

EAST CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST INSPIRER



Guard Your Gates

By Pastor George Crews III, M.Div., Lattisville Grove MBC
First Vice Moderator, ECGMBA

Grace, Peace, Mercy, and Love to all my brothers and sisters of the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association. My topic for this season is "Guard your Gates". In the book of Exodus, the children of Israel were delivered from a 400-year stint of slavery by God using Moses (His servant) as their leader. Shortly after the ancient Hebrews that were delivered from their bondage God speaks to Moses and instructs him to tell the Hebrew people to give of certain items and to use those resources to build a sanctuary that He (God) may dwell among them. It was God's desire to live among his people, they had lived too long in Egypt among the idol gods of their oppressors that He instructed Moses to tell them to build Him a house that He may live with them. This tabernacle was to be in the center of their camp with everyone's door facing His tabernacle so that He would be the first one that they would see in the morning and the last one that they would see in the evening. And that's what the Lord desires even right now today, He wants to be the center of our lives. In the Old Testament He uses the tabernacle and the temple as His dwelling place but in this season we are His tabernacle and temple, for In the New Testament 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says that "**Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?** If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are." God is no longer dwelling in tents or houses that are manmade but He lives in us where He can be the true center of our lives if we allow Him to be.

This sanctuary is known as the Tabernacle in the wilderness. This Tabernacle was a portable dwelling place for Yahweh, a place of worship for the newly delivered people of Israel. The Tabernacle also points the believer to Christ Jesus, but in this article the Tabernacle symbolizes the believer's walk and how one should approach God. In chapters 25-28 of Exodus, God gives Moses the dimensions of the Tabernacle, how to staff it and whom to staff the Tabernacle with.

The staff of the Tabernacle were called the priests whose job was to represent the people before God. They also administered the ceremonies of worship, and they worked mainly at the temple or tabernacle. The priests were dedicated to the work of the tabernacle/temple and were given 7 duties to perform at the tabernacle/temple: (1) opening, closing, and guarding the gates, (2) removing the ashes, (3) pouring incense on the Altar, (4) maintaining the Menorah, (5) performing morning and evening sacrifices, (6) changing the bread on the Table of Shew Bread, & (7) keeping the fire on the Altar burning. In reality the priest's job was to minister to the people and to take care of the Tabernacle— a full-time and this job. It was in actuality a job that was around the clock; there was always something for the priest to do in the service of the Tabernacle. ***If you don't mind, I'll take the time to let you in on something. Sometimes parishioners don't understand the work that their pastors do on a regular basis. They think that pastors and those that are employed by the church have a lot of down time, but the reality is that there's not enough time in a day to complete the work that is set before those who do the work of the Lord.*** Yet the Bible teaches us in 1 Peter 2:9 "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" So if we are a royal priesthood, and also the Temple of God then, we, too have duties and responsibilities to God and to ourselves as children of God. **As priests, we must first guard our gates.**

The Tabernacle had only one set of gates, but we have three gates that we must protect- that which comes into and out of those gates. There are so many ways that the enemy can get into our lives that we have to be on guard against and not engage, whether its social media, the radio, the web, or conversation. We should not participate! Philipians 4:8 says "***Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***" The enemy is also looking to find a way to deter us from doing what the Lord is pleased with and has set before us.

Guard Your Gates, Continued, page 5

Make the Right Choice

By, Rev. Pebbles Lucas, Co-pastor of the First Chronicles Community Church, Durham, North Carolina



We are living in a time when so many people seem to be confused about making the right choice. I recall when I was growing up my mom always instilled in me morals, values, and taught me as child to walk with integrity. She was the leader of the house and she made it very clear that we had to follow her rules or we could pack up our items and move. I remember listening to my mother's voice and wondering if she was just making a statement or was she serious. Mom's voice was firm, steady, serious, and I knew for a fact that she meant what she said. My mother spoke with authority.

