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Survey Reveals Black Family Concerns Regarding Race, Money, Education and Economy

WIRE REPORTS

CHICAGO — In the May issue of EBONY magazine, the publication partnered with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) to release the State of the Black Family Survey. In the study, a national sample of 1,005 African-American respondents identified job loss and financial insecurity as the number one issue confronting Black families.

The survey polled African-Americans on their views on the economy, education, relationships, race relations, health care, employment, finances and media trends.

The findings from the study revealed the following:

- 84% of respondents says racial discrimination still pervades American society
- 74% think society isn't doing enough to support young men and boys of color.
- Almost two-thirds of respondents say they are better off financially than they were five years ago, but 82% are concerned that Whites still make more than Blacks for doing the same jobs.
- 52% see the media portrayal of African-Americans as generally negative.
- 60% of respondents agree we are making progress in providing access to health care.
- 50%, however, feel that we are losing ground in reducing the gap between rich and poor.
- Almost 1/3 are concerned that their children are not getting a quality education.
- 44% of survey respondents said they know someone that has been killed or committed suicide

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GBSC to Hold Mid-Year at President's Home Church

The Mount Zion Baptist Church of Winston-Salem will host the 2014 Mid-Year Session of the General Baptist State Convention. The Church's roots date back to 1889. Our current president was licensed to preach by this congregation. Dr. Serenus T. Churn, Sr., is the sixth pastor of Mount Zion. His pastoral tenure at the Church dates back to 1984.



President Parker Dr. H. Gray Dr. S. Churn

Mount Zion to Host 2014 Mid-Year Session

The 2014 Mid-Year Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. will convene on May 13 and 14 at the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Winston-Salem. The Church is located on the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and File Street at 950 File Street. The Mid-Year Session is the second of three annual events of the Convention (the first being January's MLK Memorial Banquet and the final being October's annual session.)

"The Mid-Year Session is our opportunity to report on our work and progress," says Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer. "It is a rich time for fellowship and

worship as our Baptist family gains strength from our coming together in May."

This year's Mid-Year Session meets at the Church, which licensed our president, Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. to preach. "It is the Convention's delight to bring our President back to the hallowed grounds where his ministry began," says Gray. "We hope this gathering will have special meaning for President Parker."

See page 9 for more information and registration.

WBHFMC held 44th State-wide Leaders' Workshop

The Woman's Baptist State Convention held its 44th Annual State-wide Leaders' Workshop on April 5, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte. Over 1000 women, men and children attended! 801 Pre-registered through Baptist Headquarters and over 200 registered on-site. Our WBHFMC Staff, Volunteers, the Registration Committee (led by Ms. Vanessa Gregory), the Ebenezer Missionaries (led by Mrs. Gertrude Tucker) and the Ebenezer Ushers prepared the way with detail and hospitality.

President Linda D. Inman enthusiastically encouraged leaders to embrace her 8 Recommendations for Reaching the Masses in 2014. There was a mighty move of God as we were welcomed and enveloped by Pastor Leonzo Lynch and the Ebenezer Family.

Dr. LaMont J. Johnson set the atmosphere with a prolific early morning Worship Workshop that challenged the Woman's Convention to embrace renewed devotion to De-



votional Worship. His examination of our motives for praise and worship added momentum to our modalities for missions.

3rd Vice President, Mrs. Lena Johnson taught on Mis-

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- Amanda



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

Insignificant Things Take on New Significance

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

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

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus had a knack for glorifying common things and common people. He defended the defenseless, healed the afflicted, received outcasts, ate with sinners, delivered the downtrodden, elevated the oppressed, gave worth to women, loved the lepers — you name it, Jesus did it. He shook up the foundation of political correctness and religious self-piety.

Thanks to Jesus, many insignificant things took on new significance: light, salt, sparrows, lilies, bread and wine, a crown of thorns, an old rugged cross, and a borrowed tomb. Nothing was too small and nobody was too insignificant to merit the attention of our Lord and Savior. This truth is manifested as spring begins to break forth in its divinely ordained splendor. New life appears in all of its colorful glory. The handiwork of God once again provides a marvelous array of greenery, pageantry, and imagery.

In all of this, the seemingly insignificant common dandelion will make its presence felt. The dandelion is interesting. It will grow where nothing else will. It is not prejudice, picky, nor persnickety about where it will grow. It will grow in the yard of the rich or the



poor. The dandelion is not concerned about the race, religion, culture, creed, or political preference of the yard's owner. It will grow wherever it can take root.

The amazing thing about the dandelion is its ability to persevere — to rise above its surroundings. No matter how high the grass grows or how dry the ground becomes, it perseveres. The dandelion, much to the dismay of many gardeners, will rise above it all!

Some people are like that. They rise above it all. In the midst of discouragement and troubles, they RISE!

Distress and criticism? They RISE!

Limited resources and a succession of failures? They RISE!

Red seas in front, pharaohs in the back, mountains on the side? They RISE!

Hungry lions, flaming furnaces, high walls, ungrateful murmurers? They RISE!

They rise above it all because, like the dandelion, they understand nothing can keep them down when they reach up for God's sunshine. They refuse to be smothered and bound by circumstances. The

dandelion not only adds color to the drab places of earth. It eventually scatters seeds, and the seeds eventually bear fruit.

Our convention is similar to the dandelion. It has been able to RISE ABOVE IT ALL. Its fruitful ministry through the support of missions and objectives has often been overlooked and unappreciated. But through it all, the fruit of our convention's labor has provided color in drab places for many who are outcast and undernourished.

Through it all, our convention continues to scatter seeds that bear fruit for ministry through Christian

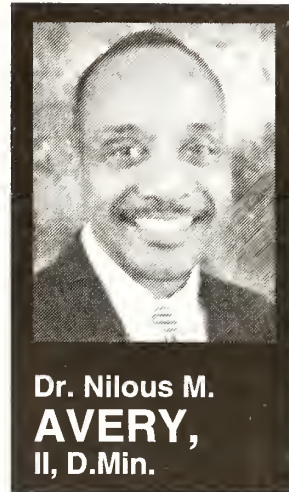
Education, Missions, and Benevolence. Through it all, our convention scatters seeds that bear fruit for ministry through Preaching... Teaching... Reaching (Matt. 28:19-20). Your prayers and support through the years have made this possible. Like the dandelion, our convention continues to RISE ABOVE IT ALL!

Please continue to be good stewards of the convention and its auxiliaries. Rise above the tendency to assume that all is well. Refuse to be smothered by daily routines and "busyness" that may not always glorify God & edify others. Abhor the rumors that seek to pronounce the death sentence on a heritage and legacy that has stood the test of time.

Put off the fabric of being a spectator and put on the garment of being a participator. Experience and reflect the power of Jesus' resurrection even when the death sentence has been pronounced. Nothing and nobody will keep us down because we serve God who is able, willing, and available to lift us up. And if God be for us ...!

