



Volume 137, No. 5

# BAPTIST INFORMER

June 2014

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

## Happy Father's Day

We live in a day and in a culture that tries to minimize fathers. Turn on many of the popular sitcoms on television today and the father is often viewed as the comic relief of the show. Dad is just there but not involved with the things of the family. This depiction is sometimes funny on television but oh so sad if this is the case in real life. Fathers are so important in the development of their children.

The Bible is clear that Fathers are to be spiritual leaders in the home. The Bible has much to say about both our earthly fathers and God our heavenly father.



*As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

— Psalms 103:13

### COMING IN JULY

2014 Election Coverage for the GBSC-NC  
2014 Oratorical Contest Winners  
Subscribe Today!!



## GBSC Mid-Year Session Draws A Crowd of Presenters and Participants

Dr. David L. Bracken (at podium), Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church in East Spencer, N.C., was the opening worship preacher for the 2014 Mid-Year Session held May 13-14 at Mount Zion Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C., for a productive gathering of pastors, clergy, church staff and laypersons representing dozens of churches from across the state. Photos by Greg Thompson / evolutiondesignconcepts.com (See more highlights on pages 8-9)

**POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE** - Shaw University awarded 301 undergraduate and graduate degrees on May 10 during Commencement Exercises held at the J.S. Dorton Arena at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, North Carolina. An honorary doctorate was conferred on Gloria Bongzi Ngema-Zuma, South Africa's first lady, who was the commencement speaker. Ngema-Zuma, who leads a foundation in South Africa that fights diabetes, delivered a message that linked health and prosperity. "A healthy nation is a recipe for a successful economy," she said. Other highlights included members of the Class of 1964 celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Shaw, a 149-year-old school that was the first historically black college in the South.



## As 'culture warriors,' Sunday school teachers wield political clout, says study

*Think it's the pastor who determines political opinion in a congregation? Actually, it's that key lay leader, according to researchers.*

### WIRE REPORTS

**V**olunteer lay leaders serve as political opinion leaders within churches, with considerable power to deepen — or bridge — gaps between religion and politics, according to a new study by Baylor University researchers.

The study — "Sunday School Teacher, Culture Warrior: The Politics of Lay Leaders in Three Religious Traditions" — is published in Social Science Quarterly.

"Within congregations, certain people's voices have more

sway — 'culture warriors,'" said researcher and co-author Brandon Martinez, a doctoral candidate in sociology at Baylor. "The clergy may have the pulpit for captive audiences, but that's not the whole story. Lay leaders have a different and distinct influence from the clergy. People look to them for cues, which could either reinforce or challenge the stance of the clergy."

The study is based on analysis of the Baylor Religion Survey, conducted by the Gallup Organization.

The research shows that non-ordained leaders in all three traditions — Evangelicals, Mainline Protestants and Catholics — are not only the most engaged in church activities, but also the most politically engaged individuals in their

(continued on page 8)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**P3**

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

**P8**

Highlights of the GBSC Mid-Year Session

**Renew!**

TODAY! See Page 12 Baptist Informer Subscription Form



**MAJESTIC**  
LEASING & RENTALS, LLC.

MOS e WUL

WHERE YOU CONTROL YOUR  
**DESTINATION**

- + NO SPECIAL LICENSE REQUIRED
- + NO TIME CONSTRAINTS
- + SAVE MONEY BY DRIVING YOURSELF



**RENT A MINIBUS TODAY!**

4843 Cumberland Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28306  
CORPORATE OFFICES

1-844-BUS-4-RENT  
(844) 287-4736

**MAJESTICMOBILITY.COM**



CALL US TODAY!  
**1.844.287.4736**

**OUR RENTALS ARE PERFECT FOR:**  
Corporate Outings • Sports Teams  
Church Excursions • Family Trips  
Shuttles / Tours



"These Mini Buses are very safe, reliable, and affordable! I have used them several times for business trips and outings at my church."

- Amanda



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

## Our Convention Needs Your Prayers, Support - Today!

To my brothers and sisters in the General Baptist "tie" that binds our hearts in Christian love: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV).

What a wonderful thought to know with assurance that God is merciful. God blesses us so through us, others will be blessed. The writer in Ecclesiastes noted that some things do change. There is a season for "every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1b). Change occurs frequently: from being born to dying ... from planting to uprooting ... from killing to healing ... from tearing down to building up ... from crying to laughing ... from loving to hating ... and so on. Some things do change.

For many who have seen a number of "getting ups and lying downs," dramatic changes have taken place. Many conveniences we take for granted today were non-existent at the beginning of the 20th and 21st centuries.



WIRE PHOTO

Change is constant. Some things do change! A time traveler from the immediate or distant past would not recognize the world as it exists today.

And yet, some things do not change. When a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His head, Jesus' disciples became angry and complained (Matthew 26). They concluded the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus said the poor would always be around.

Some things do not change! We need food because we get hungry. We need comfort because we experience grief. We need guidance because we get confused. We need compassion and companionship because we get lonely. We need forgiveness and a Savior because we all sin. We need hope because at some point, we all die.

Some things do not change! God's grace, mercy, and love do not change. In Jesus, God's image is not stained and God's power is not weak. God is immutable. In darkness, God is light. In chaos, God is truth. In weakness, God is strength. In death, God is eternal life! Some things do change. God does not! As disciples of

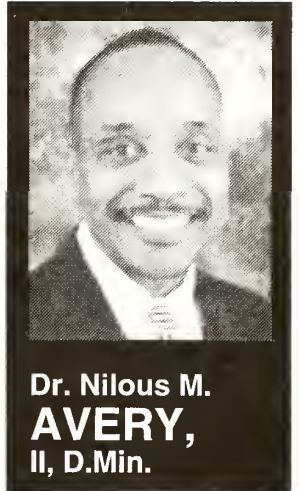
Jesus the Christ who strive daily to give thanks and live thankfully, our methods may change, but the goal is still the same: "Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus the Christ? Our convention encourages, equips and empowers us to be helpers. Some things do not change: Our General Baptist State Convention needs your financial support and prayers, NOW! I believe the people of God in the General Baptist family will rise up to meet every challenge, endure every lion's den, cross every Red Sea, persevere through every flaming furnace, overcome every wall, and conquer every stronghold that attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUPPORT TO STATE HEADQUARTERS TODAY!

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

Dr. Avery can be contacted at:  
[averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com)



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

## Sunday's Church...Monday's Church

Let me confess right out of the gate - I am totally biased when it comes to this subject matter. I have had the privilege of working in church administration for nearly 20 years. I count it an honor to be employed by God's House, serving His people on a weekly basis. It is a very special calling that has its own challenges and very unique rewards. I believe it is different from any other type profession, mainly because the church is unlike any other institution on earth.



Felicia Hicks  
**GASTON**  
Guest Columnist

I would venture to say that those persons who carry out the administrative functions of your church rarely make the top of your prayer list. You may think about them if they happen to live in your home or are in close relationship with you. I believe while we pray fervently for our minister/pastor, we yet still forget to petition God on behalf of those who offer administrative support to the church. This is by no means an indictment against you or the time you spend communicating to God. Rather, it is a plea, asking that you remember those brave souls who keep your house of worship operational.

