

ECGMBA BAPTIST INSPIRER

THE MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Rev. James Isaac, III, Pastor, New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church

"Proclaiming the Changeless Christ to a Changing World" (Hebrews 1:1-2; 13:7-8)



Maintaining Mental Well-being in a Global Pandemic (Philippians 4:6-7)

We are living in stressful times under stressful conditions. Millions have been affected by COVID-19; racial disparity, social disharmony, and civil unrest continues to be a blight in the "land of the free and the home of the brave", the economy is in a tailspin as businesses fold and joblessness rise. Demonstrators crowd city streets protesting police brutality against people of color and minorities. True peace of mind is a highly sought after but rarely acquired.

According to the Bible, the Believer has a clear alternative to how the world pursues "peace of mind". Paul explains to the believers at Philippi how to attain true "mind control": *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Paul presents the pathway to attain freedom from panic attacks, release from anxiety, triumph over fears, and victory over depression. Paul emphatically states that this is a promise from God. God always keeps His promises. "Anxiety" is the lack of control over the thoughts and emotions. The remedy for anxiety is the "peace of God," which is a supernatural, heavenly peace that is promised. When you have anxiety, first talk to God, worship Him, focus on Him and His greatness—get your mind, your thoughts on Him. In other words, get your eyes, and mind, off yourself and your problems, and fix them on God's greatness

The next step, after focusing on God in prayer, is "petition." This word refers to praying for others; interceding on their behalf to God. It specifically refers to asking God to reach out in mercy to those who are struggling or are in need of God's grace in any given area. In other words, get your eyes and your mind off your own problems and think about other people's problems and pray for God to intervene.

The next step to overcoming troubled thoughts and emotions, after focusing on God and focusing on others, is to be filled with "thanksgiving." Here Paul says the Christian should always be giving thanks to God for all He has done.

The last step to fighting off anxiety, after you have thought about God, others, and your blessings, is to "present your requests to God." In other words, after you have trained and disciplined your mind to focus on the proper priorities, you are then in a position to tell God about your problems. God is our Father and cares for us and our needs (c.f. 1 Peter 5:7).

*"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. **Then the God of peace will be with you.**" (Philippians 4:8-9, NLT)*

OH! HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

Written By, Rev. Dr. James Smith, Pastor, Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
Grace and Peace to all of you, my brothers and sisters!



Many, many years ago, lifting up and speaking on legal issues and church conflict matters, as I have been trying to do, would not be of much interest to us as Missionary Baptists. To me, it seems that when it comes to the church, there were just some things that our fore-parents would and could not do. Churches and pastors were not involved in court disputes to the extent that we see now. There was more love, respect, confidence and trust toward one another than what we are seeing in our churches today. When a pastor walked down the street or about the community, people readily recognized him/her as a person of the cloth. Folks felt that the pastors' words were their bond. Oh! How things have changed?

Yes, our society and culture have changed but as Christians, our love, respect, confidence and trust for one another must not change. Hebrews 13:1 say, "Let brotherly love continue." In the 8th verse of this same chapter, it states, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

During a workshop, I was asked the question, "What do you think about pastors signing employment contracts with a church?" I said, "Well, personally I don't like it." Then I was asked, "Would you sign one?" To that question, I said yes," Now, I waiting to hear from some of you that want to call me a hypocrite. You see, I don't like it but I do understand that the times have changed. Secondly, I do not want to be responsible for telling some young perspective pastor not to sign a contract and eliminate his/her chances of getting a church. But there are some real issues that churches and pastors need to consider.

Consider this if you will an employment contract for a pastor setting forth the following terms: a) hours he/she needs to spend at the church; b) days and times for sick and visitation leave, c) contract shall be for a duration of five years; and d) at the end of the five year period, the pastor shall be evaluated and a recommendation made to the church to determine if the contract should be extended or renewed.