In our scripture Joshua 24, he reminds us that "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". It seems to me that serving the Lord has become a challenge for many. Many have forgotten the cross, forfeited their faith, and have sold Jesus for twelve pieces of silver. The mind set of man has strategically created ways, and selected their own standards based on prestige, their own choices, and how they interpret serving the Lord. In 2019, I am standing like Joshua, "*As for me and my house, we are going to serve the Lord*". Individuals can choose to misinterpret the faith, but we will serve the Lord. You can decide to leave your church, but we will serve the Lord. You can deny that you never knew Jesus, but we will serve the Lord. You can curse God and die, but we will serve the Lord. You may feel like giving up, but we will serve the Lord.

So many individuals have left the faith, gone astray, forgotten about the one who created and made them. The world has become lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. My question to you today is, "What does it mean for your house to serve the Lord?" You are the only one who can answer this question. As you meditate upon this question allow the Lord to lead you in the right direction, and ask Him to help you make the right choice. Young people need to see true soldiers who will make a stand for Lord. The younger generation needs mentors who will help them develop true knowledge about Christianity and what it means to love the Lord. They need men and women who will stand the test of times and represent the Lord in spirit and in truth.

In the book of Joshua, he would continually challenge the people to make the right choices. The Israelites were commanded to turn away from their idol worship and make God supreme in their lives. We are being challenged to turn away from idols, offers, materials things, and give our life to the Lord. I know sometimes it is very difficult to forsake many of the things the world has to offer, but God will never leave you nor forsake you. I challenge you to renew your faith, renew your heart and make the Lord your choice. Through Joshua's leadership, Israel renewed their covenant with God.

In conclusion, I challenge all pastors, ministers, deacons, deaconess, trustees, officers, leaders and officials to search for a deeper relationship with God. Choose this day who you will serve. Stop procrastinating and do it now. Make the right choice! Joshua 24:15 states, "*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*". Peace and Blessings.

Disclaimer

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.

“Get Up and Get Started”

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



Have you ever wondered when is the time to get started with the things that are important to you? Just imagine this. You sit around lingering, waiting for things to get better for you. While you were waiting, someone came by and offered you a chance to do something productive for yourself. But you refused the offer because it doesn't look like what you needed to do. Yet, the person assured you that this will help you get started. Still you refused. Your main reason is because you're concerned about what other people might think of you.

I believe this is the attitude that many Christians have, as it relates to us hearing from the Lord and following His will. The Gospel of John chapter 5 records a story of a man in Jerusalem who had been crippled for thirty-eight years. In all those years, he spent many days lying by a pool, called *“the Pool of Bethesda”*. He was lying there hoping for a miracle. The miracle he was waiting for was in this form. In verse 4, the text says this. **“For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of water, was made well of whatever disease he had”** (NKJV).

Let me warn you, like some of us, this man had a disorder. I will name it *“lingering disorder”*. By this, I mean he desired to just linger around, waiting for something to happen for him. In his mind, he thought the only way he could get healed was to get in that pool at the right time. Doesn't that sound like our disorder too? The text says he was thirty-eight years old. We don't know how long he had been going to that pool, but Jesus knew that he had been in that condition a long time. And his hope was in that pool. Day after day, he had someone to bring him to the pool just to wait for his opportunity.

But one day his lingering disorder ran out. The text says Jesus came by Jerusalem and saw him and knew he had been in that condition a long time, therefore, Jesus asked him this question; **“Do you want to be made well?”** (verse 6, NKJV). Listen to his response in verse 7. **“The sick man answered Him, ‘Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming; another steps down before me’”** (NKJV). If you noticed, Jesus' question was also an offer. But the sick man was blaming others for not assisting him. This is the danger of living with a lingering disorder. It causes you to blame others for the smallest things you can do for yourself. Jesus was offering this man an opportunity to believe in the power of God, yet he could only see what others did or did not do for him.

The lingering disorder will make you lazy, shameful of your conviction and blame someone else for your limitation and self-imagine. It will affect your relationship with the Lord and with others. It will dismiss your God-given ability to be hopeful. It will increase your emotional wounds and it will minimize your faith.

But even with his lingering disorder, listen to what Jesus says to him in verse 8; **“Rise, take up your bed and walk”**. I believe the message he heard from Jesus was this; **“Get up and get started”**.

