

ECGMBA BAPTIST INSPIRER

MODERATOR, REV. JAMES ISAAC, III

Never Again ”

By, Rev. J. Eric Morgan, III, Past Moderator ECGMBA, Pastor, Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church



I believe we all have heard the news and have seen the images of the students on the TV as the result of the shooting which occurred at a school in Parkland, Florida. The students of that school last week got on buses with some of their parents and travelled to Tallahassee, Florida's capital to protest the shooting which took the lives of seventeen of their peers and instructors. It also wounded about fifteen others. These students are planning a nation-wide protest to announce to this nation, "Never Again!" They are saying, never again will this vicious, wicked and iniquitous act happen in our nation. They're asking the leadership of this nation to do something to protect them, and provide safety for their schools.

But this decision on the part of the students has developed into a controversy for our nation's leaders. It seems like the politicians can't agree on what they need to do. Yet, the students are insisting; "Never Again!" The powerful lobbyists are trying to maintain the status quo, yet the students are insisting; "Never Again!" The special interest groups are suggesting an alternative, yet the students are insisting; "Never Again!"

For this nation, our High School students are forming a movement like we have never seen before. They are calling it; "Never Again!" This movement the students are forming reminds me of a story in the Bible recorded in the Gospel of Mark chapter 2. In this story, one day Jesus returned to a city He had visited, called Capernaum. When the news got out that He was at a certain house, everyone in town made their way to that house. The house was so packed with these visitors that there was no more room for anyone else, even the door post was full. The problem here was that everyone who came were not there for the ministry. Some people were there just to provoke Jesus (verses 6 - 8). Even though there were some opposition, yet, there were four men who determined to see their friend heal. Listen how the text records it. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So, when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you" (verses 3 through 5, NKJV).

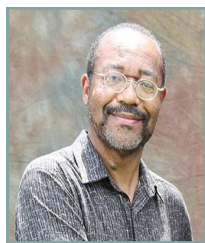
In the days of Jesus, most homes in Palestine had flat roofs used for relaxation in the cool of the day and for sleeping on hot nights. And there was usually an external stairway that extended to the roof. Often, as in this story, the roof was made of slabs of burnt or dried clay that were placed on supporting beams which stretched from wall to wall. The builder then spread a uniform coat of fresh, wet clay over those slabs of hardened clay to serve as a seal against the rain. When the friends of the paralyzed man couldn't enter the house through the front door, they took him up to the roof of the house, dug out the top coat of clay, removed several of the slabs until they made enough room to lower him down into Jesus' presence. Even though the front door to this house was packed with people who didn't mean any good, yet, the four friends were determined they were going to get their friend to Jesus by any means necessary. I believe they might had said to themselves, "Never Again!" Never again will we allow others to deter our destiny.

Like the students in Parkland, Florida, the four friends in this story desired change. They were not willing to wait until someone gave it to them. They were tired of waiting on the politicians and other selfish leaders of their day. For them, it was time for a change. If the front door or the back door is not available. If the agitators and the aggressors wouldn't get out of the way, they were willing to tear open the roof and get their friend to Jesus.

If you look in verse 5, they did tear open the roof and let down their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Their goal was "Never Again!" Never again would we allow discrimination, selfishness, greed and evil to prevail against our community. When Jesus saw their deterred faith, He healed their friend. **Thought to Remember: When you are tired of the same agitation. When you are sick to the stomach of the same sad song. When you're fed up with selfishness, then it's time to do something. That something is to declare to yourself "Never Again!"**

A Day of Celebrations: Rally, March and Noon Day Services Honoring Dr. King's Dream

By: Dr. Warren L. Herndon, Chairman, Special Events Committee, Durham Community Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee & Visiting Minister, Mt. Zoar Baptist Church, Pastor Rev. Norman Davis