Now think about this. Does the church need to tell us what we ought to be doing anyway if we profess to be called by God? We really work for the Master and not the church. Many pastors have gotten up at midnight and early morning hours to spend hours with a family in the emergency room and no one was aware of it except those involved. It is tough to do that when days and nights are specified. On the other hand, many of us have not been diligent in our work for the Master and therefore we have created a lack of love, respect, confidence and trust within our congregations and thereby making employment contract necessary. Also, I get concerned with two, three, four, or more year contracts. If we are not satisfied with our performance as pastors, or the church is not satisfied, then neither of us should have to wait until the contract expires for fear of incurring damages for breach of contract. Likewise, we do not want to continue believing things are going well, only to find out that at the end of the contract term that it will not be renewed or extended because of the recommendation of an evaluation committee.

As pastors and churches, let us not forget that love, respect, confidence and trust still define us and, "Oh, how things have changed," but these attributes should remain the same.

[Dr. James W. Smith, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 8021 Stagville Road Bahama, NC 27503 (919) 471-4034 Website: www.mtcalvary-bahama.org]

A Pastoral Thought ***“The Season for My Breakthrough”***

“Written by, Rev. J. Eric Morgan, III, Pastor Mount Vernon Baptist Church & Former Moderator



How often do you realize that your season and condition can change without your permission? Most believers measure their success by what they imagine can happen for them at a certain moment of time.

A story was told of a young lady who was hired as a Junior Manager for a large Grocery Store. This young lady was highly educated but less experienced. Knowing her limitations, the Senior Manager decided to undermine her and find a reason to fire her. Every morning before they opened the store, the Senior Manager would turn off the alarm device. This would allow all the employees to move around the store freely. One Saturday morning, their busiest day of the week, the Senior Manager told the young Junior Manager to open the store while she and the other employees stood outside the store and watched. She knew if the alarm went off the police would have to close the store for that day. With that, the owner of the store would have to fire the young lady.

The young lady took the keys from the hand of the Senior Manager and walked toward the door. Before she unlocked the door, she stood before the door and prayed this prayer. *“Lord, you know I don’t know what I’m about to do, can you please help me to do the right thing?”* Immediately, the police chief drove up and asked the young manager whether she knew what she was doing. She told him no. He taught her how to unarm the alarm device and how to open the door. When the owner of the store heard about this, he fired the Senior Manager and made the young Junior manager the Senior Manager.

This is how things can change for us as believers sometimes. You may not know the right people or have the right human contact at times, but the Lord always breathes ideas, resources and the right people into your life when you need them. All He requires from us is for us to be faithful and just keep honoring Him in all that we do.

The young Junior Manager did one thing that was right for her, she prayed and asked for the Lord’s help before she opened the store that morning. This lesson should be a reminder to all of us. Our breakthrough lies in our prayers. Just when you don’t know what condition is about to befall you, ask the Lord for His help.

The Bible gives us a story of King David with a similar situation. In First Chronicles chapter 14, verses 8 through 11, the New Living Translation records this for us. ***“When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he marched out to meet them. The Philistines arrived and made a raid in the valley of Rephaim. So, David asked God, ‘should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?’ The Lord replied, ‘Yes, go ahead. I will hand them over to you’. So, David and his troops went up to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. “God did it! David exclaimed. ‘He used me to burst through my enemies like a raging flood! So, they named that place Baal-perazim (Which means ‘the Lord who burst through’).***

In this text, the Philistines desired to ruin David’s life even before his ascension to the throne was consolidated. Their plan was to kill David, but his breakthrough came when he prayed and asked for the Lord’s permission. The Lord gave him victory, not because his army was greater than the Philistines. He got the victory because he asked for it.

Like King David, you can ascend to that victory too. From this text, there are four things worth mentioning. One. The enemy mobilized against David. Yes! You’re in the position for great things to happen for you and the enemy will attack you for that. Two. David asked for the Lord’s help. When unfortunate things happen to you the only option you have as a believer is to ask God for His help. In Matthew chapter 7, verse 7, Jesus promised us if we ask, we shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you. Three. David waited for the Lord’s response. From this text, David didn’t make a move until he heard from the Lord. This is what is require of us. Four. David gave the Lord the credit for His victory. In the text, David called the place of his victory; *“The Lord who burst through”*. For David, this was his season for his breakthrough. He had waited for this day, now it was time to declare his season of victory.