Encourage your church, ministry, association, and community to support GBSC, missions, and the objectives. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from you soon. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Philippians 4:23, NKJV).

Dr. Avery can be reached at: averyrevkin@aol.com.



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

The Role Of The Associate Minister In The Local Church

Scripture: "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:6)

In over thirty years of serving as an associate minister and senior pastor, I have worked with and supported many ministers; men and women, whom the Lord called into the pastoral ministry.

I would like to be very candid about the role of the associate minister, as you assist your Senior Pastor in service and ministry. You must remember that you're not the pastor—you have no pulpit from which to preach, or bible study group to teach, or church to lead and guide. In order for God to elevate you in ministry you must have a servant attitude; that is, giving respect to your senior pastor.

It is the call of the senior pastor to train you as God gives him/her the opportunity to do so. You should never, I say never, question how you are being used by the senior pastor. The more submissive you are in attitude and actions, the more God will open up opportunities for you to minister.

It is an insult and not proper protocol to insist that you: preach the morning message, teach the mid-week bible study, give the call the worship, the invocation, the morning prayer, read the morning scripture, make the call for discipleship or prayer the altar prayer.

The morning worship service celebration is the senior pastor's prerogative and the associate minister(s) should never pressure the senior pastor to be included in the service.

The Role of the Associate Minister, after proper training has been implemented, can have a positive effect upon the local church services and missions.

As an Associate Minister you must develop a heart for God, catch the vision of the senior pastor and be willing to participate in the services of the church. You have gifts and talents that need to be stirred up, nurtured and used in the gospel ministry; allow these processes to run their course.

God has handcrafted you for a specific role in the ministries of the local congregation. Give the Senior Pastor time to train you. Always maintain a level head and do not allow your egotistical negative attitude to diminish your effectiveness and abilities in service.

The Associate Minister should be exemplary in your character and integrity; as Aaron worked with Moses, as Elisha worked with Elijah, as Timothy worked with Paul; let these examples be your model.



The Associate Minister should exhibit loyalty and obedience to the senior pastor and the church. The Associate Minister that has no respect for the pastor or church family will eventually become a thorn in their sides.

The Associate Minister must understand that:

Personality is how God made you!

Character is who you are!

Integrity is character in action!

Attitude is how you choose to act!

The Associate Minister should always follow the program when he/she is asked to participate in any church service:

When you're asked to pray, just pray!

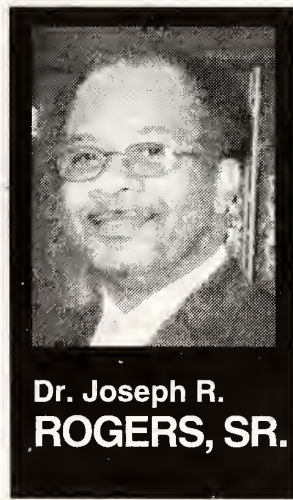
When you're asked to read, just read!

When you're asked to preach, just preach—and take your seat!

When your maturity shows you can handle the small things in ministry, God will open the doors for you to experience the larger and more responsible things.

Remember, you are being observed by more people than you think! Serve Well!

Dr. Joseph R. Rogers, Sr., is an Associate Minister at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. You may reach him at jroger3420@aol.com.



Dr. Joseph R. ROGERS, SR.

“Remembering the Poor.”

Continuing our discussion from the previous article, we noted that to be “poor in spirit” means we have to learn to become humble. The only way to get rid of “self” is to make room for God.

With “self” out of the circumference and God at the center, life finds its true center and begins to swing with that grace and rhythm which are free from friction and frustration. Each of us has to accept three realities in life and our happiness depends upon being properly adjusted to all three.

First, we must put God at the center to be free and properly adjusted. A woman once said that “the happiest day of her life, “was the day she stopped trying to be pretty.” She had to let her pretentious about herself.

Secondly, we have to accept other people, and our

happiness depends upon being properly adjusted, not only to ourselves, but to others a well. There are two groups of people: Those who see life as a mirror and those who see as a window. For the self-centered person the world is a mirror. Wherever he looks, he see himself. He is like the person window-shopping who never sees the goods in the window but himself in the glass. But for the poor in spirit, the world is a window. He looks through the glass and sees what is on the other side. And blessed are the poor in spirit, for they are rich in the esteem of a multitude of friends.



The third reality is that we have to accept God, and our happiness depends upon our being properly adjusted, not only to ourselves and to other people,

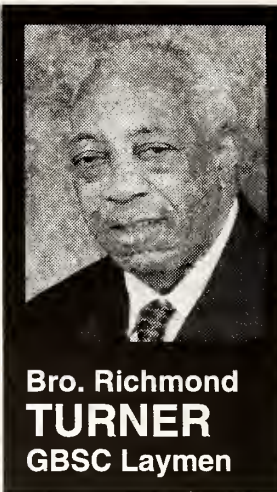
but to God. There is nothing so fatal to this sense of being right with God and enjoying His approval as

the self – important assumption that you can win it for yourself. For example, there is danger for any man who claims that “he is the master of his fate and the captain of his soul.”

If he says, “with these two legs of mine, I’ll climb the steep ascent of heaven, and when I get to the door, I’ll batter it down with the strong arm of my righteousness, and then I’ll “ storm the citadel of the Eternal and demand that God take me in,” he is riding for a fall.

If you want the blessedness that comes from being right with God, you must get “self” out of the way and be willing to admit that you cannot make the grade under your own steam. You must see that our human condition is that we are estranged from God and our only hope lies in the fact that He is willing to “accept the unacceptable.”

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



Bro. Richmond
TURNER
GBSC Laymen

Laymen League hold Study Commission in Claremont

The North Carolina State Laymen’s League held its Study Commission at Liberty Hill MBC in Claremont, N.C., March 8, 2014, with the Host Pastor Rev. Michael Tolbert.

The Executive Board meeting was held under the leadership of President Richmond Turner. President Richmond Turner elaborated on the National Baptist Congress which will be held in Dallas, Texas. Second Vice President Anthony Hagans provided an update on the Laymen’s League Annual Session and Banquet held in April at the Neuse River Headquarters in Whitakers, North Carolina.

N.C. State Laymen’s League Treasurer Stanford Gabriel elaborated on the Laymen’s contributions to the General Baptist State Convention with continuous improvement from the Laymen’s League. Also, the

Laymen’s League Annual Men and Boys Retreat will be held in Raeford, N.C. on July 11-12 at Matthew Rouse Jr. Community Resource Center. Brother Samuel Teague is the Youth Coordinator for this event that is designed to worship, Bible study, counseling and recreation in a Christian environment.

Highlights of the Study Commission program included greetings from Rev. Michael Tolbert and President Richmond Turner. The Laymen’s League pledge and hymn was led by Second Vice-President Anthony Hagans in which the congregation participated.