For thirty-eight years he had lingered and waited. This was his year for a change. He had waited for others to do it for him, this was his year. He had lingered long enough, this was his year. Like that man in the text, I believe the Lord is saying the same thing to us. **“Get up and get started”**. All last year you had been lingering, waiting for your miracle, “get up and get started”. This is your year. You've waited long enough. Now this is your turn, “Get up and get started”. I know at some point you felt you weren't going to make it.

When you considered the debt you owed, the condition of your health, the unkind things that were said to you, and the many unfortunate situations that came your way. But somehow, you made it.

This year can be the turning point in your life, a time for a new beginning. Don't waste another minute trying to figure out why certain things happened to you or your loved ones. Refuse all the victim mentalities that might come to your mind and declare to yourself that **“this is my year and this week I'm going to get up and get started because I intend to finish this race on top”**.

The Church, University and Village Partnering for Early Education Planning

By Dr. Warren L. Herndon, Chair, Special Events Committee, Durham Community Dr. MLK, Jr. Steering Comte & Visiting Min., Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist, Pastor Rev. N. Davis



Today, we are living in some exciting times. April, May and June are the times when students, educators, parents, mentors, coaches and other guidance counselors are observing their students going to the next level in their educational pursuit. As educators, administrators and people of Faith, we are training up our next generation of students as we prepare them to become adults in their homes and communities. Now in the 21st Century with social media and other technological platforms, our students are connected almost 12 hours per day to their devices. Consequently, researchers and practitioners in the field of education reform are concluding that we are in the knowledge-based society. Therefore, as people of goodwill we must go back to our roots and remember the Old African Proverb, **“It Takes A Village to Raise Our Children”**. For the last several years, we have been creating

and planning several strategies to accept this challenge with education reform, school improvement and other educational opportunities for our communities. Several years ago, our leadership team established a **pilot program** at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and this initiative was very successful with over 100 students from Granville, Durham and Wake Counties participating. This newly created strategic initiative focused on a **one-day college tour** and educational exposure for middle and high school students. From this successful initiative, the planning group continued to embrace and connect with more community stakeholders envisioning the need for a **new self-determined model** for our students. This initiative is needed in these competitive and controversial times in the state of North Carolina, especially in the Research Triangle and in the Piedmont areas. Across our state, data has shown that we have far too many of our students being tracked out and placed in several programs, which are adversely being penalized by local, state and national budget constraints and budget cuts. Because of all of these issues and challenges, over the last 3 to 4 months, our planning team held our **“Second Summer Institute and University College Tour”** to another Historically known Black University (**HBCU**). Last week, on Thursday, June 20, 2019, again over 100 Students, parents, mentors, coaches and faith leaders converged on the campus Saint Augustine’s University.

The planning team of university administrators, professors, retired state educators, clergy leaders and the strategic educator consultant has been working for the last several months creating, organizing and directing this initiative for this day. On Thursday, the roll out occurred at 9:00 am and from the eight counties the vans and cars headed for the campus of Saint Augustine’s University in Raleigh. Once on campus by 10:30 am, attendees met in the Prezell Robinson Library. The delegation was met by the Interim President, Dr. Gaddis Faulcon, university administrators and several local political leaders such as Former Mayor of Creedmoor, North Carolina, Darryl Moss; and Mayor pro tempore Archer Wilkins. The session continued with breakout sessions with university professors and other educators. The delegation was also greeted by radio personality, Cy Young of WAUG-AM and WAUG TV.

The session continued with university professors, administrators and student leaders sharing information about what to expect once on the campus of Saint Augustine’s University or any other HBCU of their choice. Information was shared on how to navigate the admission process, early college planning and how and why it is important to perform well in the middle and high school years. Additionally, to include what it means to be enrolled into college, first year performance, transfers, student retention and choosing your desired field of study. The morning session concluded with an exposure to introductions of several local entrepreneurs and other self-determined options for our next generation of leaders. Therefore, the outcome from these sessions were the following: **(1) Our churches must continue to work to help our students improve their grades; (2) Our students must start taking the P-SAT, SAT and ACT as soon as possible and not wait until their Junior and Senior year to take these exams; and (3) College costs are increasing every year and all students must apply early for financial aid, scholarships and grants before September of their Senior year.**