“Name Above All Names”

(Philippians 2:5-11)

Sermon by, Rev. Annie Gibson, President, Woman’s Auxiliary



Many years ago Shakespeare asked the question, “What’s in a name?” He said that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. In a sense this is true. You could call a rose a stinkwood or a lily and not change the fragrance of the rose. But in another sense, a name means everything. If I were to give you my check for \$1,000,000, they would laugh at you at the bank and could tell that the check was worthless. But if you could get a check from Henry Ford or Nelson Rockefeller for a million dollars you could laugh and say, “I am a rich person.” It’s the name that makes the difference- so there is something in a name –names do mean something.

So I come to you to talk to you about the name that is above every- the name of Jesus. **There is a name that means something.** It means something in Heaven and it means something on earth- it even means something in hell! *“Jesus is the sweetest name I know, And he’s just the same as his lovely name, And that’s the reason I love him so, For Jesus is the sweetest name I know.”*

There are five things I would like to say about the Name of Jesus. It is a powerful Name- it is a sacrificial Name- it is a conquering Name- it is an exalted Name- it is a saving Name. The name of Jesus is a powerful name. Just think of the names in the past that denoted power. Alexander the Great had a powerful name. At the age of 33 he had conquered the known world; but at 33 he also died of drunkenness and his name lost its power. Caesar had a powerful name. He led the Roman legions to conquer one land after another. But one day a dagger in the hand of his friend Brutus conquered him. His name lost its power. Napoleon had a powerful name. He brought Europe to her knees before him. But he met his Waterloo and died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

But, not so with Jesus! He had power to create the world. He had power to change the outcome of history and the destiny of nations. He had power over death and disease. He had power over death and the grave. His power has never diminished and someday all heaven and hell and earth will come to feel the power, God only is great! Men of this world claim greatness and power for a while, and then death cuts them off. Only the Almighty Christ retains His power throughout all the ages.

Today, we look out upon a world where it seems that Satan has the upper hand. In government, in politics, in business, in sports, in society, and in recreation we see the hand of the evil one. This is his day. Satan is the Prince of the world. He is running things. But this won’t always be true. One day Jesus is going to come back and take over. “Then every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord to the Glory of God the Father.”

The name of Jesus is a Sacrificial Name. He sacrificed all the joy and glories of heaven for you and me. He held the highest position in glory. He was the central figure in heaven. The angels and the archangels ran to do His bidding. The saints in glory sang His praises, crying out *“Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.”* But for our sakes, He gave up all of that. He shed the garment of glory, turned his back upon all that was dearest to Himself and came down to earth to suffer and die as our Savior. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross for our sakes.

Now the conqueror always controls, so I would like to ask you a personal question. Have you permitted Christ to come into your heart? Do you let him control your life? Does he have first place with you or do you live for your own convenience and comfort? Maybe God wants you to serve him in a better way. He says lay down that habit which is hindering you. Lay down that hot temper. Lay down that critical spirit. Lay down that secret sin. Lay down that indifference and neglectful attitude. Oh, may the Spirit of God wax so mightily upon us that we will want to tear our heart wide open before the Lord. Throw out everything that is wrong there and fill those hearts with His plans and purpose. Let Jesus the Conqueror control you. Surrender to Him as Lord and Master and let Him keep you. For the name of Jesus is an exalted name! God hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name that is above every name. Mary, his mother, didn’t give Him His name. God gave Him this name. No one but God had an adequate conception of the mighty things that Christ would do down through the ages. No one but God was capable of bestowing upon him the name that is

[Continued, Page 8]



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August 19, 2020

Greetings Beloved Members of the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association!