Please understand, this is not a fishing expedition

seeking your praise or compliments. Those who do this work are fully aware of what gets done throughout every 7-day cycle. God made heaven and earth in 6 days and we certainly in no way compare ourselves to Him. I do marvel, however, at what gets done in a 5-day workweek. Special consideration is given to those who are employed by AND worship in the same church. Their work literally never ends. We realize that it is God who graces us to complete varied tasks on any given day, those things that are planned as well as the unexpected ones. One phone call can alter the course of your entire day! "You are compensated for the work you do!, you may say. Yes, you are correct! We are! I Timothy 5:18 tells us, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain and the worker deserves his wages." We, like you, live in a real world, pump the same \$3.00+ per gallon gas in our cars and feel the same pinch of an ever-changing economy. We are not exempt from any segment of life because we work in the church. Again, my purpose is not to evoke any type of sympathy. I only ask that you have a 'selah' (pause and think) moment about us and the responsibilities we carry.

I will admit, there are those days when it feels like just a J-O-B! It is tedious, trying and downright taxing on the mind, body and spirit. There are times when it seems some additional combat pay is needed. The world is different now; the level of respect for the church has waned. Predators seek out the church first. While it is a safe haven for its membership, it can be dangerous for those who work in it. I have babysat children, watched over valuables to make sure they were not stolen and cancelled my lunch plans to accommo-

date a member's lunch hour who needed to drop something off at the church. I have run errands, given rides, come in early and worked late - so that projects would 'connect' and ministry would go forth. Accommodation is the way of the church office; sacrifice is expected and servitude is key. I am not naïve and do realize that every job seems thankless at times. You like me, may have to utter an extra prayer before walking in the door of the office. On occasion, someone is waiting in the parking lot for me to arrive. "Lord, go before me and prepare the way as I attempt to minister to Your people" is often my whispered petition.

In the charismatic worship service, it is very common to see the lifting of hands as parishioners give praise to God. Think now about the hands that are lifted on a daily basis to keep your worship facility clean, answer your church's phone, order needed supplies, prepare the weekly bulletin, respond to your emails, administratively support your pastor and the list goes on and on. In the famous movie, The Wizard of Oz, the ending revealed ONE wizard behind the curtains controlling everything. This is not the case within the administration of your church. It is, rather a group of lifted hands, willing hearts and yielded spirits working in symphony together. It is my prayer that you will never take this group of people for granted and realize the significance of all the behind-the-scenes tasks they do. Because of these special people, the pastor has to worry less about the daily church operation and can focus his/her attention more to the spiritual lives of the congregants.

Again, please know, this is not a complaint lodged

(continued on page 13)

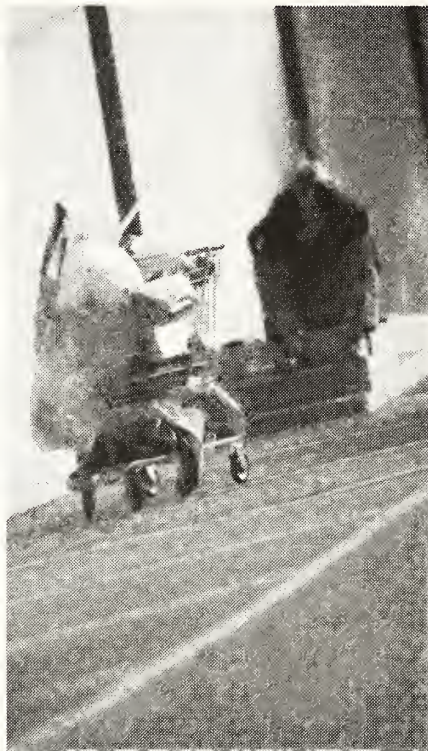
# “Remembering the Poor”

Continued ...

Some central ideas in remembering the poor are: (1) The poor cannot perform (2) The poor will not be accountable (3) The poor are not going to change their lives because we give them a little money. Poverty is a culture. Poverty is a lifestyle. People are not poor without reason. The only enduring motivation for remembering the poor is a desire to please Jesus. The question is this: What should our “stance” be toward the poor regarding the gospel?

Jesus never lost sight of the ultimate purpose of redeeming lost sinners. He saw value in helping the poor in and of itself, but He always meant His service to be a “pointer” toward His Kingdom. Remembering the poor is valuable by itself, even more valuable if they turn to Christ. One of the greatest barriers to salvation for the poor, is bitterness.

Who are the invisible, unseen, forgotten people that we overlook on a daily basis? The young boy



WIRE PHOTO

without a Dad? The men and women out of work? The neighbor whose spouse deserted the family? The pregnant teenager? Do you live your Christianity on a human scale? The nature of our horizontal relationships with people is a precise indicator of the nature of our vertical relationship with God.

On my sister’s dining room wall is a picture with a tab that says, people. It is taped on a sheet of paper where she wrote: “People who love people are the happiest people in the world.” If we don’t love people, we cannot claim to love God. The height of our love for God will never exceed the depth of our love for another.

From the parable of the Good Samaritan, we learn three principles: (1) Lack of love is often easy to justify, even though it is never right. (2) Our neighbor is anyone of any race, creed, or social background who is in need; and (3) Love means acting to meet the person’s needs.

Wherever you live, there are needy people close by.

There is no good reason for refusing to help. (Luke 10: 25-37). Also, from 1 John 4: 19. God’s love is the source of all human love and it spreads like fire. In loving His children, God kindles a flame in their hearts, in turn, they love others, who are warmed by God’s love through them.

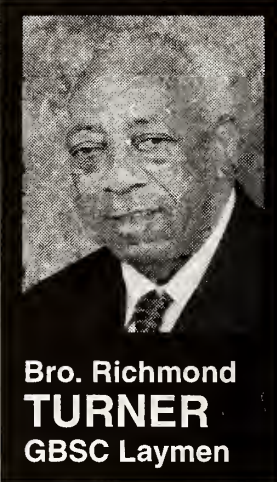
It is easy to say we love God when that love doesn’t cost us anything more than weekly attendance at a religious services. But the real test of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us—our fellow believers. Jesus put the premium on people.

People and relationships are a higher priority to Him than possessions and accomplishments. How we treat our neighbor bears witness to the depth of our relationship with Christ.

If we don’t have pity, if we don’t look after needy people, our religion is not pure and faultless and the love of God is not our trademark. Defend the cause of the poor and needy because God inquires of us, “Is that not what it means to know me?” (Jeremiah 22:16).

Remembering the poor is the most overlooked part of the Great Commission.

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



Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

Father’s Day is June 22, 2014 ...

## A Father’s Commitment — Luke 9.37-4



WIRE PHOTO

The message in Luke comes after the Transfiguration, an event that tells how Jesus, Moses and Elijah engaged in a personal conversation, and it is a reminder that Jesus is Lord and King of all.