Workshop participants were Samuel Teague and Brian Jones for the Youth Workshop; Rev. Anthonette Wright for the Wives/Women Workshop and President Richmond Turner for the Spiritual Men Workshop.

During the Youth Workshop, Bro. Samuel Teague told the youth that “An idle mind is the Devil’s playground.” He added, “We are to see boys grow into being a man from boyhood. Some of the issues that boys go through men have already gone through.”

Highlights included a sermon from the Reverend Tommy Carpenter, Moderator of Mount and Catawba Missionary Baptist Association. His text was taken from Matthew 28 and the topic was “Disciples of Christ.”

“These scriptures remind us of our duty to make disciples of Christ. We’ve got to wait on Him. All our instructions comes from Jesus. When we see Jesus we are to worship Him. He feeds us when we are hungry. He’s worth worshipping,” he said.

– Submitted by Roger Battle



Michael L.
ELEY, JR.

Jekalyn Carr’s passion for ministry began at the early age of five. Many doors began to open in her life because of her powerful voice and ministry which has become an inspiration to others. At the age of thirteen, Jekalyn acknowledged her calling for preaching. Since then she has appeared with some of God’s greatest artists. Her hit single “Greater is Coming,” further established her an internation-

ally-recognized newcomer to the world of gospel music. Now, she is again captivating audiences with her new single “They Said, But God Said.”

Through the band’s contemporary sound, encouragement is ignited within the believer to keep persevering no matter the circumstance, the opposition or conditions. This song of testament causes one to forget about their woes and is an excellent aid to push one into a deeper dimension of worship where with the touch of God, we are brought into the revelation of the person, the power and the plans that



Wire Photo

Music Review

God harbors for our lives [Jeremiah 29:11].

Jekalyn, 16, has been featured on various programs, including “This Is Your Day” with Pastor Benny Hinn on The Trinity Broadcasting Network, The Word Network and Bobby Jones Gospel on BET. Recently, she became the youngest Stellar Award winner. God is doing a wonderful work in her life. Continue to be on the lookout for this young Evangelist, because truly “Greater is Coming.”

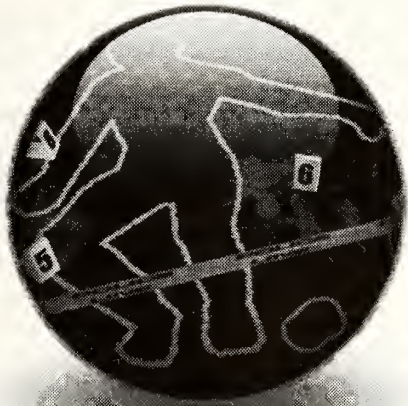
– Michael L. Eley, Jr., a senior at Wakefield High School in Raleigh, N.C., is a musician and a frequent music reviewer for the Baptist Informer.

Make a Difference: Preventing Crime with Examples of Integrity

Recently, a security officer at our church put a flier in my hand with a picture of his beautiful niece on the front. He asked our church to pray for the young lady who had been missing a few months. The next week, she was found in a nearby river. Her teenage boyfriend admitted to strangling and dumping her body.

Whether you live in the city, suburbs, or countryside, crime and violence are an ever-present danger. After listening to a dozen speakers at a "Safe Streets Symposium" in our city recently, I realized that one way to minister to our children is through our examples of integrity! Proverbs 20:7 (NLT) reminds us that "The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them."

Unfortunately, far too many negative role models



with criminal mentalities abound in our society. Politicians savagely trash our U.S. President and Attorney General. Mayors take money under the table and kickbacks. Political leaders disrespect other races,

genders, and ethnic groups. Indeed, we live in a sick culture and our kids see it in us!

N.C. government leaders turn blind eyes to corporate malfeasance such as Duke Power dumping coal ash in our rivers and streams. State officials immorally deny Medicaid (health care) to thousands of North Carolinians for partisan reasons. These are criminal actions and our youth take notice!

Many adults hurry to prosecute and incarcerate petty criminals, but they let big white collar crooks off of the hook! The Prophet Habakkuk asked God, "Are we but fish to be caught and killed? Must we be strung up on their (evil people's) hooks and dragged out in their nets while they rejoice?" (1:14, 15, NLT) Surely, our youth see injustice around them and are tempted into crime by their adult role models.

We must stop corporate profits from ill-advised wars that spill the innocent blood of our young men and women without just cause. We must not allow businesses to get away with "wage thefts" of ordinary workers, denying them pay for all the hours that they really labored. When we allow the crimes of the elite, we oppress people and entice them into wickedness. Our children do see it!

How can churches talk about love and justice when we pay our church workers minimum wages that impoverish their families? How can we be true to biblical hospitality when we turn a blind eye to struggling Latino families who are oppressed by inhumane immigration laws?

Surely, one precursor of crime among our youth is violence by adults. A "PG" movie now looks more like an "X-rated" film. We give license to violent TV, video games, and music; and who takes home the cash—adults!

Cumberland County Sheriff Moose Butler told symposium participants that "We can't arrest ourselves out of the crime situation today. We all must take

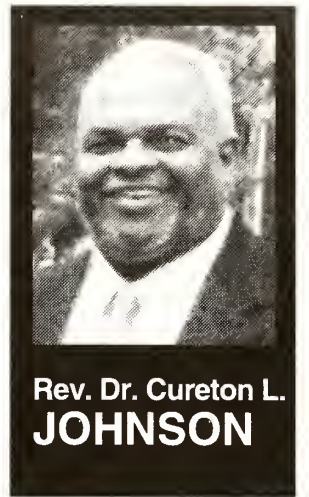
time to provide for our young people before they get in the courts and jails. It's a community problem, a town problem, and it's our personal problem."

Besides setting good examples of integrity in our communities, we all must put some "skin" in the game to intervene early to help our youth. Christians and churches must consider mentoring and disciple-making ministries for children and teens. Coach some sports teams, have back-to-school days to motivate our students, and tutor our kids after school to keep them academically on track. Hold summer camps and overnight retreats. Invest your time, talents, and treasures in our kids' lives to help them stay on the straight and narrow way that leads to life!

"Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white (ripe) for harvest." (John 4:35) Indeed, "the harvest is great but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37)

Go find where you can make a difference. Don't wait to be asked. Be assertive. Don't worry about who knows what you are doing because your names will be written in heaven.

Reverend Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, D. Min., is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Reach him at: cjohnson035@nc.rr.com.



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON



Jamal Cogdell
Second Place Winner in James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Senior Division (12th grade)

Jamal Cogdell, a high school senior, lives in Fayetteville, N.C. He is the grandson of Mrs. Annie Cochran and a member of Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville where the Pastor is the Reverend Reginald Wells of the Middle District Association (Rev. Harvey Robinson- Moderator).

Please see the winning speech below:

Are You Prepared to Meet New Challenges?