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

As we have encountered this Global Pandemic called COVID-19 or Coronavirus, I can say without a doubt, "we've never done it this way before"! First, I want to express appreciation for your consistent prayers as the Executive Board of the Association navigates these times of challenge both in our personal lives, in addition to the burden we carry for East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association. We are in this together, but more than that, God is walking through the fire with all of us, and I believe we will come out the other side in victory!

I am appealing to our member churches to encourage supporting the Association financially. Life will never be without challenges, and this is undoubtedly one of those times we can "prove God," as stated in Malachi 3:10, even when it seems entirely sacrificial. While it may be some time before we can gather together again as an associated body, I would encourage you to consider staying faithful in your giving.

Please know that regardless of what your giving ability is at this time, you are loved and appreciated! As you pray for us, we pray for you, and we WILL get through this!

Contributions can be mailed to: **East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association, 1476 St. Paul Church Rd, Roxboro NC 27574**

Blessings in Christ,

(Rev.) James Isaac, III
Moderator

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The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association of NC, Inc.

Hospitality After COVID-19; What Are We to Do?

Deacon Ronnie G. Robinson

Usher Union Chair & Member, St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church



Through social distancing at regular or parking lot services and the use of such media devices as Webex and Zoom, the churches of our association are moving forward with caution during this pandemic. They are to be commended for their efforts to follow both Godly and governmental guidance to prevent the furtherance of COVID-19 any further.

As we hear alarming comments stating that the virus is resurging, we must remember 2nd Timothy, 1:7 “*For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and a sound mind*”. It is in that spirit that I ask you to think about the following steps. Then, consider if they will help keep you, your family and your membership healthy and safe:

Hygiene

Each mature adult must take primary responsibility for protecting themselves and others against the virus by doing the following:

1. Wash your hands frequently: Before leaving home and after arriving at your destination; thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not, use a 60-70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Maintain social distancing: All members (The Guardians, Greeters, Ushers and Escorts and Congregants) must make every effort to maintain a social distance of six feet distance between themselves and others, especially if they are coughing or sneezing. You must also be creative when performing normal service operations (shaking hands, hugging, passing out bulletins, seating worshipers and receiving the tithes and offerings).
3. The Guardians (Safety and Security), the Greeters and Ushers: Meet at a pre-determined time and location for prayer and to discuss the day's service requirements. Each person must have medical examination gloves and a mask.
4. Greeters: Be posted at all exterior doors that are used by the worshipers with a supply of gloves, masks, hand sanitizer (and programs). This helps also if you should have anyone that does not know your guidelines for post-COVID-19 operations.
5. Escorts: This should be a member that is helpful in assisting first time visitors, the physically challenged and anyone else that needs assistance in maneuvering inside your church.
6. The Ushers at the doors leading into the sanctuary: They should have supplies that are similar those that the Greeters have. This is just in case someone comes in through another entry way.
7. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth: Remember, your hands very often touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once your hands have been contaminated, they can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and make you sick. Wearing medical examination gloves prohibits the transfer of viruses. Change them as needed.
8. Practice respiratory hygiene: Make sure that everyone covers their mouth and nose with their bent elbow or a tissue when they cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and wash your hands
9. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, call to make an appointment with your primary health provider or urgent care clinic. [*Hospitality Continued, page 10*]

Spiritual Food For Thought
“Needing a Friend?”

Written By, Rev. Joyce Daye Clayton, Asst. Pastor, New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church



During this time of crisis while under attacked by a virus named the Coronavirus or COVID-19, we may find ourselves anxious, confused and wondering when this national and worldwide nightmare of sickness, death and confinement will end. However, these are also times to remember and meditate on the words to this familiar hymn:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
 All our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
 Oh, what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful,
 Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness;
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Although this virus has altered our routines and uprooted our lives, Our Lord and Savior ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Heb. 13:8)*** God cares about our situations and He loves you and me. ***Jesus “... said to his disciples, ... do not be anxious about your life. ... Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storehouse or barn, yet God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than the birds...!” (Luke 12:22)*** In essence, Our Lord is present holding us close in his strong, tender and loving arms. When troubles come our way, remember that Jesus is the answer, our best friend! Meditate on the words of this hymn, ***“Jesus is all the world to me, My life, my joy, my all; He is my strength from day to day, Without him I would fall: When I am sad, to him I go, No other one can cheer me so; When I am sad, he makes me glad, He’s my friend. “ (Hymn)*** God’s love never fails!