As people of goodwill, 2018 has started off being divided and with much confusion. On Monday, January 15, 2018 marked the Thirty Second legal holiday observance of the Life and Legacy of one of our world beloved leaders. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., championed a love for humanity, equal rights and peace among all nations. Over 700 citizens all over Durham County and the Research Triangle Communities participated in the 2018 Rally, March and Noon Day Program, held for more than 25 years at First Presbyterian Church on 305 West Main Street. The cold morning began with students and teachers of all grades touring the state-of-the-art 45-foot customized motor coach. This multimedia mobile classroom engaged and provided an interactive experience with a myriad of educational resources, as this C-SPAN Bus, from Washington, DC, was crisscrossing our country, on their "50 Capital Tour". Community leaders were called upon to address the audience about Dr. King's Dream of a society where all citizens are equal regardless of your place in your neighborhoods or community. At the annual gathering at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, on Chapel Hill Street, there were several leaders who addressed the huge crowd of diverse citizens, children, youth and adults. These citizens come from all socio-economic groups annually to raise Dr. King's Dream of "A Beloved Community". With this year, marking the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's life and legacy of where social justice was at the forefront of the Civil Rights Era; we still live in a diverse society. Yet across the state of North Carolina and in Durham County; we have far too many citizens living on the margins of life. Our towns and cities are growing by leaps and bounds as many community leaders shared similar comments in their address to the people. At the rally, clergy, non-profit, civic and elected officials shared Dr. King's Dream of improved conditions in education, housing, employment and supportive services for women and children. Once the march started off, participants sang old civil rights songs, such as; Happy Birthday, Dr. King, Old Freedom and Isn't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around. The walkers and marchers carried on conversations about how our city is growing, but many citizens are being left behind by gentrification in neighborhoods and restoration of businesses in Downtown Durham.

The community march and walk culminated at the side entrance of the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street. The participants moved swiftly and the Noon Day Program began with The Durham Children's Choir singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing". The angelic voices of over 50 young diverse children from around the triangle; were led by Ms. Dena Byers. The program was called to order and U. S. Rep. David Price, D- 4th Dist. addressed the congregation with a resounding address outlying his work and leadership representing the over 700,000 citizens in North Carolina and how our country is falling short of King's Dream. Then North Carolina, State Senator, Floyd McKissick, presented a message of hope and perseverance for his State Senate District, House Members Marsha Morey and MaryAnn Black, N. C. House, shared a message of support for improved funding for citizens in their house District. Additional speakers included Brenda Howerton, Chairwoman of the state of N. C. County Commissioners. Wendy Jacobs, Chairwoman, Durham County Commissioners and Steve Schewel Mayor, City of Durham. The local leaders all called attention to improved funding, support for human services and other priorities to address equality for all citizens in Durham County.

Throughout the day, several civic, community and non-profit leaders communicated that today, as in the old days, the family and the school would encourage our youth to do well in school and have activities and programs to reward our students for making good grades. There were before and after School activities motivating and inspiring students to work diligently to stay on grade level. Also, in the classrooms, there were teachers or school administrators living in neighborhoods. There were many caring adults teaching, guiding and inspiring students to go to colleges and universities to begin their studies and choose a career interest. Consequently, our families were kitted closer and in the 21st Century, with global travel and families relocating to our area, we have new and challenging family values. In Dr. King's speech in 1963, his address to the world was to all humanity; "we must learn to live together or die as fools". Many clergy, civic, educators and elected officials commented on the power of "WE", which means, "We must learn to embrace, coach, love, teach, train, and tutor our students in this community, so we all can live in peace". Consequently, if not; then we will have a community where some students will become successful and the others will fall into despair. Dr. King's message is just as relevant today, as it was in 1963 and as a people in 2018, we must learn how to overcome all ills of life. We must overcome inequality, racism, sexism, homelessness, gender inequality, discrimination in the workforce and any other ism there is. Local groups, such as First Calvary Baptist Church, Youth Lock-In for years, have entered hundreds of youth, TROSA, nonprofit substance abuse treatment program and several sororities and fraternities; participated. These activities concluded with hundreds

A-R-I-S-E

By, Minister Bernadette Davis, Associate Minister, Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church