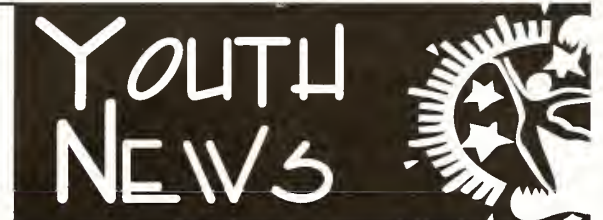
There are times in our lives that demanding tasks call for special efforts of dedications. These are challenges. Challenges may occur at any time, whether it be from the past, occurring right now, or bound for you in the future. Making the right decision is a challenge in itself, but by having faith and dedication to the Lord challenges can be overcome. The power to overcome these challenges comes from Jesus, the study of God's word and prayer to make the right decisions. From the time that we were kids, the concept of

sharing was instilled into our lives. Toys, games and crayons were all on the list but what about now. We no longer share material possessions but we share challenges from our past. God puts us all through challenges knowing that we will overcome. It is our duty as Christians to share these experiences. Galatians 6:1-2 states, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." In the spirit of meekness be a light to someone's darkened path.

As a teenager in this generation staying away from drama is an everyday challenge that affects even the most isolate person. Examples of drama include feuds between peers, a breakup between a boyfriend/girlfriend, and the most common "He said, She said"

Conversation. The solution to avoiding these challenges or getting rid of them is to stay focused on God's plan and fulfill our Christian duties. God said in Luke 6:47 "Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like." When we are fully committed to our relationship with God, we see that His direction will not steer us wrong and we will be blessed and highly favored.

The saying "We are the Future" is used to describe the importance of the role that young people have in society. Everyone has a responsibility to maintain, but the challenge of being prepared and having self-confi-



dence restricts many young people from believing that they are somebody. The preparation to establishing self-confidence comes from within you. You have to believe that what you are doing is the best you can do, remind yourself that you are unique, but most of all, follow the Holy Spirit that it is within your heart. Philippians 4:13 states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Self-confidence gives you an edge over the rest and with proper preparation God will lead you through.

Are You Prepared to Meet the New Challenges? I believe our lives and all the challenges it involves are in the hands of a sovereign, wise, loving God who is working for our good. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Let's look to Jesus Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit to prepare us for new challenges.

Thank You and To God Be the Glory.

What Makes the Difference in Your Preaching Is Clothes and Grooming

We discussed in the last article the importance of the preacher's voice in delivery of the sermon. Mainly, we learned that the voice quality reveals something about the preacher including personality, character, confidence, sincerity, dishonesty or trust worthiness. Invariably, the audience draws certain conclusions about the preacher based on the sound of his or her voice. Sound of voice is another non-verbal channel of communication having marked impact on the audience. The aim of this article is to discuss the preacher's appearance (clothes/grooming) as yet another method of communication concerning who he or she is as a preacher.



While the preacher may not be the most intelligent, educated or eloquent, but he or she can look the part. A young seminary student received an invitation to preach at a local congregation. Upon arriving home a neighbor asked one of the mothers of the congregation what the sermon was about. She replied, "I don't remember what

he preached about but he was wearing a nice suit." Remember, you might not be able to make an impression by preaching well, but you can make one by dressing well. On the other hand, you might have a well prepared sermon with an effective delivery but poorly received because your shirt was wrinkled, tie stained, suit dirty and shoes dusty. What will be the

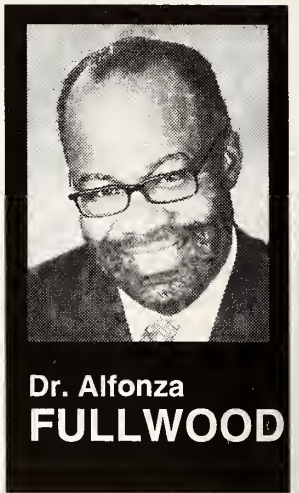
subject of conversation after benediction is not your gift of oratory but gossip about your poor appearance. Your outward appearance functions like a loud speaker, sending all sorts of signals or messages about who you are in terms of your personality, attitude, character and self-esteem.

On the other side of the coin you can overdress to the point attention will be on what you are wearing instead of the gospel you are preaching. Be careful concerning your bright and flashy colors such as socks

and shirts (men). Gardner C. Taylor once remarked that preachers should be careful not to look like "pimps." In this sense, the pulpit is not a "fashion box" for the preacher, rather a sacred desk to proclaim not ourselves, but he who died a death for a crowd no man can number. For the power of the gospel is not in our "wear" but in his Word.

In short, what guidelines should you follow to meet the standard of clothes and grooming? You should "dress neatly, conservatively and in good taste." Equally important, you should not have your clothes too tight (women and men) or too loose. Finally, keep your hair neat, carry breath mints and watch any signs of body odor. Keep in mind, you are judged by how you look, and how you look is a part of the message you preach. You are your sermon—a walking "epistle."

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

There are several factors that establish speaker or preacher credibility in the pulpit. One important factor toward building credibility is the way you look—your appearance factor. The factor of appearance is a "big deal" when it comes to persuading the listeners concerning life and death issues relative to the gospel of Christ. When mounting the pulpit, what forms the first impressions about you is not the Bible nor sermon notes but your appearance. And remember there is no second chance to form or make first impressions.

GBSC Website Exceeds One Million Hits Mark

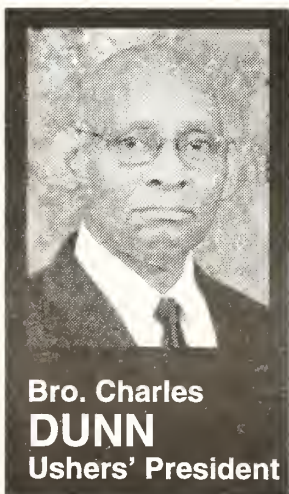
The new website of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has passed the million hits mark. Evolution Design Concepts (the company that developed and maintains the website) reports that the website has received 1,230,529 hits since it was launched at the Annual Session on October 30, 2013.

According to Greg Thompson, Marketing Manager for Evolution Design

Concepts, "this is an outstanding accomplishment for a new website."

The website continues to grow on an almost daily basis as affiliated churches are taking advantage of a free listing of their congregations on the site. As well, advertising opportunities are available for businesses offering products and services of interest to churches.

The website address is www.gbsconline.org.



Bro. Charles DUNN
Ushers' President

Shaped for Service: God can use all abilities

When God created us he made us in different shapes. We were shaped for a purpose. We are uniquely designed to do certain things. Before God formed or created us he decided exactly what role he wanted us to play on earth, so he shaped us for those tasks. We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works. In Psalm

19:13-14 David said "Thou made all the inward parts of my body together in my mother's womb. I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well."

God molds you for ministry to others and shapes you for service to him. Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. What I am able to do is what God wants me to do. Whenever God gives us an assignment, he equips us with what we need to accomplish the task. This custom combination of capabilities is

called your shape. God gave every believer spiritual gifts to use in ministry. Romans 12:4-6 reads "for just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us..."