Let Us Pray!

Everlasting and Merciful God, Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for understanding our fears and helping in our most anxious moments. Lord, we do worry sometimes when we know that we should put our trust in you. Please forgive us in our weaknesses and give us the strength to endure and persevere. Holy Spirit stir up within us the spiritual gift –“... a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” We give you glory and honor and thank you for wonderful continuous blessings. It is in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior that we pray, amen!

(Continued, Name Above All Names, Rev. Gibson, p. 4)

above all names. If the throne of heaven were vacant and if I were given the opportunity to choose one worthy to sit upon that throne I could think of many men of earth that have illustrious names.

The **Apostle Paul**, was one of the mightiest men of God that ever walked the earth. I would think of all of his great accomplishments, his love for Christ also his death for Christ. But I would be forced to say, *“Paul, as great as you are the throne of heaven is beyond you.”* **George Washington** was the father of our country, a great warrior, and a great statesman of noble character; but I would be forced to say “pass” on the throne for One higher than you. Then I thought about **Charles Spurgeon**, the mighty preacher who preached to thousands of people and won thousands of souls for Christ, and the one who wrote many books. But I would tell him, pass on, for the throne is for one higher than you. Then I would think of evangelist and publisher **D. L. Moody**- he had very little education, but used it all for the glory of God. He broke the King’s English, but he also broke hearts for Christ. When he died he carried many souls to Glory with him. But I would be forced to say pass- on this great and good man of God. The throne is for one higher than you.

Then I see Jesus. His head is crowned with a crown of thorns. His hands and feet bear the marks of the nails. His face is covered with blood and spittle. As I look upon these things I know that he bore them all for you and me. I say thou art worthy. Thou hast loved us with an everlasting love. Thou hast given thy life for our redemption. **Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.** And so he takes his place upon the throne. **I behold a great transformation. Instead of a crown of thrones, he wears a crown of heavy jewels.** Instead of the garments of a peasant, he wears the purple robes of glory. Instead of a blood stained face, I see a face shining in beauty and glory. Yes, the name of Jesus is and shall be an exalted name.

Thou shall call his name Jesus for he shall save the people from their sins. As many as received him to them, he gave the power to become the sons of God. **There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved except for the name of Jesus. Whosoever calleth upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** Call upon your goodness, and there is no salvation there! But call upon Jesus and you will find full salvation. Yes, Jesus’ name is a saving name. He will never let you down if you trust Him. If you have never trusted him won’t you do it now? He is almighty to save. He is just waiting to receive you! **God’s name is POWERFUL, SACRIFICIAL, CONQUERING, EXALTED AND SAVING!** (Phil. 2:5-11)

***The Woman’s Auxiliary of East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association
Convened Prayer Conferences & a Memorial Service for Missionaries
&
The Woman’s Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC Convened
its 136th Annual Session in 2020, the Year of the Global Pandemic***



***Saluting President Annie Gibson & Immediate President Elizabeth Marrow
for Outstanding Service & Leadership***

Christians: Living in 2020, A Year in Transitions

Written by, Dr. Warren L. Herndon
Visiting Minister Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist Church



This year started off with many challenges, issues and situations that the average person will not be able to understand in this country. We are living in a time that our generation has never experienced nor seen in over 50 to 75 years. Therefore, as Christians, we are so inexperienced with these world challenges and we are seeking answers to these times of despair. In the Old Testament, the book ***Ecclesiastes 3:4-7***, it tells us that ***“There is a time for joy and peace and a time for crisis and concerns”***. So, in 2020, we are in a time of crisis and concerns. Now, for the last 10 to 20 weeks, citizens have been told **1) to stay quarantined in their homes by the governor 2) the church doors are to be closed, 3) essential employees are reporting to work and 4) restaurants are closed for in-person dining**. As a result of this Covid 19 and the fact that many people were already living in poverty, there is a sense of despair in many of our communities.