There are times in our lives when we can find ourselves in a place of depression or perhaps stagnation, a place of prostration in which the circumstances have kept us bound. It could just be a dark place in which you somehow landed. That place of lowdebar, that place of Ziglag, that place of lack, of depression, of doubt, of fear, of unbelief, of worry and so much more. But God is saying it is time to rise – to get up – to move out of that place where you have been stuck. You see there are several things that can keep you bound, one of them is the spirit of fear and another is the spirit of procrastination. It will cause you to stand still when God is telling you to get up from that place. It's time to **A.R.I.S.E and CARRY THE LIGHT!** To arise means to come up, to get up, to get out of bed, to rise, to get to your feet, to begin, to start, to appear, to surface, to evolve, to develop, it means to MOUNT UP!. To SHINE means to excel, to stand out, to be good at, to be skilled at, to be polished, to sparkle. It also means light. God wants you to shine and to give light to all those who come in contact with you. God is light. The bible says that Jesus is the Light of the World. He is Jehovah Ori, the Lord our Light. We are to let His light shine in us so that men may see our good works but glorify our Father which is in Heaven. When the light comes in, darkness has to flee. So we know as children of the Most High God, we have to do something. If we don't we will stay in the same situation or even worse. There was a story that I use to hear a long time ago about some gnats in a jar. The experiment went something like this, the gnats were placed in a jar and a lid was put on top. There were small holes in the lid so the gnats could get air but not fly above that lid. After several attempts to escape they would try to fly out of the jar but they would get to a certain level and would crash their bodies on the lid of the jar. They formed a belief that if they moved higher than the rim of the jar, they would suffer pain. So the gnats just stayed there. The Lid was finally removed from the jar but the gnats never would fly above the top of the jar. Why? Because they had been conditioned to believe they could not soar. Their mindset was one in which they believed that was as far or as high as they could go. They forgot to put on the Mind of Christ, and **that's how it is in life today.**

We allow certain things and certain situations to keep us from getting up and doing what God has called us to do. We hear His voice but try to question whether or not it was His voice. The time is now to arise. I found the acronyms for Arise to be **A – Awake, R – Restoration and Recover, I – Increase, S – Safe and E – Expect.** In simple terms we are to **AWAKE** – put on your strength. We need to get up and make sure that our lamps are trimmed, full of oil and ready for service. God wants us to move now. To get up out of the corners of those dark places where you have been hiding. Stop waiting for tomorrow just do what you can for the Lord today for tomorrow is not promised. Soon the Light will go out quickly and it will be too late to do anything. He wants us to receive **RESTORATION and RECOMVER** it all. We have to receive it by faith as we open up our eyes to His Word and listen intently to His Voice. It states in Joel 2:21 that we are not to fear but to be bold and recover everything the enemy has taken and some stuff we just let go of. It's now time for the rain to fall – the good rain, the former rain and the latter rain as before. After the rain falls, the threshing floors shall be full of grain and the vats shall overflow with new wine and I shall restore or replace the years the locust have eaten, the hopping locust, the stripping locust, the crawling locust, my great army I sent among you and you shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God who has dealt wondrously with you. God will restore the years that you have lost.

So now just **INCREASE** and be multiplied! We cannot speak lack and receive increase. We have to call for increase. In doing so, we pray God's Word back to Him. He tells us in Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." We pray the prayer of Jabez, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain." God has no respect of persons, what he does for others, he will do for you. We are **SAFE**, when we listen to His voice, the

Thank You for Being a Neighbor

Written by, Rev. Dr. Larry Wilson, Pastor New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church
Vice President, Ministers, Deacon, and Deaconess Union &
Co-chair, ECGMBA Outreach Ministry



“ . . . And who is my neighbor?” This is the question raised by an expert in the law who stood to challenge Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke 10:29. Jesus responds by telling what we know as the parable of the Good Samaritan. I have often heard similar questions raised or even complaints directed to the church in the form of “what is the church doing, or why is the church not more involved in particular situations.” I have heard these complaints referencing both individual family crises and more global ones.