Many times we are only interested in serving us. We say I am looking for a church that meets my needs and blesses me, not I am looking for a place of worship to serve and to be a blessing. We expect others to serve us, not vice-versa. As Christians the focus of our lives should increasingly shift to living a life of service. Stop asking who is going to meet my needs and start asking who needs can I meet. Whenever you serve others you are actually serving God and fulfilling one of your purposes. God has carefully shaped you for this purpose. God told Jeremiah before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you; likewise, before you were born, God set you a part for a special work, so accept your assignment. God has equipped us and will continue to equip us to effectively serve (usher) as we consistently yield to his spirit.

Ephesians 4:7 reads "everyone is given grace accord-



ing to the measure of the gift of Christ." God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. One of the most common excuses people have for not serving is I just can't do that. Paul said, "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God." You are the only person who can use what God gave to you. No one else can play your role; they do not have the unique shape that God has given you. Every ability can and should be used for the glory of God.

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



Pastoral search

Rock Hill Baptist Church No. 1 in Greenville, SC prayerfully seeks a pastor who is a servant leader and who is filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. Established since 1885, Rock Hill is a church with a rich history, thus, the successful candidate must be able to meet the ministry needs of a multi-generational congregation, preach the gospel with deep knowledge, conviction, clarity, and power, and seek to grow the church in its reach and its impact for Jesus Christ.

For more information, visit our website at www.rockhillbc1.org

To apply, send cover letter and resume to Rock Hill Baptist Church No. 1 500 Dublin Rd. Greenville, SC 29615 Attn: Pastoral Search Committee.

Or submit via e-mail to rockhill1pastorsearch@gmail.com



ASSOCIATION HONORS - The Yadkin Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Association, which is part of District 5, Group 1 of the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, recently held its quarterly meeting at First Baptist Missionary Church in Ansonville, N.C., where the Pastor is the Rev. R.E. Blount. At the meeting, Moderator Dr. Robert L. Sanders recognized Missionary Presidents of the Association and cited their "strong leadership and unwavering support to the call of duty on the missionary field." Reverend Lula Mills has served as President of the Yadkin Women's Auxiliary and also as President of the Union County Union and Chairperson of the District Conference. Pictured here (from left to right) are Moderator Reverend Dr. Robert L. Sanders; Past Presidents Sister Pearl L. Blount and the Reverend Mills; and Sister Pearline Little, Current President.



save the date

June 15th-20th
Application Deadline

June 7th



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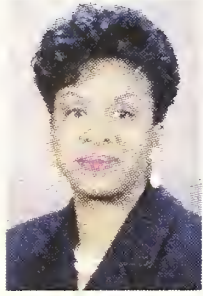
For More Information: [\(919\)833-4823](tel:(919)833-4823)

Download Application Online: www.wbh-fmc.org

44th Annual State-wide Leaders' Workshop

(continued from page 1)

sions and invited us to prayerfully cast our nets more broadly in response to the needs all around us. Missionary Circles, Auxiliaries, Unions and Districts were challenged to strengthen the work of our Baptist churches. The July 29th "Missions in Action" project which will take place during the upcoming Annual Session July 28-31, was introduced for advance prayer and mass participation. On that day, the WBHFMC will dispatch Seniors, Young Adults and Youth Missionaries from the Raleigh Convention Center to flood the city of Raleigh for a hands-on mission project.



Arnold-Graham

Minster Genetta Williams led the youth in active learning and vibrant participatory workshops asking, "Do you know my friend Jesus?"

Young Adult Director, Mrs Evelyn Johnson and Young Adult President, Ms. Jewelyn Dunn facilitated four Mission Encounters as a walk-through journey entitled, "Taking Missions Outside of the Box."

Rev. James Covington of Friendship in Charlotte, shined the light on child abuse and enlightened us about child abuse prevention as a mission. Preceded by the dynamic Voices of Galilee, Dr. Nathan Scovens, he preached a message in that vein entitled, "Turn on the Light." Truly there was food for the soul and the palate. Breakfast and lunch were prepared by the Ebenezer Culinary Ministry, which included healthy options for dining in or boxed lunches for the buses and caravans heading home.

To God be the Glory...GREAT things HE has done and promised to do!

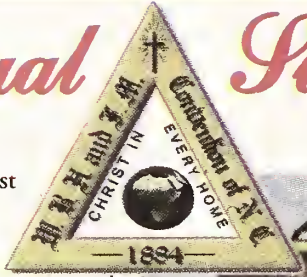
Stay tuned, God is up to something!

In HIS Service, In the Spirit,
Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham

Upcoming Events:

- Minister's Wives and Widows Retreat • May 2-3
- Young Adult Retreat • June 6-8
- Youth Bible Camp • June 15-20
- Lott Carey Youth Seminar • June 21-26
- Young Adult Mission Trip to Jamaica • July 12-19
- 130th Annual Session of the WBHFMC • July 28-31

Details and downloadable applications are available at www.Wbh-fmc.org.



Young Adult Simulations examined the effects of hunger, thirst, child trafficking and homelessness.





Plan to attend the
2014 MID YEAR SESSION
of the General Baptist State Convention
 Tuesday and Wednesday, May 13 and 14
 Mount Zion Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

Mid-Year Session Representation Instructions May 13-14, 2014

Pre-registration deadline: May 2, 2014
 On-site registration begins May 13 at 9:00 a.m.

1. Churches wishing to pre-register must do so before Friday, May 2, 2014. Fees and a registration form must be received at Baptist Headquarters (603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601) before the deadline. *Do not send fees or forms to Mount Zion Baptist Church.* Call Baptist Headquarters (919-821-7466) for instructions on how to register with a credit card.
2. On-site registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13 at Mount Zion Baptist Church (950 File Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina). All sessions will be held at the Church. **Checks should be made payable to GBSC.** The Convention also accepts VISA, MasterCard and Discover for payment of registration.
3. If your Church will not attend or represent at this session, you may send your representation fee and your contribution for State Missions to the Baptist Headquarters (603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601). **DO NOT MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION TO WINSTON-SALEM.**
4. The following chart outlines the Constitutional requirements for representation. Please use this chart to determine the amount you must pay to represent and the number of messengers that your Church is entitled to send to this session.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	AMOUNT TO REPRESENT	NUMBER OF MESSENGERS
1 - 50 Members	\$20.00	2 Messengers
51 - 100 Members	\$35.00	3 Messengers
101 - 250 Members	\$50.00	4 Messengers
251 - 500 Members	\$75.00	5 Messengers
501 - 750 Members	\$100.00	6 Messengers
751 - 1000 Members	\$125.00	7 Messengers
1001 and above	\$150.00	8 Messengers

5. You are entitled to send the number of persons indicated above based on the size of your Church and your representation fee. Each person listed on your registration form as a messenger is entitled to 1 badge and 1 registration kit. Additional persons may register for a fee of \$20.00 per person. In addition to the representation fees above, your Church is asked to send a contribution for State Missions. The amount to be sent for State Missions is left up to your Church to decide.
6. Persons who are not representing a Church as a messenger may register as an individual at the session. Individual registration is \$20.00 per person.