Consequently, over the last several months our towns, cities and states have been living in transition. So, in **“These Times”** as servant leaders, our God is calling us to look out for our children, the poor, elderly and others who are hurting with situations such as: **1) the pandemic, 2) police brutality, 3) loss of jobs and 4) other life challenges**. As Christians, we know that we serve an **“Almighty God”** and in the midst of it all; God is still in control. The Bible has hundreds of references on the world and how some leaders are more interested in short-term quick fixes with little respect for citizens living on the margins of life. When we as people of goodwill come together, we are a mighty force as we *Pray and Seek* the Lord's will for those whom we are **“standing in the gap.”** When we pray as Intercessors and walk by the Spirit and put on the whole armor of God, in the Mighty Name of Jesus, He will hear our cry and heal our land. In our neighborhoods and communities, one of the universal truths is that the enemy will use our elected local, state and national officials as pawns. They will practice selfish and evil politics and not represent all citizen's rights. Consequently, they violate many citizens' social justice, equality and economic appropriation of our tax dollars back to citizens of color at the same rate as those other communities. Therefore, leaving gaps, inequalities and more poverty for our next generation; and that means our children, grandchildren and members in our cultural group will be left out.

During these times of many challenges and problems, we must walk slow and try to unpack years of unfair and unequal re-allocation of these resources. We, as African-Americans have contributed to this country's economic growth through Small Black Businesses and The Minority Women and Business Enterprises (MWBE's). Therefore, our tax dollars must be invested back into communities of color in order for our next generation to remain successful and thrive in such areas as: **1) affordable housing, 2) access to full quality education, 3) good job opportunities and 5) institutions that embrace cultural sensitivity**. It has been said by the media that we must accept “The New Normal”, but in these times of unrest and challenges to implicit biases, we must stand boldly and claim the statement ***“Forward Together and not ONE step back”***. As this country recognizes the life and legacy of two modern day heroes that transitioned last month- ***Congressman John Lewis, and Civil Rights Leader Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian— both of them reminds us, respectively, that: “We must be involved in Good Trouble” and that “Leadership is found in the action to defeat that which would defeat you... You are made by the struggles you choose.”***

Finally, as we all are wondering, **“What can I do in These Times”?** Well, I am glad you asked. We all must accept God's power to use us and we must summon from within ***“The Courage To Make A Difference”*** in other's lives. This unified Biblical Based foundation will lead us to becoming ***“our brothers and sisters keeper”***; and let's get activated on our Christian Journey for the greater good for our next generation. As it has been said by our ***“Elders”*** in previous generations on their Christian journey's : **1) the Lord is our help in troubled times, 2) hold onto God's unchanging hands, 3) if God's people will repent from their wicked ways, our God will heal the land and 4) our God is in control and in His time- things will change. In the Mighty Name of Jesus. “Amen”**.

Hospitality , Robinson, Continued from p. 6

Some things to Consider

What are the symptoms of the novel coronavirus? The symptoms of the coronavirus are similar to other common cold and flu viruses:

Fever	Cough	Shortness of breath
Headache	Runny nose	Sore throat

What do I do if I feel sick at home? STAY AY HOME!!!! Contact your primary health provider to be seen. Notify your supervisor and remain at home until your primary care provider says that that you can return to work and church. If anyone has flu-like symptoms, they may be asked to self-quarantine at home for up to two weeks as a precaution to protect themselves and other members of the Church workforce.

What should a staff member do if they feel sick at work? Contact your primary health provider. If they can't see you immediately, notify your supervisor, go home and wait for your appointment. Stay at home until your primary care provider indicates that it is ok for you to return to work/church.

What if I do not have symptoms of illness, but have been asked to remain at home in self-quarantine? Please work with your supervisor to identify options for you to work from home.