A beautiful answer to the question of “who is my neighbor” was demonstrated by the East Cedar Grove Association in response to devastation left behind by hurricane Irma in southern Florida. With much of the nation’s attention on southern Texas in the aftermath of hurricane Harvey and with financial support and other material assistance pouring into that region from all over the nation, it was fitting that concern be expressed for our neighbors in the apparently overlooked south Florida region.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm over 6.7 million homes and businesses—about 65% of the state of Florida were without power. Irma will go down as one to the top hurricanes in Florida history.

Though over 800 miles away, East Cedar Grove Association lent our support in a marvelous way to a community and to our “neighbors” in desperate need of assistance. Over 1,000 cans of food items and more than 300 Cases of water were collected by the association and “trucked” to Ft. Lauderdale.

Our donation was delivered to the Mount Olive Development Corporation (MODCO), the Community Development arm of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. With a stated mission of revitalizing communities, MODCO is on the front line in providing much needed services to poor and underprivileged people in Ft. Lauderdale and greater Broward County.

In response to Hurricane Irma, MODCO created a feeding ministry that prepared and served more than 2,550 meals Sept. 12-17. They are feeding the poorest of the poor, many of whom are seniors, single-parent families and individuals with HIV. MODCO estimates that an additional 1,000 food-insecure individuals could benefit from their ministry, but the organization’s resources were limited. They anticipated providing these meals through January 2018 as the recovery from the Irma continued. The very timely efforts of the East Cedar Grove Association went a long way in supporting their efforts to feed, clothe and minister to the underserved in the Ft. Lauderdale community.

To the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association: ***Thank you for being a Good Neighbor!***

Continued, Thank You for Being a Neighbor, Wilson**Mission in Action: ECGMBA Responds to Families in Florida Hit by Hurricane Irma**

Photographs of Donations, Trip Preparation, Delivery and Utilization of Donations to the Mount Olive Development Corporation (MODCO), of New Mount Olive Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Rev. Dr. Larry Wilson, Pastor, NRMNBC & Rev. George Crews, III, Coordinators of Relief Drive



"... and who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:27)

"And we have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must love his brother as well. " (1 John 4:21)

2018 REGISTRATION FORM

29th Annual Spring Institute of The Congress of Christian Education

East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association

April 10, 11 & 12, 2018 • Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Register by End of Class

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Your Church Name _____

District _____

City _____ Zip _____

Check the class(es) you are will registering to attend below:

Tuesday & Wednesday • April 10-11

The Ushers	Deacon Ronnie Robinson	Room 205
The Work of the Church Trustee	Rev. George Crews, III	Room 208
Deacon/Deaconess	Rev. Dr. Langston Logan	Sanctuary
The Center Seat	Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Dickerson	Room 214
The Second Seat	Rev. Dr. Larry Wilson	Room 220
The Traditional Church	Deacon Johnny Pettiford	Room 106
The Mission Minded Church	Rev. Joyce Clayton	Room 215
Growing up in a Multi-changing World	Rev. Daryl Glenn	Room 109
Ages 13-17		

Tuesday • April 10

Blending Generations	Rev. James Isaac, III	Room 204
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Thursday • April 12

X Inspirational Message	Rev. Dr. LaMont Johnson, Sr.	Sanctuary
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Open Class That You Do Not Have to Register for: **B/P Checks** by Nurses from OGMBC

Missionary Outreach Programs

Union Baptist Church Missionary Circle Ministry

Union Baptist Church is located in Durham NC, where Prince Raney Rivers is the Senior Pastor. Rev. Rivers' new vision for the church is "moving to the next level". We are excited about his vision and look forward to working with him to move the missionary circle to the next level. **The Union Baptist Church Missionary Ministry** is composed of the youth, young adults and seniors. All departments are involved in community outreach activities. However the senior department has taken off to the next level. Our goal is to reach the masses, taking Christ into every home. Below is a review of the missionary outreach programs activity for 2017. Approximately three years ago, under the recommendation of Missionary President Gracie Rogers, Sister Pamela Davis and Sister Charlene Barbee developed the Union Baptist Church (UBC) Angels and Disciples. The groups are made up of circle members and volunteers from the church. The purpose of the groups is to improve the missionary outreach program. It is our goal to reach the masses. In 2017, more than twenty missionaries worked over 12,000 hours to serve 26,575 people.