GBSC REPRESENTATION FORM

2014 MID-YEAR SESSION

May 13 - 14, 2014

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Date: _____ Church Membership:
PLACE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON ROLL IN BOX ABOVE

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

SECTION A: FEES

Representation (Based on size of congregation; see chart on back) _____
 State Missions (A contribution of your choice is REQUIRED) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

SECTION B: MESSENGERS

NAME E-MAIL ADDRESS

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____

N Please refer to the chart on the back of this form for representation fees due
O based on the size of your congregation. **IN ADDITION TO YOUR REPRESENTATION**
T FEE, please bring a contribution for STATE MISSIONS.
E
S PRE-REGISTRATION IS DUE NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014.

Pastor's Signature: _____ Phone: _____
 Clerk's Signature: _____ Phone: _____

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Voice of 500,000 Baptists

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Survey Reveals Black Family Concerns Regarding Race, Money, Education and Economy



File Photo

(continued from page 1)

- 30% said "improving the creating more jobs/good paying jobs" as a top issue of concern.

La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, noted that poll respondents expressed concerns about the impact of racial bias and the income inequality gap that is prevalent within the African American community, as well as other demographics in American society. "We have a lot of work to do in creating jobs and making sure that people of color receive the training and education needed to obtain those jobs," she said. "We believe the lack of employment is really critical and impacts a child's well-being and limits opportunities."

She added that a recent study, "The Business Case for Racial Equity," by the Altarum Institute with funding from WKKF underscores the potential benefits to business, government and the economy if racial inequities are addressed. "Discriminatory policies and disparities in housing, education, health and crime and justice are outlined and we estimate substantial economic benefits of racial equality, including an increase of almost \$2 trillion in minority purchasing power and millions of job opportunities for college graduates."

Montgomery Tabron said that President Obama's 'My Brother's Keeper' initiative is bringing government, the private sector and non-profits together to address the obstacles faced by boys and young men of color. She said the initiative exemplifies the type of public-private partnerships needed to improve life outcomes for communities of color. "By directly engaging the business sector to promote racial equity," she said, "we will create a healthier, better educated and more diverse workforce, help close the minority earnings gap, and provide an overall boost to the economy."

Amy Barnett, the editor-in-chief of EBONY magazine, said, "For more than 70 years, EBONY magazine has been at the forefront of delivering important news that impacts the African-American community, and we are proud to have had the op-

portunity to partner with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to release these results." She continued to say, "As the curator of the African-American experience – past, present and future, it is important to shed light on these topics in order to address them properly."

Readers can read the remaining results in the May issue of EBONY magazine, on newsstands now. Part two of the survey is scheduled for release in the June issue of the magazine.

ABOUT The W.K. Kellogg Foundation:

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer Will Keith Kellogg is

among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to help break the cycle of poverty by removing barriers based on race or income that hold back children, so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti.

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UNC medical student is 2High-quality early intervention brings health benefits 30 years later
WIRE REPORTS

Children who received high-quality early care and education in UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute Abecedarian Project from birth until age 5 enjoy better physical health in their mid-30s than peers who did not attend the childcare-based program.

The findings, which appear in *Science*, have substantial implications for health care and prevention policy. The findings are the result of FPG's collaboration with scientists from the University College London and the University of Chicago, where Nobel laureate James J. Heckman spearheaded an intricate statistical analysis of data from the Abecedarian Project.

Not only did FPG and Heckman's team determine that people who had received high-quality early care and education in the 1970s through the project are healthier now, significant measures also indicate better health lies ahead for them.

Previous findings from the Abecedarian Project have been instrumental in demonstrating that high-quality early educa-

tion and care for at-risk children can have positive, long-lasting effects on cognitive functioning and academic achievement that extend well into adulthood. However, the new study differs by examining physical measures of health.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that actual biomarkers, as opposed to self-reports of illnesses, have been compared for adult individuals who took part in a randomized study of early childhood education," said Frances Campbell, FPG senior scientist and principal investigator of the Abecedarian Project's follow-up studies. "We analyzed actual blood samples, and a physician conducted examinations on all the participants, without knowing which people were in the control group."

"This study breaks new ground in demonstrating the emergence of the relationship between education and health," said Craig Ramey, the original principal investigator on the project, who now serves as a professor of pediatrics and a distinguished research scholar at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute. "It broadens our understanding of the power of high-quality early experience to change lives for the better."

The study determined that people who received early care with the Abecedarian program have lower rates of pre-hypertension in their mid-30s than those in the control group. They also have a significantly lower risk of experiencing total coronary heart disease (CHD), defined as both stable and unstable angina, myocardial infarction or CHD death, within the next 10 years.

Compared to the control group, males treated in the Abecedarian program have lower incidences of hypertension in their mid-30s. In addition, treated men less frequently exhibit combinations of both obesity and hypertension, and none exhibited the cluster of conditions known as "metabolic syndrome," which is associated with greater risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

From the start, the Abecedarian Project represented a revolutionary approach to early childhood education by providing care from early infancy and exposing children to a high-quality center for five years, instead of the shorter durations typical of other programs. Children in the treated group benefited from stable early childhood environments, which included on-site health care and nutritious meals.

"It is of particular significance that an early educational intervention produced long-term health effects," said FPG senior scientist emeritus Joseph Sparling, who co-created the Abecedarian Approach. Sparling noted the importance of the curriculum's educational content and five-year duration, which he and colleagues are now adapting and applying in Canada, Mexico, China and Australia.

Campbell, who has been with the project since it began in 1972, said many factors might have contributed to the sustained and substantial health benefits now seen for study participants: more intensive pediatric monitoring, improved nutrition, a predictable and less stressful early childcare experience and improved adult education. Even without pinpointing a single mechanism responsible for improved adult health, scientists involved in the Abecedarian effort agree that early childhood interventions are an encouraging avenue of health policy to explore.

"Good health is the bedrock upon which other lifetime accomplishments rest, and without it, other gains are compromised," Campbell said. "Investing in early childhood programs has been shown to pay off in ways we did not anticipate forty years ago when the Abecedarian study was founded."

Gates Cambridge Scholar Named

A medical student has been named the second Gates Cambridge Scholar from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Casey Allison Rimland, daughter of Randy and Melodee Rimland of Charlotte, is a medical and doctoral student in the UNC School of Medicine. A 2007 graduate of Independence High School in Charlotte, Rimland earned her bachelor's degree in 2011 from UNC-Charlotte, with majors in biology and psychology and a minor in chemistry. She is one of 40 U.S. winners this year selected from 800 applicants.