During the complimentary lunch for all the participants, several speakers were introduced and gave presentations to include: Secretary of Veteran’s Administration, Larry Hall; State Senator Mike Woodard and Mr. Larry Hester, owner of Phoenix Square Shopping Center in Durham, North Carolina. The delegation had an opportunity to interact while enjoying lunch and listening to some music. They had an opportunity to have group discussions about the future and the importance of doing well in school, keeping up their grades in high school and the importance of becoming a life-long learner. After lunch, several of the students and leaders were given the historic tour of the university and had the opportunity to meet with other university leaders. The next step for the planning team is to meet twice a year in October and March on the third Thursday at the university and plan for the next year. These students and community leaders will become the next generation to build a data base for future college students from these eight counties.



“Making A Difference”

By Rev. Dr. Alvin B. Downing, Sr., Pastor, Pettiford Grove Missionary Baptist Church,
Second Vice Moderator, ECGMBA

I grew up in a small town in North Carolina and on my street was a compassionate woman with a big smile, that captivated me and the children as she showed her concerns for our well-being. Everybody knew and respected her because of her two days-a-week front porch bible studies that included chips, vanilla waffles and Kool aide. After a while, she did not have to remind us to come because we showed up on those two days during the summer like clockwork. She would tell us that Proverbs 22:6 reads *“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* Her compassion for us, the children of the community, was demonstrated by the enormous amount of time she devoted to our spiritual development and showing us the necessity of reading, especially over the summer vacation months. She used that bible study time to connect and to communicate to us her love and God’s love towards us. Her passion for the children on our street formulated and laid a solid foundation that instilled within me at an early age: a deep appreciation for reading; a reverence for following God’s instructions and great respect for those in charge.

This compassionate woman made a difference by her love for the children. She exemplified the church of my childhood – a church that was involved in the lives of children, like me, during the summer months and throughout the school year. The church needs to invest in sharing wisdom and insight aimed at promoting and creating emerging ideas, relative to preventing our children from being victimized by the negative forces of today’s society. Students that lack academic, social and spiritual development in the community and in the school system find themselves being labeled at-risk and face disciplinary actions that lead to a “school to prison pipeline,” a metaphor, according to Kayla Crawley and Paul Hirschfield, where in *“... many ways the schools are a conduit to the juvenile system.”* (Article, *Examining the School-to-Prison Pipeline Metaphor*, Criminology and Criminal Justice, The Oxford Research Encyclopedias)

I challenge the churches of this great association, ECGMBA, to be *the church* God wants *the church* to be by leading the way and being the catalysis to redirect and direct our children in the way they should go. Let us demonstrate compassion for our children as that compassionate woman of my youth did on my street in small town North Carolina many years ago. We can and must make a difference!

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### ***Continued, Guard Your Gates, Crews,***

So beloved, guard your eyes that you are not looking at things that will distract you and take your eyes off of the Lord. Some TV shows are designed by the enemy to get you and your children to stray from the principles that we were raised up on. Children and adults are dressing more provocative because of what we see on TV. Alternative lifestyles are being glorified on the internet and on TV stations to the point that it’s almost normal and the Christian way of living has become taboo. Beloved, be careful of what you let come into your *ear gate*, like the music you listen to. I’ll be the first to admit that I love music in general but there is some music that can mess with your mind and have you thinking things that you’ve never thought before. There are also some conversations that we need to be sure not to engage in like gossip. Gossip is dangerous and cancerous and only feeds the dark side of our spirits. Gossip only results in hurting other people and our jobs as believers is to love our neighbors and to treat them like we want to be treated, so let us refrain from allowing gossip to enter our *ear gate* or to leave our *mouth gate*. Last but not least guard your *mouth gate*. Be careful what you let come out of your mouth! The Bible says in Matthew 15:11 **“Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.”**



## ***How Do I Stand?***

By Deacon Cynthia Lawrence, Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

We are living in a world where things are always changing. The changes are either for our good or to harm us. So, constantly we are faced with dilemmas, situations, circumstances, or tough decisions in our life. We are always faced with trials and tribulations throughout our lives. Whether it is evident to others or not we all go through them. Some people hide what they are going through while others put it out there for all to see. People always ask the question ***“how do I make it through this”***. They want to know ***“How do I Stand***