The nursing facilities that have benefited from our services on monthly bases include the Brian Living Center, Carver Living Center, Camellia Gardens Living Center and Eden Springs Living Center. Other Agencies in which we worked were the NC Food Bank (serves 6 counties), the NC Diaper Bank (serves the Triad Area), the Durham Rescue Mission (Easter and Back to School Programs), the Durham Urban Ministries (serves the Durham Homeless), and Meals on Wheels (over 400 residents were served each month). In addition to our monthly commitments we have assisted other UBC programs in meeting their goals. We helped the Soul Patrol with their Christmas Project and other activities. We also provided meat can goods for the Backpack Buddies.

We have been blessed to have the support of other ministries. The Media Ministry provided CDs for bags provided for our sick and shut in members. The ushers sponsored a birthday party for the Camellia Gardens Living Center. The Women of Spirit provided wash clothes for our bags and residents at Eden Springs Living Center. The US Military was not left out. Baby Shower gifts for veterans and wives of veterans were collected. The newest outreach program is the UBC Visitation Ministry. This outreach ministry is facilitated by Min. Hattie Patterson and made up of a group of dedicated missionaries and volunteers. Our target population is sick and shut in disciples of UBC, their families as well as friends of the congregation and bereaved families. We strive to provide compassionate care to these individuals and families by making telephone calls to them, sending cards and making home visits. It is our goal to ensure that all members that have experienced loss or are sick and shut in remain connected to and loved by their church family,



The Ushers and Church Security

Deacon Ronnie G. Robinson, Usher Union Chairperson

By and large, the Welcoming Ministries of nearly every church within our association has virtually no emergency planning or security training. You may even think that as a greeter or an usher; that your role in the church is only to pass out programs, smile, shake hands and to assist with the offering. Oh, my brothers and sisters, don't sale yourself short. Those tasks are part of your reasonable service.

Everyone from the Pastor to the newest lay member has a responsibility for congregational safety and security. You do not have to do all the work yourself but you must always pay close attention to those around you and to your surroundings. Along with that, you must have a plan of action if a dangerous situation arises and respond accordingly. As a Greeter or Usher, you must know a little bit of everything.

As a member of the Ministry of Hospitality, you represent the church and your pastor in a real way. You are a part of your churches "First Impressions" Ministry and must be careful to not go outside the guidelines of your churches leadership team. How you respond to any given situation will have a major impact on the reputation of your church.

Your primary security tasks are to observe, evaluate and to take appropriate action. The best way to do this is by being aware, alert and ready to get assistance. Going beyond that role can make a situation worse, or get you or others hurt. You should not carry guns, pepper spray, tasers or other devices without permission. If permission is given, then the devices must be carried and used within the law.

Get assistance by having some else assist you if you need to talk to someone whose behavior concerns you or if you are checking on a suspicious situation. Do not confront someone on your own unless you have no other choice. This protects everyone and provides a witness about anything that happens.

Your security activities should focus on:

- 1. Observation:** Observe people and the area with a dedicated purpose.
- 2. Assessment:** Make a reasonable evaluation of the situation.
- 3. Action:** You may be able to do something to prevent violence, but you should try to get help and warn and help others.

Things that we must do to stay on top of our assignment as greeters and ushers are to:

Arrive at church early for prayer and a team briefing.

Be in place because our worshipers either arrive early, late, in groups or alone.

Also, people tend to roam around for no real reason.

Have a usher or greeter in the lobby because it may be packed with people of all ages.

You need to know what to look for and what to do if you see something of concern. You do not need detailed training to be effective. Life experiences will prepare you with most of what you need. Other ways that Pastors, ministers, deacons, trustees and lay members can gain some insight of their security role is to:

Read all available that they receive on church safety and security.