As you navigate your way through the narrative, we are told that Jesus took with him into the mountains to pray three of his 12 disciples, Peter, James and John. He leaves a “divine nine” behind. These nine were to keep watch, until He returns.

These men had been trained by Jesus to do the work of the ministry, and he had taken the better part of three years to teach them different aspects of ministry such as how to cast out demons, how to address the needs of the poor, how to deal with certain segments of the population, especially the scribes and the Pharisees.

They were not men who did not know how to do ministry to the un-churched. They had faced just about every imaginable situation that one could face in first century Palestine. Yet, they were faced with a problem they could not deal with, while Jesus was absent.

While Jesus was on the mountain, a father came with his son seeking help from His disciples. They tried everything they could, but they simply could not help a child in need. When it came to this man and his son, they seem to have been void of knowing what to do. The man complained about his son being demon possessed, foaming at the mouth, and having fits. The father brought his son to the Disciples, but the Bible said they could do nothing.

As Jesus made his way back down the mountain, the father told them Him what happened. This father loved his son, as all fathers should, and wanted to do his best for him. He brought him to Jesus and He was not there.

Does that sound familiar to you? You have all these issues and you take them to Jesus and it seems that he is nowhere around? It happens to all of us, but we must have faith that God is committed to our problems and situations.

The disciples could not help the man’s son. Some biblical scholars liken this narrative to the church since we bring hurting people into our churches from all stages of life, and yet we are ill-equipped to do anything to help.

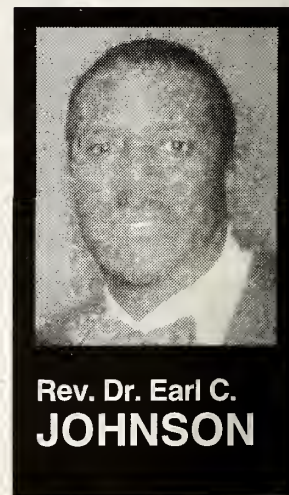
As Jesus approached the scene, the father explains

the situation and he brought his son to Jesus disciples and they could not help. Jesus response, although seemingly harsh, was mild. He healed the child and gave him back to the thankful father. The father accomplished what he set out to do and that was to save his son.

He succeeded in showing his son a father’s love. A father’s love and commitment still speaks volumes in our society. As basketball sensation LeBron James once stated: “Commitment is a big part of what I am and what I believe.”

How committed are you to being a good friend? To being trustworthy? How committed are you to being a good father, a good teammate, a good role model? There’s that moment every morning when you look in the mirror and ask: Are you committed or are you not? That’s the question that I leave you with today. How committed are you to being the father that God wants you to be?

Dr. Johnson is Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Reach him at [rev.martinstbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:rev.martinstbaptist@gmail.com).



Rev. Dr. Earl C.  
**JOHNSON**

# God Wants Abundant Life for Children's Day

*"Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth — so wonderful that no one will even think about the old ones, anymore .... No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life .... In those days, people will live in houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards." — Isaiah 65:17, 20ab, 21 (NLT)*



The final vision of the great prophet Isaiah shows us that God is satisfied with nothing less than total health and prosperity for His children of the world. Isaiah prophesies that God will reclaim His people from the very depths poverty. What a wonderful insight as we celebrate Children's Day on Sunday, June 8.

Indeed, God's ultimate purpose is to give His children and people abundance of life. The Bible provides many examples of how God repeatedly cares for

His people's spiritual and physical needs. God provided both salvation and nutrition through manna and quail in the desert to the children of Israel (Exodus 16:13-14). God sustained the widow of Zarephath—through the ministry of Elijah—with oil and flour and bread on her table (I Kings 17:7-16).

God's Son, Jesus Christ, fed more than 5,000 people, amid scarcity, with five loaves and two fish (Mark 6:41-42). And the first Christians—gathering for worship—broke bread (Acts 2:42) and appointed deacons to make sure that the widows and orphans received the food they needed (Acts 6:1-6)

Unfortunately, too many of our local, state, and national leaders make ongoing efforts to take resources from the poor and give them to the rich. Too many politicians are running for office on the tainted "conservative" label, defying God's plan of abundance for all people.

But prophetic-minded Christians must push for the abundance that God intends for all of us. The United States gives food to millions of people

around the world, with the largest share going to nations in Africa. This aid provides nutrient-rich foods for adults, children, and babies who are malnourished.

Within two months, May and June, we celebrate Mothers' Day, Children's Day, and Father's Day (June 15). Let us lift up parents and children around the world by writing a letter to our U.S. senators from North Carolina and to our U.S. House representative urging them not to cut food aid to people overseas. Indeed, food is a better tool for peace than guns.

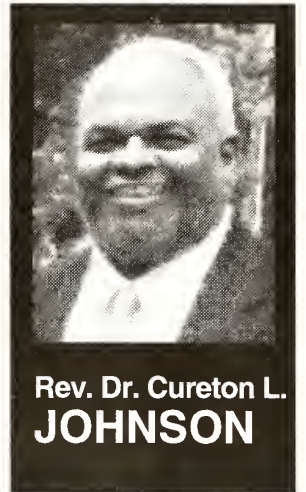
Ask your members of Congress to make smart re-

forms to food aid that allow food to be purchased closer to where the needs appear, rather than shipping food aid slowly from our country. This will help poor and hungry people get more nutritious food, especially pregnant women (mothers) and young children.

Just by taking a few minutes to write brief letters to Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr, and to your U.S. House representative, you may help 17 million more people benefit from U.S. food aid. Also, ask them not to cut SNAP (formerly food stamps) to the millions of children and military families who need help. Go to [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) for more information about Bread for the World's Offering of Letters.

Our missionary mandate is to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the utmost parts of the world with the gospel and the good works of Jesus Christ. We are to do the work of the Lord and carry out the vision of Almighty God until Christ returns to consummate God's eternal purpose of abundance. Surely Jesus said, "greater works" than His shall we do in his name (John 14:12). Also, Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

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



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

Over the years, sibling groups such as the Jackson 5 and The Clark Sisters have been banning their musical talents to keep generations of music lovers entertained. Now, there is a new generation of gifted siblings from Texas, The Walls Group.



**Michael L. ELEY, JR.**

With their idiomatic blend of contemporary gospel and urban pop these two songs are promising for the

purpose of ministering to a leading generation of believers. Both songs contain an empowering message of being who God has created one to be and expressing and sharing His love for and with all people. Many times believers, especially babes in Christ, struggle with being who God has called them to be because of a desired counterproductive image that has been created in their minds.

I am of the persuasion that if one strips away the drum tracks, harmonic melodies and rhythms that accentuate the Walls music, the lyrics will truly penetrate the core of ones spirit to comprehend the rich and matchless love of the Savior. These songs develop the mindset of listeners to not be ashamed of Jesus but to fully give and surrender your life to Him, making it a priority to serve Him even in the days of youth.

Ministry is the heart of The Walls Group and singing is the vessel in which to tell of the good news. Continue to support the great work that God has started in The Walls Group. (Philippians 1:6- He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.)