The end result is that each individual and your churches leadership must decide what is best for the entire congregation and community as reopening begins. If you have any hesitancy on returning to the building, it is better to wait. There is no rush to get back to the building, although we are looking forward to that day!

Sincerely,
Deacon Ronnie G. Robinson



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOVED
ONES GONE HOME TO GLORY DURING COVID-19**



“So with you: : Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. “ (John 16:22)

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Pastoral Position

- Mount Zoar Missionary Baptist Church of Durham North Carolina Pastoral Vacancy Start/Closing Dates: January 22-Until Closed.
- **Mount Zoar Missionary Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking candidates to apply for the position of full-time Pastor.**
- We are situated on the Eastern end of Durham, North Carolina and are prayerfully searching for a servant-leader who is spirit-filled and called by God.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Skills/Knowledge:** Has excellent oral and written communication skills and strong interpersonal skills, is a gifted communicator and expositor of God's Word, and has a high relational with an emphasis on caring for staff and leaders.
- **Leadership:** Is engaged as a humble leader of leaders, especially spiritually.
- **Spiritual Gifts:** Include being a pastor/shepherd, leadership, teaching, encouragement, and/or mercy.
- **Passion:** Is zealous and industrious in ministry to expound God's Word, to equip leaders to do the work of the ministry, and to advance global and local missions.
- **Role:** This is a full-time pastoral position; must be ordained and licensed.
- The Pastor meets all the requirements including scriptural mandates found in 1st Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Maintains a healthy, vibrant, and growing relationship with Jesus.
- Relationship with spouse is thriving and builds into those closest, foremost being family. A steadfast individual of humility, grace, and love.
- Continually growing, both personally and in ministry, regularly seeking to learn new ways of being and of doing ministry.

SCOPE OF THE POSITION: To serve as a spiritual leader of the church inspiring leadership, motivators and vision for the future of the church. This pastor me be a compassionate communicator a great listener and capable to lead the congregation in both spiritual and financial growth.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare and deliver weekly sermons for Sunday morning and/or evening services.
- Lead Tuesday Morning and Wednesday Evening Bible study.
- Will oversee the ordinances of the Church in accordance with the Word of God.
- Acts as an ex-officio member of any ministry or team, is free to accept invitations to preach the word of God to other groups or organizations provided such speaking engagements.
- Provide spiritual over-site and leadership, oversee and enforce church discipline when needed.
- Develop Christian Education Curriculum that will contribute to growth of children, youth, and adult.
- Develop strategies that contribute to the financial health and well-being of the church.
- Provide Godly counseling, Visit sick and bereaved members.
- Officiate weddings, funerals, baptisms, communion, and quarterly church meetings.

QUALIFICATIONS 6-10 years of successful pastoral or church ministry experience preferred.

- A Bachelor's degree from a four-year accredited college or university in religious studies preferred.
- A Master's degree from an accredited theological seminary is preferred.
- Must be ordained and licensed.
- Must possess personal character and financial standing that is above reproach.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit the following documents to be considered for this position:
 Cover letter Resume/Copies of degrees, Ministerial Licenses, and Certifications Current Vision Please include your email address and telephone number in your cover letter or resume. Upon request, applicants will provide information and consent for: Five (5) letters of recommendation (clergy, layperson, and personal etc.), Background checks and credit reports Educational/credential verification, Sample sermon (CD, DVD, YouTube link, MP4, etc.), All information submitted will be handled in a confidential manner.

Application materials can be mailed to: Pastoral Search Committee: Mount Zoar Missionary Baptist Church 2400 Cheek Road Durham, North Carolina 27704 Mailing Address: Post Office Box 11159 Durham, North Carolina 27703



**LET US REMEMBE TO PRAY
FOR THE SICK, BEREAVED & SHUT-INS IN
ECGMBA & BEYOND**

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. “ (Phil. 4:19)

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APPRECIATION

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**Rev. Joyce Daye Clayton, Editor
ECGMBA BAPTIST INSPIRER**

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