"Casey is the ideal Gates Cambridge Scholar," said Linda Dykstra, William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of psychology and former director of UNC's Office of Distinguished Scholarships. "She has excelled in so many areas: as an academic, as a student/clinician and, in keeping with the mission of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, in service to her community."

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship, a merit award covering all expenses for one to three years of graduate studies at the University of Cambridge in England, was created with a \$210 million donation to Cambridge from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Seattle-based foundation created by the founder of Microsoft and his wife operates in developing countries and the United States, working domestically to ensure that all people – especially those with the fewest resources – have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

Gates Cambridge Scholarship website:
<http://www.gatescambridge.org/>



1311 Morehead Avenue Durham, NC 27707
(919) 489-4184 phone • (919) 489-3565 fax • www.firstcalvary.org

FREDRICK A. DAVIS, PASTOR

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Minister to Youth/Children

STATUS: Full-time, Salary-Negotiable (July 2014 Expected Starting Date)

HOURS: 40 Hours per week

BENEFITS: Single/Health Insurance, Retirement

General Purpose of Position:

To build young disciples for Christ by developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to youth/children ministries (in the areas of group building, worship, discipleship, mission, and outreach) while serving as a spiritual leader and role model.

Organizational Relationship and Supervision:

The Minister to Youth/Children Ministries (MYCM) reports to the Pastor for spiritual and ministry guidance. The Pastor, in cooperation with the Personnel Committee/Trustees, provides an annual evaluation of the MYCM's performance. The MYCM will be responsible and subject to Christian doctrine, Baptist policy, and local church policy as determined by the Pastor, and Congregation. Attendance at the following meetings is expected: Monthly Staff Meetings, Monthly Youth Council, and Christian Education Committee, and Youth Bible Study.

The Primary Task:

There shall be a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of the youth/children's ministry at all levels and in all ministry areas of the local church. This comprehensive approach is based on the understanding of the primary task of youth/children's ministry to:

- love youth/children where they are
- encourage youth/children in developing their relationship to God
- provide them with opportunities for nurture and growth
- challenge them to respond to God's call to serve in their communities and world

Responsibilities:

- Be an advocate for youth/children and educate the congregation about the hopes, concerns and needs of youth/children in the local church and community.
- Help plan, develop, and implement all aspects of a balanced youth/children ministry in the areas of group building, worship, discipleship, mission, and outreach.
- Support, lead and guide the work of the Youth Council in an annual process of evaluating the vision and goals of the youth/children ministry and directing monthly planning sessions.
- Mentor youth/children in developing their leadership skills.
- Be aware of resources for developing the youth/children ministry programming and participate in continuing education events and training opportunities.
- Recruit and train volunteers who work with youth/children in all aspects of youth/children ministry and ensure adequate volunteer support and adult to youth ratios.
- Be a liaison between the church and other community organizations, people, and resources that relate to youth and youth ministries. Engage in ministry with the Minister of Christian Education.
- Teach Youth Discipleship classes as needed.
- Work in partnership with the Evangelism Committee to effectively reach youth/children in the community and develop a strategic youth/children ministry outreach plan.
- Keep records of youth/children participation.
- Create and manage the youth/children ministry budget.
- Communicate in a timely manner and as effectively as possible using all available resources (email, website, bulletin, newsletter, bulletin board, etc.). Ensure communication with church staff and leadership, parents, and the congregation as a whole.
- Be available to youth/children in a variety of ways (i.e. lunch at school, attendance at extracurricular activities, graduations, visitation, times of crisis, etc.)
- Work in concert with the gifts and talents of other staff members and maintain a teamwork mentality.
- Ensure that all Congregational Policies is observed in all youth/children ministry settings.

Qualifications and Aptitudes:

- Must embrace Christian doctrine, theology and Baptist Policy. Ordination is desired in Christian Ministry and nationally recognize.
- A Master's of Divinity degree in a related field is minimum requirement. Professional Certification in Youth Ministry is desired.
- Must have vision and a demonstrated ability to plan, develop, coordinate, manage and implement a youth ministry.
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills, conflict management skills, and computer skills.
- Must have 3-5 years Ministry work and a proven ability to work effectively with youth/children, diverse individuals, and teams of volunteers.

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NEW PASTOR



Dr. Sherman Roosevelt Tribble was recently named Senior Pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Durham, N.C.

Dr. Tribble, a Chicago native, brings a wealth of thirty-eight years of ministry experience to the Mount Sinai. He holds degrees from Fisk University, Howard University

School of Divinity and has earned the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in African American Religious History from the Joint Garrett-Northwestern Program at Northwestern University.

He has pastored churches in the New York and Nashville areas. In addition to former teaching and academic leadership positions at Apex School of Theology, Tribble has taught at a number of schools including Fisk, Vanderbilt, American Baptist College, New York Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary, and Shaw Divinity School. Dr. Tribble has also been Director of Publications for the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

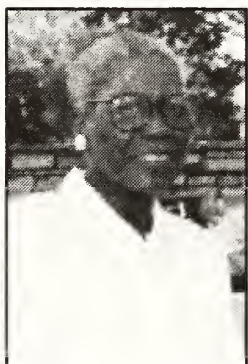
Dr. Tribble has also been the principal of Tribble Consulting and has worked with schools and other not-for-profits in fund development.

HOMEGOING SERVICES



The Homegoing Service for First Lady Joyce N. Walker was held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at The New Morning Star Church of Christ in Rocky Mount NC. She was the wife of the Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Walker, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

Mrs. Walker was a 1966 graduate of Frederick Douglas High School. Among her many accomplishments, she was most noted for founding the EBC Child Care Center—a child care facility that provided academic instruction in a Christian environment. Joyce N. Walker has molded the lives of many youth and continues to be a positive role model for young and old, alike. She was also a member of Tau Gamma Delta Sorority.



The Homegoing Service for Mrs. Robena Sapp Smith was held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at Juniper Level Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. She was the mother of the Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Smith, who serves as Pastor of First Calvary Baptist Church, Sanford, NC and Vice Chairman of the GBSC General Board.

Annual James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Announced

The GBSC Congress of Christian Education has announced the Annual James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest and Conference will be held June 23-25, 2014 at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Salisbury, NC. Dr. Nilous Avery II is Pastor.

The registration fee: is \$5 for Youth and \$10 for Adults. Contestants do not pay to register. Ruth Johnson, Oratorical Director, can be reached at (910) 259-5753 or (910) 231-4104 or email her at rcake@ec.rr.com, for more information and details.

*ATTENTION: If a contestant is still in the same category in 2014 as 2013, they cannot use the same topic they used in 2013. They will be disqualified. All Directors, please make sure of this. Also: due to the fact that the winning oratorical speeches have been published in the Baptist Informer this year please pay close attention that these speeches are not used by other contestants for 2014, they will be disqualified also. Thank you for your attention to this.