*Michael L. Eley, Jr., a graduating senior from Wakefield High School in Raleigh, N.C., is a musician and a*

## Music Review



WIRE PHOTO

*frequent music reviewer for the Baptist Informer. His contact information is [musickid829@yahoo.com](mailto:musickid829@yahoo.com).*

[www.facebook.com/GBSCNC](http://www.facebook.com/GBSCNC)



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

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Application

**W**hat is the most important element or component of the sermon? Is it the interpretive (exegesis) question? Is it the exposition question? Is it the theological content question? Is it the illustration question? Or is it the structure/form question? The most important component of the sermon is the application question.

While it is true that the other areas of the sermon are crucial in crafting a sermon and should never be cast aside as unimportant, without application the sermon fails. It fails because a sermon without application will have little effect on the life of the listeners. It is similar to a farmer, during planting season, who prepares the fields for planting. To this end, he carefully plows the field, and with great skill makes long straight rows with the right amount of fertilizer underneath. But he fails to put seeds in the well-cultivated soil. A sermon without application is like a well-cultivated field without seeds. And, if there are no seeds there can never be a fruitful and productive life or harvest. In this sense one writer says, "preaching begins with the application phases of the sermon."

Today, such imagery is visible across the landscape of some of our pulpits. We have the barns to store our crops and the vehicles to transport the harvest. Just as important, the farm equipment is "top shelf," and the land rich and fertile. Ditches have been neatly cut through low areas to carry or channel the water out of

## Church holds final service before demolition for stadium

By Bob Allen

A historic African-American congregation in Atlanta is saying goodbye to its home of 143 years to make way for a new NFL stadium.

Members of a Baptist church in Atlanta gathered for the last time May 25 in a historic building being demolished to make way for a new Atlanta Falcons football stadium.

Friendship Baptist Church, established in 1862 and independently organized as Atlanta's first autonomous black Baptist congregation after the Civil War in 1866, voted last year to sell its home since 1871 for \$19.5 million. The building last renovated in 1998 will be demolished to clear the site for a new \$1.3 billion retractable-roof stadium scheduled to open for the 2017 NFL season.

A second congregation displaced by the project, nearby Mount Vernon Baptist Church, is already gone. It was vacated for \$14.5 million in March, torn down in April and now meets at Carver College while searching for a permanent home.

Started by 25 former slaves who met in a discarded railroad boxcar, Friendship Baptist became known as the "mother church" of Atlanta for its role in forming nine congregations across the metropolitan area. The congregation with an active membership of about 400 and annual budget of \$1.3 million is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches USA, American Baptist Churches of the South and the Baptist World Al-



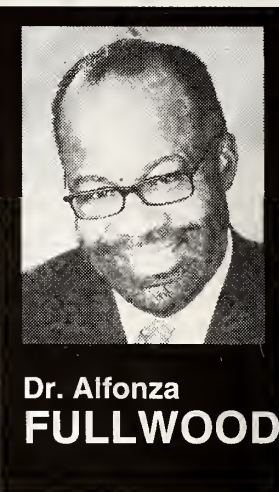
the field in case of a storm. All of the signs and trimmings of a farm life is in place. But there is no crop and no harvest. Our preaching must never be reduced to "all cultivated fields" and "no planting." A sermon without application is like having cultivated fields but no planting of seeds.

What is application? Application is the "so what question." It answers the question, "what does what is said in the text and sermon have to do with my life?" Application is the actual work critically linking divine truth contained in the text and sermon with the contemporary situation and need of the listening congregation. In doing so, the text is in dialogue or conversation with the pew. Thus, it meets the pew in residential or neighborhood context for the purpose of practical instructions and even more important "practical demands it makes upon them." Application acts as a GPS intended to find the actual location of the listener. Why is this important? It is important because the instructions application offers and demands it makes are not of the preacher but of God. Application allows God to speak

to the peculiar needs of those whom God called according to his sovereign will and purpose.

Therefore, we cannot be general but particular in our application of the gospel to the current situation of the pew. To achieve relevance and particularity in our application we need to determine listeners' location. Not only listeners' location, but we should locate the sermon on the "premises" of where listeners live. Even better, we should get on the "front porch of their house." Better still, our ultimate goal should be to take the gospel and "get in the house" where they live. In the next article I will discuss the crucial step to achieve a balance in the application phase that includes attention to the listener's location and expounding upon the biblical text.

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



### Vacancy Announcement

#### Executive Assistant

This position provides primary support to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina. This position requires both executive level administrative skills and proven accounting and bookkeeping skills.

#### Essential Job Functions

- Assist Executive Secretary-Treasurer with Convention office management of Headquarters Office, including managing calendars, travel, preparing and crafting business correspondence and power point presentations
- Provide administrative support for Convention events, including attendance at various meetings and conferences, etc.
- Managing registrations, preparation of event materials and coordinating logistics
- Additional administrative projects as assigned by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer
- Provide accounting and bookkeeping duties to include A/P, payroll processing, payroll tax calculation, preparation of monthly, quarterly, and annual payroll tax reports, financial reporting, and bank reconciliation
- Assist with other accounting procedures to include: , receipting funds and ensuring coding to correct line item and account, and maintaining daily ledgers

#### Skills/Qualification Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting preferred
- Minimal three (3) years direct experience in Executive Assistant and Bookkeeping duties
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, honesty and loyalty to the Convention
- Excellent typing (75 wpm minimum), proof reading, grammar and spelling skills
- Proficiency in computer skills to include Microsoft Office Suite and accounting programs to include Quick Books and ACS and proven ability to navigate the web and other technologies
- Possess strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills; ability to work collegially in a team environment with high level of flexibility.
- Superior organizational skills with high attention to detail and the ability to prioritize workload in a fast paced environment

**To Apply: Send resume with cover letter by July 15, 2014 to:**  
**Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC**  
**P.O. Box 1818**  
**Raleigh, NC 27601**



(continued on page 11)



## South African First Lady Visits Shaw; Receives Honorary Degree



May 12, 2014 – South African First Lady Madame Gloria Bongi Ngema Zuma was greeted by a group of Shaw University staff and international students as she arrived in Raleigh, NC on May 8th. During her time in Raleigh, Madame Zuma visited a diabetes center, addressed the Shaw University Board of

Trustees, delivered the University's commencement address and received an honorary doctorate.

While at the Duke Raleigh Hospital Lifestyle and Disease Management Center, Madame Zuma met with Dr. Stephen Robinson, Center Director Andrea Layton and Registered Nurse Mary Beth Gallo to discuss how the Center assists patients with diabetes

management by providing support, nutritional information and exercise programs. Madame Zuma shared with the group the work of the Bongi Ngema-Zuma Foundation, and organization she founded in 2010, and what the organization has done to assist South Africans living with diabetes. The Foundation has taken a leading role in increasing awareness of the condition among South Africans and providing educational campaigns on how to manage diabetes with proper exercise and eating habits.