First, if we are God’s children then we have something the world does not have. We have the assurance of knowing that God’s got our back. When we are saved we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then we are saved. That salvation grants us access to Jesus. When Jesus left, He left us with a comforter – the Holy Spirit. But we need to continually ask the Holy Spirit to lead us, to guide us, to help us do the things God wants us to do. The Holy Spirit empowers us to have faith ‘so that’ we may understand and experience Christ and His love in our heart. We know that Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. It is by faith that we see all things working for our good. We can’t look with our physical eyes because if there is nothing that we can see in the natural then there is no faith there. We stand looking to God for those things we can’t see with our natural eye because then we are truly trusting and believing that God will do it (that thing that we ask for). No matter what it looks like we stand believing on the promises of God. God promised never to leave us or forsake us and His promises are true.

Second, we know that God is our refuge. This means that God is our safe place when we need protection from something. It may be protection from physical abuse, financial troubles, loss of a job, heartache from the loss of a love one, mental abuse, or so many other scenarios. God is there to protect us. In Ps 18:2 it says, ***“The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.”*** In God we can stand knowing that HIS shield will deflect the arrows that come our way. The arrows are the dilemmas, situations, circumstances, or tough decisions in our life. The word doesn’t say we will not be attached but that in God we stand because He gives us the strength, endurance, and stamina to hold our ground and knowing that we will have the victory in Jesus name. When we are in Jesus’ family we have the blessed assurance that He is our protection. We will stand under the pressures of life and come out transformed for enduring the pressure. Our structure has been changed because of what we have been through. We are stronger, wiser, and better because of what we have been through so we are able to stand.

How do we make God our refuge? It’s not what you may be thinking. It’s not a complicated formula or a trick to it. It is easy – we simply ask Him to be our refuge. Once we are saved we should have a personal relationship with God. John 14:13-14 says, ***“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*** And 1John 5:14 says, ***“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”*** We must also remember that when we are standing that God’s promises are fulfilled according to His will and purpose for our life. The things we are standing in, for and against must be lining up to God’s will and His word. Don’t expect God to let you stand and walk into something that is not of God. If your faith is overtaken by fear it will consume you. Once you are consumed with fear you fall. When God is our refuge fear is replaced with God’s power, God’s love, and a sound mind. Through God we are overcomers and conquerors.

We stand because God has given all grace and mercy to those who are saved. God gives us things we don’t deserve and takes away things we do deserve. We can stand only because of His goodness. We just stand and watch the Lord see us through because there’s nothing we can do on our own. ***We Must Stand in the LORD.***

**Cynthia W. Lawrence**  
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## Observations

By Deacon Ronnie G. Robinson



When I think of excellent ushers, I think of some of the ones who recognized a *Gift of Hospitality* within me before I noticed any evidence of it. With great warmth, I am speaking passionately of Deacon Frank McCrea and Ms. Phyllis Thomas-Thorpe. They were consistently punctual in arrival, prepared to serve upon arrival and were great teachers. Within both of them, I have always noticed some very distinguishable traits of service. I'd like share a few traits that I have learned from them that have helped me work toward becoming as excellent a servant as they were.