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Topics for 2014 are:

Preparatory Division (6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2014)

1. I Am Blessed
2. Where Do I Go From Here?
3. God's Rules Rule
4. Follow the Leader
5. What Jesus' Love Means to Me
6. Heaven
7. God's Drum Line
8. Saved



Junior Division (9th, 10th, 11th grade as of July 1, 2014)

1. Do You Feel Me Jesus?
2. God's House
3. The Shepherd Psalm
4. "What's the Business Moses"
5. The Gospel Crew
6. The Lord is the Light of My Life
7. What Did You Say John?
8. Help is on the Way

Senior Division (rising high school seniors as of July 1, 2014)

1. My God is Real
2. Hip Hop Culture and Christianity
3. Jesus Never Fails
4. Are You Prepared to Meet the New Challenges?
5. God is the Answer
6. It Takes Two-Dating and Still Being a Christian
7. Player Haters
8. Seek Jesus

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The Amazing Effectiveness of Inculcation

I was reared in a period in which there were few written rules to govern the behavior of children and youth. The African American community was in great measure a vocal society, and most of us understood the fact that there were certain things that "you just don't do." These things were generally agreed upon by all the adults regardless of social standing, religious affiliation on residential location. Few, if any of them, were written, but hardly anyone failed to understand and practice them.

We understood that men do not wear their hats inside. Men do not use profanity in the presence of women. Women do not smoke, drink or swear. Women do not wear revealing clothing. Men do not sit while women are standing. Men hold the chair or the door for women. Men do not engage in assaultive behavior against women. Men or women do not engage in "adult conversation" in the presence of children. Everyone has the responsibility for everyone else's children and must correct them on the spot in they are engaging in untoward behavior. These are but a few examples of behaviors



that were passed on through verbal admonitions and through homilies.

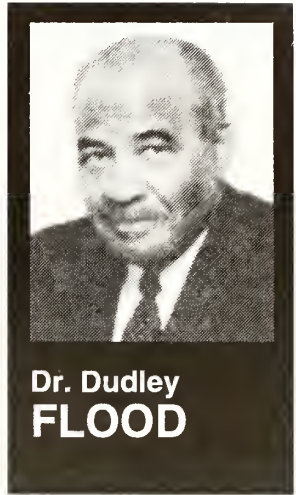
Homilies were illustrations of existing things being given a symbolic connotation which made it easier to remember. One saying that I remember is "when you see the saw dust, the mill ain't far." This referred to the trend that in early times, lumber mills were erected in areas that were wooded so that it was not necessary to haul the logs far to reach the mill. When the supply of timber at one site was exhausted, they would move the mill a few hundred yards leaving a pile of saw dust at the old site. When you began to see these piles, you were nearing the mill. The implications are that we should see the signs of that which is to come before we encounter it.

My dad's reference that "every shut eye ain't asleep" reminded me that he knew more that I may have given him credit for knowing. His saying, "every good bye ain't gone" was similar to Yogi Berra's expression, "It ain't over 'til it's over". That reminded me that a matter was not closed just because I wanted it to be so. When they said "its colder than a three dog night"

they were referring to the fact that in frigid climates, the natives sleep with their dog for warmth. On an average night, they may have one dog to lie at their side. On a colder night, they may have a dog on either side, but on a particular night, they may have a third dog lie on top of them. This expression told me to wear my hat and coat when going outside.

There must have been a hundred such expressions that left an impression on our subliminal or subconscious mind that now direct our behavior. I wonder if such inculcation might be a part of the solution to the challenge that we now face to protect our children against negative influences.

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.



Dr. Dudley FLOOD

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
Hamiet, North Carolina 28345

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 400 Campbell Ave Fayetteville NC 28301

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Send Resume to:
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Attn: Music Search Committee
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Making our Tweets Worthy of God's Retweets

What if God "friended" us on Facebook? What if he followed us on Twitter? What if he retweeted our deepest thoughts or shared our silent whisper?

What if our heavenly father blogged, almost every chosen word? Or, he invited himself to our GroupMe then repeated what he heard.



Linda Brown
DOUGLAS

Would he find joy in what he sees there?

Would he gather good news to share?

If what we show to others became our only witness,

Would we Tweet a heart filled with joy and blessed true forgiveness?

If YouTube flowed throughout our lives and Instagram captured each moment,

Would they tell a story of love and peace surrounded by atonement?

Sure, God is on Facebook, and Twitter and

YouTube, as well

Where else would he find the stories we really want to tell?

Back in my early days of reporting, our editors and writing coaches strongly discouraged us from beginning our news stories with quotes, because quotes were seen as a lazy way of avoiding actually writing. The way our bosses underscored their point was to

say, the only quote that should ever begin a news story should be, "I'm back," Jesus said.

The assumption was that the "I'm back" story would only appear in newspapers once – ever, because we should only expect one return

Social media makes it possible for what we write, photograph and say to appear infinitely, yet we take less time to choose those words and pictures than we take to choose our coffee of the day.

Psalm 19:14 says: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Are our words acceptable in God's sight? Shouldn't that be the question we ask ourselves before we retweet inappropriate comments or begin an ugly debate over Facebook?

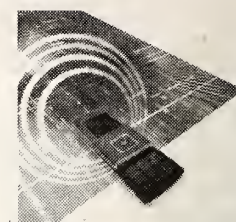
The professionals say that social media can cause an online "dis-inhibition" effect. That's sort of like when someone drinks alcohol and says or does things that person would normally consider embarrassing or socially inappropriate. Because of the anonymity of social media, it is easy to forget normal social restrictions we would show in a face-to-face conversation. As a result, some people share more personal information about themselves than is appropriate and others become more aggressive or more likely to state negative opinions that they would never express about someone in person. Take, for example, a recent incident in which a television personality changed her hair. People were posting mean messages, to no one in particular, about how much they disliked the hair style. Some of them even posted a picture of a television creature to say her hairstyle looked like the creature's hair. Had that person been standing among the

people who made the comments, it is not likely they would have had the nerve to make such mean comments to her face. The website provided the writers the freedom to speak with the confidence that they would probably never run into the person being hurt by their words.

This is not to say that social media is a bad thing. I, personally, enjoy catching up with old high school buddies and sharing the accomplishments and special moments of relatives and friends. Instead, this is to say simply that we should remember our manners. In the early days of online conversations, kids were warned to observe the three P's which translated into never putting anything on the Internet that you would not want your principal, parents or pastor to see. If it passed that test, it was probably safe.

Now that we have reached the point of emailing, posting and Tweeting everything from what we have for dinner to how much we pay for our groceries, after coupons, we are beginning to lose our inhibitions and we may want to consider a return to the three-P rule. Or better yet – realize that God is always present. He's a friend on Facebook, a follower on Twitter and a regular on the Blog. This means we should monitor our own words and actions, always striving to make our tweets worthy of God's retweets.

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



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