During her meeting with the Shaw University Board of Trustees, Madame Zuma brought greetings on behalf of the Republic of South Africa and expressed a desire to partner with universities such as Shaw to increase healthcare knowledge in South Africa. At the conclusion of her remarks, Madame Zuma presented African artwork as a gift to the University. Following the trustees meeting, Madame gave an interview with the University's WSHA-FM radio station. During the interview, Madame Zuma discussed her work with increasing healthcare knowledge and education in South Africa; empowering South

African women; and the work of the Bongi Ngema-Zuma Foundation.

On Saturday, May 10th, Madame Zuma received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Shaw during the University's commencement ceremony. She received the degree for her "service to South Africa and the global population especially in the field of healthcare." Additionally, she was heralded as a "healthcare trailblazer, visionary and global leader."

Following the recognition, Madame Zuma delivered a passionate commencement speech to more than 300 graduates of the University. During her remarks, she discussed the importance of increasing healthcare access to not only South Africans, but to all Africans, particularly in the area of diabetes. Madame Zuma cited the pandemic numbers of South Africans currently living with diabetes and encouraged the graduates to use their education to solve healthcare issues worldwide.

## ••• MARK THE DATE •••

The GBSC Annual Session is October 27-29 at Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Greenville, N.C.



### 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](http://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](mailto:rockhill1pastorsearch@gmail.com)

Applications received by May 31, 2014 are guaranteed full consideration; however, applications will continue to be received until the position is filled.



WIRE PHOTO

The Annual GBSC Laymen League

Men and Boys Retreat

Friday July 11, 2014 10:00 am to Noon Saturday July 12, 2014

The annual retreat will be hosted by Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, where Dr. Matthew Rouse Jr. serves as Pastor.

The event will be held at the Mathew Rouse Community Resource Center 373 Pittman Grove Church Road, Raeford, NC 28376.

Contact: GBSC Laymen League Youth Coordinator Samuel Teague at 919-426-4489 or via email at [Samuel\\_teague2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Samuel_teague2000@yahoo.com)

## As 'culture warriors,' Sunday school teachers wield political clout, says study

(continued from page 1)

congregations. They set the tone for small group interaction by teaching Sunday school, leading prayer groups, chairing committees, hosting social gatherings and organizing community service.

There are distinct differences within lay leaders in the three religious traditions examined in the study. Political concerns,



whether dealing with the economy, social justice, or the morality of abortion, cohabitation and stem-cell research, vary by tradition.

"If lay leaders signal certain political affiliations or attitudes, others in the congregation may be more likely

to consider these attitudes as 'authentic' or 'essential' attributes of the group's religious identity," researchers wrote.

"Evangelicals have a more unified base of lay leaders than Mainline Protestant and Catholics, so the rank-and-file Evangelical gets a more consistent message about how to link their religious identity and belief in politics," Martinez said. "This helps complete the picture of how evangelicals are able to achieve greater levels of political conformity than Mainline and Catholic traditions."

The study also found that:

- Evangelical lay leaders are more morally conservative in their attitudes and more politically active and informed than evangelicals in general, and more strongly identified with the Republican Party.

- Mainline leaders have a stronger commitment to social justice than others in their tradition, but this is not associated with particular policy attitudes or political party identification.

- Catholic lay leaders are more economically progressive than others in their tradition, but do not differ from the "rank and file" members on moral issues.

"Interestingly, regular Mass attendance is associated with a greater moral conservatism, but lay leaders are more likely to support economic redistribution," Martinez said. "Thus, Catholics receive contrasting political messages from leaders within their tradition that are not consistent with one political party's side of the Culture Wars."

Co-researcher for the study was Lydia Bean, assistant professor of sociology at Baylor.

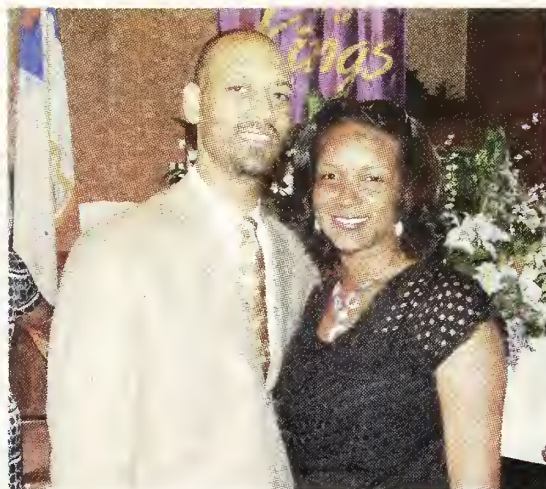
Terry Goodrich, assistant director of media communications at Baylor University.

## Mid-Year Session • May 13-14



**FELLOWSHIP & RENEWAL** – The Mid-Year Session at historic Mount Zion Baptist Church was a poignant homecoming for President Dr. Howard W. Parker, who received his license and began his ministry at the historic congregation, where Dr. Serenus T. Churn, Sr. is now the sixth pastor of Mount Zion.

Photos by Greg Thompson / evolutiondesignconcepts.com

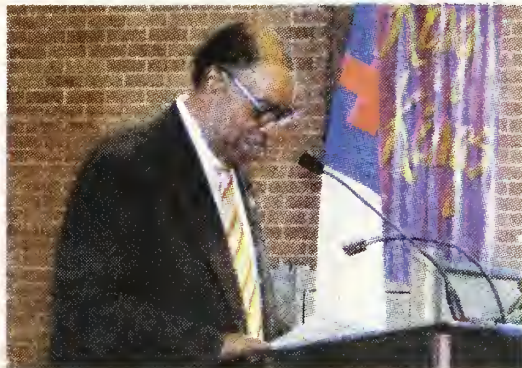


**IN SESSION** – Mid-Year Session opportunities for "fellowship and worship" were abundant as our Baptist family gathered for business meetings, workshops, and worship services, according to Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, GBSC-NC.





**MARK THE DATE** • The GBSC Annual Session is October 27-29  
 • at Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Greenville, N.C.



Please Visit The General Baptist State Convention Online • NEW WEBSITE is Available NOW!

[www.GBSConline.org](http://www.GBSConline.org)

**BAPTIST INFORMER**

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.  
 Voice of 500,000 Baptists

Published the first of each month at Raleigh, N.C.  
 Postmaster send addresses and all communications  
 for publications and inquiry to:

Baptist Informer, Baptist Headquarters,  
 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601  
 919-821-7466 • Fax: 919-831-1526

Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
 GBSCgray@bellsouth.net

Ophelia Johnson, MFA, (Editorial)  
 informereditorgbsc@gmail.com

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

# Effective Church Discipline Part 1: (Doing it decently and in order)

Church discipline is a very delicate and sensitive action when it comes to its enforcement. When administering discipline realm we must always follow the Scriptures, which is vital, if we are to maintain Christian purity, power, progress, and purpose.

The responsibility and necessity for discipline is not an option, if our aim and end is that we grow and develop in the Word of God. As a corporate body we must be mindful and concern of this fact and always carefully follow the rules of practical church discipline.

How do we define church discipline? A well known author defines it in this way, "Church discipline may be broadly defined as the confrontive and corrective measures taken by an individual, church leaders, or the congregation regarding a matter of sin in the life of a believer."

