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

3679 NC 122 N
Speed, NC 27881

White's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is currently accepting resume's for the position of Pastor. White's Chapel is a member of the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

Potential Candidate Qualifications:

- Must be let 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 doctrine, policies and practices.
- Must be willing to conduct worship service on a weekly basis.
- 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 Meetings and Bible Study; visit and 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 candidates must provide:

- Four references: 2 professional; 2 personal. References must include name, address and telephone number.
- Name, address and telephone number of previous and/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.

This list is certainly not inclusive, but serves as a snapshot of what we expect of a pastor as we build White's Chapel 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:

White's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 372
Speed, NC 27881

Deadline: Must be postmarked by midnight March 15, 2014

Continuing to sow seeds without regard for the benefits

"We are sowing seeds for trees under whose shade we may never sit."

Those words, loosely taken from the Nelson Henderson quote, was a frequent statement by the president of a national organization I used to serve.



Linda Brown
DOUGLAS

Whenever we members of the Board of Directors would become anxious, the president would once again thank us for our commitment and remind us that we were not working for the present, but for a future. We were redeveloping the infrastructure of the organization and that took a lot of work, and a lot of time – years. Most members would roll off the Board before they would see the fruit of their labor.

The actual quote states, "The true meaning of life is

to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Why sow seeds for trees when you may never enjoy the shade?

We sow seeds in all sorts of ways. We raise children while praying that everything put in their minds and bodies will benefit them throughout their lifetime, not necessarily our lifetime. We help build homes, organization facilities and churches with the foundation to last after we have moved on. We sow seeds with our financial contributions that we pray will be used for the building of God's kingdom. We

even sow seeds in a person's life when we offer support, words of encouragement (good seeds) or even words of discouragement (bad seeds). If we really think about it, we sow seeds – whether positive or negative – all the time.

When I became the lead advisor for a student organization this year, I found it curious at the large number of people who either thanked me as if I had just donated a bodily organ or offered condolences as if I were headed to a war-torn country to provide mission work.

It wasn't long before I realized why they saw my commitment as so honorable. Working with talented youth, who hear a lot more voices than yours, is a lot of work. They want to take on the world, and if you're an advisor that means you have to be with them each time they bite off a chunk of the world. Also, if that group is of the female persuasion, the atmosphere is filled with drama, individual and group. I knew I was in deep when I realized I seemed to be in constant prayer to better understand both their drive to constantly take on more projects as well as their indifference to the technical requirements of the organization.

More than once, I have been advised to stop trying to fix what I inherited and wait until a new group comes to teach from scratch. That's not me. I plan to keep teaching and emphasizing the organization's true mission right through graduation day. I can already see some of the seeds germinating. Also, I keep remembering the time someone told me that the seeds I planted at a former home had eventually blossomed into beautiful flowers. They just took longer.

Why sow seeds for trees when you may never enjoy the shade?

The Bible tells us to sow seeds and to sow them abundantly.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV)

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." (Galatians 6:7 ESV)

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." (Proverbs 11: 24-25 ESV)

"They sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield." (Psalm 107:37 ESV)

We all have a chance at that fruitful yield. It is a noble charge that we have seen many times in the past with people that such as Moses and Martin Luther King, Jr., who both understood that they may not get to the Promised Land with us, but that their job was to make sure others made it there. Many generations have planted seeds so that we may benefit today.

Likewise, we may never rest under the shade ourselves, but just imagine how many people will benefit from the trees we sow today.

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



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

Oak Grove United American Free Will Baptist Church, INC

801 Colfax Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701

Contact Number and Email:

919 302 6212

oakgroveserachcommittee@gmail.com

Oak Grove United American Free Will Baptist Church is searching for a Senior Pastor. Candidates must be:

- Spirit filled and ordained; not willing to compromise with anything that is not in God's word
 - 5 to 6 years of experience pastoring or preaching God's word
 - Willing to do all that's required of a pastor
 - Willing to obey the United American Free Will Baptist doctrine, covenant and ordinance
 - Must possess ability to increase congregation numbers
 - Enhance Youth Program
 - Enhance Auxiliaries and Mission Outreach
- Required are, cover letter, resume, application, CD or DVD of a current sermon. Send all correspondence to:

Oak Grove United American Free Will Baptist Church, INC
Attention: Pastor Search Committee
PO Box 52442
Durham, North Carolina 27717

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