Ask questions about anything you do not understand.

Talk to other greeters and ushers from other churches.

Find other resources that fit the guidelines of your churches leadership.

As an usher or greeter, you must honor your security duties and responsibilities. The role is not to be taken lightly or as a joke. On the other hand, you must not react to people in a rude or disrespectful manner. Being balanced, knowledgeable and proactive is your goal.

Continued, The Ushers and Church Security, Robinson

Understand the human risk factors:

- If there is a family conflict, it may follow them to church.
- Former church members may have issues and become violent about them years later.
- Someone who was once asked to leave may come back to get revenge.
- A church member has a conflict away from church that results in someone following them there.

Your churches leadership team is the first step in prevention, planning and preparing a security program. The security program of your church should cover things like:

- Door and locking devices.
- Exterior lighting.
- Alarms.
- Cameras.
- Access control.
- Visitor screening.
- A church based security teams.
- Other systems and programs
- Fire safety.
- Theft prevention.
- Computer security.
- Child care and classroom safety.
- Vehicle and parking lot safety

In summation, the security plan of your church may be assembled with advice from the police or through research by informed church members. Your pastor may appoint a committee to provide oversight for the program and your insights would likely be very helpful.

Forever Present

*He is forever present
When times get rough.*

*He makes a way out of no way,
On duty, morning, noon, and night,
And all throughout the day,
Never slumbering nor sleeping,
As pain and sorrow and loss and loneli-
ness pierce the mind, heart and soul,
and fetal it becomes,!
The Lord will lift you up and
He will fill your empty cup—
He is always near !*

*Written by Joyce D. Clayton,
7/14/07*

East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association of NC, Inc.

Moderator, Rev. James Isaac, III., 2017– 2021

Theme: *“Proclaiming the Changeless Christ to a Changing World”*

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” (Hebrews 1:1-2), ESV)

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:6-7, ESV)



It's Time to Change Your Heart

By, Deacon Cynthia Lawrence, Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church
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Have you ever been told as a child, teen or adult by someone who knows what they are talking about that "It's time to change something in your life to a better more rewarding way? Well that's what this article is about. I will be basing this article on Luke 1:17 (AMP) *"It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous [which is to seek and submit to the will of God] —in order to make ready a people [perfectly] prepared [spiritually and morally] for the Lord."*

Luke is telling us of a man – John the Baptist – Jesus' second cousin who paved the way for Jesus' ministry. His life was devoted to telling people that they need to change their hearts and ways so that they could be accepted back into God's good standing and a chance to be with him in heaven. This message was not a new message because the prophet Elijah had delivered the similar message before the Lord's judgment in the Old Testament. Elijah had been sent to try and change the hearts of the people from being sinners to people who worshiped God. In this case God was going to destroy the land and all the evil people with it. God was giving them a chance to change their heart. He was giving them a chance to repent before it was too late.

John the Baptist was doing the same thing in the New Testament. He was the result of a miracle himself, being born to a barren mother Elizabeth, and Zacharias who were both up in age. John the Baptist was born and set apart for a special reason. He was to preach about repentance and baptize people in water. He was also to preach about the kingdom of God and prepare the people for the Messiah's coming. He was born to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight'"

John the Baptist dressed in camel hair garment ate locust and wild honey but more importantly told them they needed to change their hearts. He told them they needed to repent and that the kingdom of God was at hand. Back then they thought because they were direct descendents of Abraham they didn't need to repent. Today we think that we are living in a new time and things have changed and that we don't need to repent. We believe that Jesus has already died for us and our sins so we can just live anyway we want to. This is not completely true. Jesus suffered the penalty for our sins so that we can repent. Jesus' death gave us the free gift of salvation but we must accept it. Repentance is part of accepting the gift. We have to feel remorse for our past conduct. Repentance is a change of heart and mind that brings us closer to God. We should continually turn away from sin and turn to God for forgiveness. We repent because we love God and truly want to obey His commandments. Acts 3:19 says, *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."*

The message is clear but do you listen. How many times have you been told what to do by someone who is looking out for you and only want the best for you? You ignore the advice and words of wisdom and then have to suffer the consequences. This word of advice to change your heart is one that should be taken with haste and with urgency. If you disregard it your fate is certain damnation. You will not be among the ones that are caught up when Jesus returns for his believers who are alive and those who have died as Christians at the rapture. You will not receive the resurrected body and go to meet the Lord in the air. Do you want your soul to be lost? If your answer is no, then "It is Time to Change Your Heart."