Discipline in the church is not and should never be looked upon as punishment. It should always be viewed as, correction designed to train, mature and restore. There are a few points that I would like to share in unfolding this important, delicate and needed tool. First, there is...

A. The Pattern and Basis for Discipline: (Model, Foundation)

The discipline of the church should first patterned after the fact that the Lord Himself disciplines His children

(Hebrews 12:6). Where there is no order, chaos

with become the order of the day.

The Scriptures teaches us in the writing of the Apostle Paul that we are to check (point out) those persons who walk disorderly among the brethren. We must remember that it only takes a little leaven to effect the whole lump. It is a fact that one 'apple' has the potential of spoiling the whole barrel of apples.



Second, there is...  
 B. The Purposes of Church Discipline: (Reason, goal, intent)  
 Again, discipline is never to be look upon or administrated in the vein of punishment. God has called us to dwell together, to help each other and never to feel good about trying to be a judge, of which, none of us qualify for that role.

The purpose of discipline is to bring glory to God and enhance the testimony of the flock. Such as...

- To restore, heal, and build up sinning believers.
- To produce a healthy faith and one sound in doctrine.
- To win a soul to Christ.
- To silence false teachers and their influence.
- To set an example for the rest of the body.
- To promote godly fear or reverence.
- To protect the church against the destructive consequences. Third, there is...

C. The Practice of Church Discipline: (application)

The above goals or purposes automatically govern

the spirit in which all disciplinary action is to be given.

Discipline must be done by those who are spiritual, truly walking by the Holy Spirit and mature in the Lord.

Discipline must be done in a spirit of humility, gentleness and patience, looking to ourselves lest we too be tempted.

Discipline must be done without bias and doing nothing in a spirit of partiality. Four, there is...

D. The Reason for Church Discipline: (motivation, grounds)

In church discipline we must exercise extreme care. The Scripture does not warrant the exercise of discipline for an

Individual's personal gain, i.e., position or office.

The Scripture and not our opinions or dislikes must be the guide for what is sin. Furthermore, we must not become hypercritical of anyone's weakness or failures.

*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.*



## North Carolina Mutual and Our Baptist Churches

*Building strong churches and communities together.*



- Money for building programs
- Financial literacy and wealth-building
- Life insurance planning

### North Carolina Mutual

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

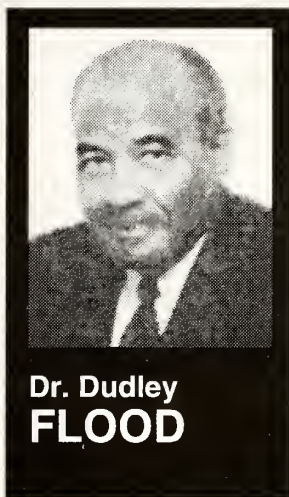
800.647.2114

www.ncmutuallife.com

# When Did "The Hood" Become a Bad Thing?

**D**uring my youth, I was fortunate enough to live in a small town in which we had neighbors. The specific area in which I lived was referred to as a neighborhood. While it was in the heart of the Black community, I was able to interact daily with representatives of every demographic in my town without leaving my neighborhood.

When I attended church, I saw my family doctor who was a deacon. My high school principal was also a deacon in my church. My second grade teacher was my Sunday school teacher. My minister



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**

was a 4-H Leader who I saw twice a week. My football coach was also my Boy Scout Master. The sexton of my church was janitor of my high school. All these people went to the same barber shop for their haircuts or the same beauty parlor for their beauty culture. All these people mingled on a regular basis without any visible regard to status. It was in this little town that I learned the value of equal status relationships. Everyone was neighbor to everyone else.

Our house sat at the end of an unpaved dead end street that terminated at the bank of the Chowan River. There was not a lock that worked on a single door of our house. My oldest sister would park her car in the yard and leave the key in the switch day after day. Had we locked our door, it would not have mattered because a skeleton key would have unlocked it, and most everyone in town had a skeleton key. We did not have to worry about a home invasion because when we were away from home, the neighbors watched our house.



Now that same community has houses equipped with alarm systems. Many of the older citizens try to be in their houses by nightfall. Here in my present community, there are eight houses on my circle. In two of these houses live people whose names I do not know and in a third are people who do not share a language in common with me. Only two of these houses has the same residents that were there when I moved here forty four years ago. So when did we become "the hood"? When the neighbors moved out of the neighborhood, what was left was the "hood." The neighborly caring is not evident. The shared values are not assured. The collective rearing of all the children is no longer a sanctioned practice. We do not attend the same church. In short, we have very little interaction. Even if the neighbors did not physically leave the neighborhood, many seem to have psychologically left.

Until we can bring back the neighbor mentality, some of us will continue to live in "the hood."

*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.*

## ~ AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR PASTOR ~

**Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church  
2665 W. Virginia Street  
Simpson, NC 27879**

Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church is currently accepting resume's for the position of Pastor. Phillippi is a member of the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

- Must be led by the Spirit of God in all matters and perform pastoral duties according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be ordained and licensed with strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist doctrines, policies and practices.
- Must be willing to conduct worship services as needed.
- Three to five years of experience preferred, not mandatory.
- Ability to teach God's word and carry out 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 and possess ethical and conduct.
- Must be willing to teach Bible study, Sunday School and other areas of need.
- Must be able to visit the sick and shut-in, participate in administering Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in, and support the church's functions.
- Must have a vision for the spiritual, intellectual, physical and financial growth of the church.

In conjunction with your resume, the potential candidate must provide:

- Letter of interest
- Three references (2 professional and 1 personal)
- Proof of religious credential (license/or ordination)
- Photo ID

This is not an inclusive list, but it serves as a pre-requisite of our expectations of a Pastor who will lead God's people.

If you feel that God is leading you to serve as the pastor of Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church, send your vitae to:

**Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church  
Attn: Pastoral Search Committee  
Post Office Box 124  
Simpson, NC 27879**

**Deadline:** Must be postmarked by June 30, 2014

## Church holds final service

*(continued from page 6)*

liance and its regional unit, the North American Baptist Fellowship.

Led by just six pastors in its 151-year history, the church is currently seeking a new pastor, with a deadline for receiving applications recently passed. Emmanuel McCall, a past moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, has served as interim pastor since 2013.

Pastor Emeritus William Guy, who served as pastor from 1971 to 2007, told congregants at the final worship service that it isn't the first time Friendship Baptist has had to make a major decision about its future. When the Georgia Dome was built in 1992 at a cost of \$214 million, the church decided to stay put, adjust to its new neighbor and invest in renovations to the old building.

Friendship Baptist has also played an important role in education in the community. Two historically black colleges — Morehouse College and Spelman College — started out meeting in the church's basement.

The congregation will meet temporarily at the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center at Morehouse while working to acquire land for a permanent location.

# • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • •

## DEGREE CONFERRED

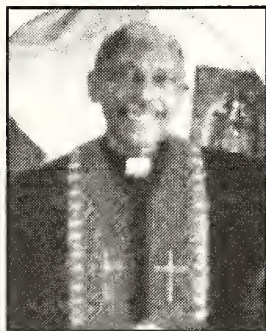
Angela Jones Williams, Executive Director of the Central Children's Home in Oxford, N.C., recently received the Master of Public Administration Degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C. during its May Commencement Exercises. The Central Children's Home is an objective of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

## PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY



The Rev. Dr. Cornelius E. Battle Sr. recently celebrated 15 years as Pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Durham, North Carolina on June 1. The Rev. Dr. John Kinney, Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology, was the guest preacher.

## RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



A Retirement Celebration was held on April 25, 2014 for The Reverend Ashbury Collins Batchelor commemorating his 28 years of Pastoral Service. He is the Pastor of Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church. Guest speaker was Dr. Haywood H. Gray, Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of

North Carolina.

## AWARDS CEREMONY



The Raleigh-Wake Chapter of the National Alumni Association of Shaw University, Inc. recently announced its 2014 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees at the Scholarship Hall of Fame Banquet on June 20 at the Doubletree Hotel in Raleigh, N.C.

Honorees included Dr. Norman Camp, retired Staff Assistant, Office of State Assistant Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; Ms. Ayoka Gay, Product Manager, Black Berry; Ms. Delphine Parker, Associate Buyer, Duke Energy; Ms. Shirley A. Hinton, retired Marketing Program Manager, IBM; Dr. George Debnam, retired Raleigh physician, and Mr. Gerald Hinton, a recording artist.

## IN LOVING MEMORY ...

Funeral services for Deacon Jarvis Morgan and Deaconess Mahalie Morgan were held on May 17 at Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Deacon Morgan was former President of the North Carolina Baptist State Laymen's League. The couple was interred at Carolina Biblical Gardens n Garner, N.C.

# BAPTIST INFORMER Renewal / Subscription Form

Your subscription expiration date will be listed on your mailing label. Please make a note of this date so that you will know when it is time to renew your subscription. The *Baptist Informer* is published and mailed around the first of each month. Please, stay up-to-date on all our exciting news and events!

Subscriptions are \$ 20.00 per year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing:  Check Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Money Order MO # \_\_\_\_\_

In the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

..... TYPE OF SUBSCRIPTION (PLEASE CHECK ONE) .....

New Subscriber  Renewal Subscriber

..... SUBSCRIPTION TERM (PLEASE CHECK ONE) .....

1 Year  2 Years  3 Years  4 Years

FOR ADDRESS CHANGE, PLEASE ATTACH OLD MAILING LABEL. THANK YOU!

## Advertise in Your Baptist Informer

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & CHURCHES:

	1MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	ONE YEAR
Full Page	\$350.00	\$875.00	\$1,650.00	\$3,000.00
1/2 Page	\$200.00	\$525.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
1/4 Page	\$125.00	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$800.00
1/8 Page	\$80.00	\$195.00	\$325.00	\$540.00

### FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES:

	1MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	ONE YEAR
Full Page	\$500.00	\$1,275.00	\$2,250.00	\$3,900.00
1/2 Page	\$325.00	\$825.00	\$1,350.00	\$2,100.00
1/4 Page	\$200.00	\$510.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
1/8 Page	\$150.00	\$375.00	\$600.00	\$900.00

### AD SPECIFICATION:

Full Page	10.5" x 12.5"
Half Page	10.5" x 6.25"
Quarter Page	5.25" x 6.25"
Eighth Page	5.25" x 3.125"

All ads must be prepaid before published.

Insertion orders are due by the 10th of the previous month before ad is to appear in the *Baptist Informer*.

Advertising copy or questions may be e-mailed to General Baptist State Convention at [Nwrightgbsc@aol.com](mailto:Nwrightgbsc@aol.com).

## Johnson Publishing Company Announces Transition of JET Magazine to Digital Magazine

PRESS REPORTS

**C**HICAGO — Johnson Publishing Company (JPC), recently announced that JET magazine, founded in 1951, will transition to a digital magazine app at the end of June. JPC is making the proactive decision to adapt to the changing needs of its readers as their desire to get information quickly and easily increases.

JET, the number three magazine in the African-American market, with a rate base of 700,000, started as a publication for Black-Americans to get weekly news on issues central to their community in a quick and easy to read format.

The new weekly digital magazine app will leverage a variety of storytelling tactics, including video interviews, enhanced digital maps, 3D charts and photography from the JPC archives. Breaking news will be updated daily. The app will be available on all tablet devices and mobile platforms. In addition, JET will publish an annual special print edition.



“Almost 63 years ago, my father, John Johnson, named the publication JET because, as he said in the first issue, ‘In the world today, everything is moving faster. There is more news and far less time to read it,’” said Linda Johnson Rice, chairman of JPC. “He could not have spoken more relevant words today. We are not saying goodbye to JET, we are embracing the future as my father did in 1951 and taking it to the next level.”

“The JET magazine online presence is continuing to grow, and JPC feels strongly we can provide great and timely content to our readers with the first weekly digital magazine app in the African-American space,” said Desiree Rogers, CEO of JPC.

This JET online content will feature strong entertainment news along with politics, pop culture and social issues that impact African-Americans, as well as a new EBONY/JET digital store.

## Sunday's Church...Monday's Church

(continued from page 3)

against anyone. I just pray you hear my heart and begin to realize the value of those who serve your church. As some church employees say, “the pay is okay but the benefits are out of this world.”

Recently, a member brought lunch as a love offering for my assistance in proofing a newsletter. The random hugs from children are priceless and the smiles from the seniors who stop by to say hello are special, indeed. They will probably never know how much their wisdom and strength mean to me. One member stopped me on the way to the car, not to ask for anything, but to let me know how much I was appreciated. My heart smiled and my gait seemed a little lighter. I realize that my reward is in Heaven and that at times, is payment enough. I am blessed to work in God's House. I am humbled that an all-wise God would allow me to serve in this capacity. It is not me, but Christ, the hope of glory, who lives within me (Colossians 1:27). His grace is sufficient for me (II Corinthians 12:9) and He promises to keep me safe (Psalms 91) as I move about His House.

At the end of the day, I believe the church is still the hope of the world and I count it an awesome privilege to work within it. Lift us up to the Father. We solicit your prayers! Think about us. We need your encouragement! Appreciate us for the sacrifices we make and for the work we do. It propels us to work another day and to keep serving God's people.

*Felicia Hicks Gaston, a Raleigh native, serves as Executive Assistant at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. where the Pastor is GBSC First Vice President Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch.*

### Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 400 Campbell Ave Fayetteville NC 28301

#### Wanted: Minister of Music/Fulltime

- Christian
- Read music and play by ear
- Train voices
- Skilled in a diverse genre of music
- Good personnel and management skills
- Music degree or college training a plus

Salary plus benefits.