Continued, A Day of Celebration, Herndon

of citizens returning back to buses, cars, walking home from the historic City of Durham; once known as **Black Wall Street**. Cities like Durham and Wilmington, North Carolina, Tulsa Oklahoma, and Rosewood, Florida. These cities were known for citizens of all races who could live, thrive and flourishes people of goodwill. The planning team would like to thank all individuals, groups, non-profit and civic organizations for their year after year effort in the **"celebration of the life and legacy of this National Holiday; honoring this great world leader"**.

The Missionary Message

From Rev. Annie Gibson, Woman's Auxiliary President, ECGMBA

Saying Y – E – S God

"For all the promise of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, Unto the glory of God by us." (2 Cor. 1:20)



We Born Again Christians should yield ourselves to God. Some of us want God's will for our lives, but are unwilling to yield everything to him. We are to commit today to God's entire will. There must be no reservation when it comes to surrendering our will to God's will. This means in our personal lives with daily prayer, devotion, deeds and our attitudes. In our public life all we do and say has an effect and influence on others.

Secondly we must endure for God. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 2:3) A Lot of us have yield ourselves to God but when the storm is raging and the battle comes, we lack the stamina to endure. We all are subject to testing, trials and tribulations but God has a purpose for what he allows to come into our lives. Determination is one of the keys of endurance allowing us to keep on keeping on regardless of our situation or circumstance.

Thirdly, we must serve with God: "We then, as workers together with him." (2 Cor. 6:1) We as Christians are very willing to yield ourselves to God and endure for Him, yet fail to do God's work. We fail because of complacency and lack of concern. But most of all we fail for the lack of confidence and courage. We must trust God with His compassion for us and seek courage through the help of the Holy Spirit and become "workers together with Him."

In closing, let us remember that the value of one soul is beyond estimation. "Y-E-S, God" means working with God to bring souls to Jesus Christ. We are not alone. "He goes with us." (1 Cor. 3:9)

Up coming Events

Woman's Auxiliary 2nd Quarterly Session , April 14, 2018, Smith Thomas Convention Center

Woman's Auxiliary Prayer Breakfast, May 26, 2018, Smith Thomas Convention Center

Woman's Auxiliary Annual Banquet, June 16, 2018, Piedmont Community College

Continued, A)-R-I-S-E, Davis

our ways of service. So EXPECT to win. We must be looking for something good is going to happen to us. We cannot receive the good, if we are expecting the worse. We have to change our mind because as a man or woman thinks so is he or she. We have to focus our thoughts on things above and expect that He will do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can think or imagine. Now ARISE – just stand up where you are as an act of obedience. To arise means to *mount up on wings like an eagle, to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint!* Awake to receive restoration as we recover it all and increase safely expecting the good. Jesus arose on the third day and His charge is for us to arise. **SO ARISE – CARRIERS OF THE LIGHT FOR OUR LIGHT HAS COME AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS RISEN UPON US AND WE SHALL RECOVER IT ALL. ARISE AND AGAIN I SAY ARISE!**

EAST CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF NC, INC.Theme: *"Proclaiming the Changeless Christ to a Changing World"**(Hebrews 1:1-2; 13:7-8)***Elected Officers 2017—2021**

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Smith-Thomas Convention Center

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APPRECIATION

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Moderator, Rev. James Isaac, III**Pastor, New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church****Editor, Rev. Joyce Daye Clayton. (joycedc@aol.com)**