Send Resume to:  
Friendship MBC  
Attn: Music Search Committee  
PO Box 1149, Fayetteville, NC 28302

#### St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1219 Hassell Road  
Post Office Box 360  
Oak City, NC 27857

Classified Ad: Licensed Ordained Missionary Baptist Pastor

Applicants must possess the following requirements but not limited to:

- Biblical qualities of a pastor as defined in Titus 1: 6-9; 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 minister.
- Be familiar with and practices Baptist doctrines.
- Have at least three years of pastoral or preaching experience (preferred but not mandatory)
- Have a compassionate approach to visiting members, including the sick, shut-ins, and the needy.
- Have the desire and ability to work with all age groups in the church with definite emphasis on spiritual growth and development and enhance youth programs.
- Possess excellent Biblical teaching skills.
- Be willing to work cooperatively with officers and members.
- Be willing to present short and long term goals.

Required are a cover letter, resume, CD or DVD of a current sermon. The deadline for applying for the position is July 31, 2014.

Please direct all correspondence to:  
Ben A. Jones, Jr. Chairperson  
Pastor Search Committee  
St. Mark Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 360  
Oak City, NC 27857

# Helping Others is Energizing — Remember?



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

**W**e all know that looking out for other

people usually makes us feel good, but isn't it funny how we have to have a reminder now and then?

It always seems to happen after a particularly tough period. You know the routine. You have a pile of work behind you and an even bigger pile in front of you. You are tired,

but you have responsibilities and commitments. You force yourself to a charitable event, to the hospital or to the church, because it's the right thing to do. Your goal is to bless someone else, but instead, you get the blessing.

I had just finished a tiring project and had no idea how I would summon the energy to do the next load of

work. But 94-year-old Mrs. Mitchell was on my mind. She had been my late mother-in-law's best friend and welcomed me warmly from the first day we met.

I'm a strong believer that if someone is on your mind, it's for a reason so I used the little energy I had left to check on her. Mrs. Mitchell has lived in a beautiful nursing facility in recent years, because doctors say her heart is too fragile for her to live alone, but everything else about her hides the fact that she's approaching the century mark.

Her wide smile always remind me of the day we stopped in to visit her church about 12 years ago. As her late husband approached to walk her out she whispered to him, "Billy, we're going to have to walk slowly, because my stockings are falling down." Mr. Mitchell answered, "That's OK, if they come down I'll hold them up." Just the thought of a couple, then in their 80s, strolling out of the church with a grip on her stockings, has always seemed to me like the ultimate in senior love (and humor).

The day I called, Mrs. Mitchell was ready with

her usual spirited greeting. Her energy came with updates of her great-grandson's most recent achievements, and her clear memory triggered stories of past Sunday afternoons growing up as a teen in Charlotte — going for ice cream after church and window shopping with my mother-in-law at Kress. Mrs. Mitchell let me know how much she appreciated the call and she lifted me with kind words about how great we had all been over the years.

After our time together, I tried to remember why I had thought I was tired. In fact, I was full of energy and couldn't wait to reach my next destination, because now my mind was racing with fresh ideas to feed the day ahead.

How many times has that happened? You think you're tired, then you do something to lift someone else, and it ends up being a lift for you? Caring for others is energizing. Feeling weary?

Here's a scripture that offers a few reminders about ways to boost your energy level:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

Linda Brown Douglas is Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reach her at: [Linda\\_Douglas@unc-edu](mailto:Linda_Douglas@unc-edu).

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PASTOR  
**SAMUEL CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1146 Trinkaloe Road  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Samuel Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a Pastor, called by God, to serve as the spiritual leader of the congregation. The candidate must provide pastoral, educational, outreach and administrative leadership. Samuel Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is a member of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association.

Potential Candidate Qualifications:

- Must be led by the Spirit of God in all matters and perform pastoral duties according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be ordained and licensed with strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist doctrines, policies and practices.
- Pastoral experience with 3-5 years of documented experience as a pastor, assistant pastor or an associate minister significantly involved in church administration and ministry.
- Seminary degree from an accredited school or equivalent education preferred.
- Ability to teach God's word and carry out administrative, strong leadership and counseling duties.
- Is an effective communicator; prepares and preaches inspiring sermons.
- Ability to communicate and work with all age levels and 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 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.
- Must be willing to relocate within a 30 mile radius of the church.

Along with your resume, potential candidate must provide:

- Four references: 2 professional, 2 personal. References must include name, address and telephone number.
- Name, address and telephone number of previous or current church affiliation. Please include pastor's name if applicable.
- Proof of religious credentials (license/ordination).
- Proof of degree for confirmation or transcript of completed courses if degree has not been conferred.
- Provide a criminal background and credit check.
- Provide a cover letter/letter of intent.
- Must provide your mission statement for Samuel Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

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

Samuel Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
Pulpit Search Committee  
P. O. Box 3231  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27906-3231

Resumes and all required information will be accepted March 30, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

## Maya Angelou

April 4, 1928

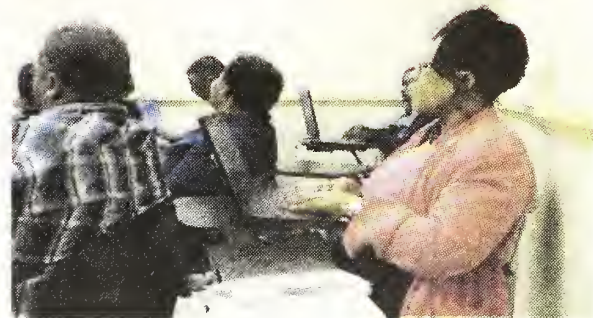
May 28, 2014



(Excerpts from "I Rise")

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

# Shaw University Divinity School



Many are called, but few are chosen. Are you called to lead God's People in the 21st Century? We can help you be better equipped.

Earn up to 1/3 of Your Degree On-line

Nights and Weekend Classes

Two Campuses: Raleigh and High Point, North Carolina

Accredited by ATS for Over a Decade

High Quality Ministry Preparation

Master of Divinity Degree

Master of Religious Education

Please contact our office today to setup your tour and to get more information. The number is (919) 546-8570.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ....

# 19th Annual Central Children's Home Day



**Saturday, June 21, 2014**

10:00 am

Central Children's Home Parade  
Downtown Oxford, North Carolina

Central Children's Home of North Carolina, Inc.  
211 West Antioch Drive  
Oxford, North Carolina 27565  
(919) 693-7617  
Website: [www.cch-nc.org](http://www.cch-nc.org)



On-campus programs will include singing groups and plenty of children's activities until afternoon.



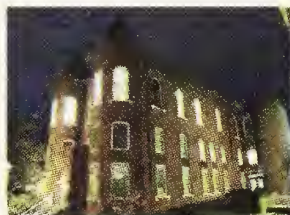
## All are invited

to this annual event for an important objective of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

## BAPTIST INFORMER



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



## MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

The General Baptist State Convention supporting  
Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School,  
Central Children's Home of North Carolina,  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
and State Missions since 1967.

\*\*\*\*\*3-DIGIT 208  
06/08/14 5 4 P 10 # 208  
SE BAPTIST THEO SEMINARY  
114 N WINGATE ST  
WAKE FOREST NC 27587-2553