- 1. You must be honest about where you are, then raise the bar:** Excellence doesn't mean that you are the wisest. It means that you know the level of your ministry and personal skill set and gradually elevate them.
- 2. You do not settle for being "just average":** A person that works toward raising the bar cannot take being "just average". You have a personal goal to exceed the current standards.
- 3. You understand that there are potential roadblocks to achieving excellence:** Athletes that do not train will not be successful or of any value to their team. A lack of self-control is a "dream-killer". Goal-oriented servants work to prevent mole hills from becoming mountains.
- 4. You know that you are not perfect, but you still work at it:** Perfection is never their goal. If mistakes are made, then make sure that you do not repeat the same mistakes. The benefit is that you learn what doesn't work and you give yourself an opportunity to try a new approach.
- 5. You grow from year to the next:** Growth means to leap from one level to another. Growth oriented people never let their success block their education and professional growth. They attend seminars, reads books, and studies in their profession like a college student preparing for finals.
- 6. People of excellence constantly work on themselves:** If you are not satisfied with your skills, your job or career, then work on yourself. Do not settle for excuses for why you are not excelling. Work on yourself. Don't wait for someone to motivate you into action.
- 7. Dress for success:** You may not wear the finest clothes, but they are neat. When in uniform, it is clean and pressed. Your shoes are polished and your uniform is fitted correctly. Also, the way you wear your will cause you to be noticed above everyone else.
- 8. You should expect excellence from yourself:** Everything God made is excellent. God expects and deserves excellence from His people.
- 9. You are influential:** People may not remember your name but they will remember your acts.
- 10. You are attracted to people of excellence:** I will forever look upon Sister Emma Green as a Person of Excellence. While progressing through a very serious medical matter, she maintained her commitment to excellence in selfless service.

Sincerely,

Deacon Ronnie G. Robinson

*Ronnie G. Robinson*

Usher Union Chair, ECGMBA



Laymen's League National Bible Bowl Contestant Nicolas Harris (center) takes 2nd Place in national competition.

**Youth Represent GBSC in Baltimore**

GBSC youth contestants in the national Oratorical Contest and Bible Bowl represented well during the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Annual Session that was held in Baltimore, MD, June 17-21, 2019. Turner Edwards, a member of Fancy Hill Baptist Church in Gastonia, competed in the oratorical contest while **Nicolas Harris, a member of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford**, competed in the Bible Bowl. Although Edwards did not place, "he was prepared and stood with confidence as he delivered an outstanding speech," said President Ruth Johnson. **Nicolas Harris took 2nd Place in the National Bible Bowl.** Deacon Anthony Hagans, GBSC Laymen League President

remarked, "North Carolina is proud of this young man and his accomplishments. (Source: *Baptist Bulletin*, General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc., July 2, 2019, vol. 13, No. 6)

**Annual Session**

Women's Home Foreign Missionary Convention July 28-31, 2019, Sheraton Hotel Four Seasons, Greensboro, NC

**Lott Carey**

Annual Session Convenes 11-15 August, 2019 – Grand Rapids, Michigan

**100 Ushers in White**

**Anniversary**

Program, Sept. 14, 2019, 3:00 pm Smith Thomas Convention Center

**Congress of Christian**

**Education**

Annual Session, Nov. 16, 2019, 10 am, Lattisville Grove Baptist Church

**ECGMB 125th Anniversary**

**Black Tie Gala**

Saturday, December 14, 2019 4:00P.M., Vance Granville Community College, 200 Community College Rd., Henderson, NC



**Northern Piedmont Bible Institute  
Graduates Eleven at Lawson Chapel  
Baptist Church**

By Rev. Joyce Clayton

Northern Piedmont Bible Institute, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Langston Logan, Sr., president, held its Commencement Exercises at Lawson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Roxboro, North Carolina on Saturday, June 8, 2019. Eleven graduates were honored by family and friends and inspirational speaker, Rev. Dr. James Smith, pastor, Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

The graduates included the following: Rev. Jennifer Cates, Rev. Lou E. Daye, Rev. Rosa Hester; Rev. Earnest Jeffries, Rev. Elizabeth McCoy, Deacon Brenda McEachin, Rev. George Naylor, Min. Peggie Oliver, Deacon Beryl Riley, Rev. Ronnie Torain, Deaconess Martha Winstead. The Institute is committed to equipping preachers, teachers, churches leaders and members for ministry. The Commencement theme was tooted in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, Rightly dividing the word of truth." Dr. James A. Richmond, professor, served as the presiding official for the occasion. Other program participants included: Rev. Dr. A. M. Faulkner, Rev. Lloyd Oliver, Rev. Clyde Winstead, Rev. Dr. Alvin Downing, Sr., Rev. Alfred Faulkner, Mrs. Pat lee, Rev. Rufus Johnson, and Rev. Algermon Henderson.



**CONGRATULATIONS REVEREND JAMES ISAAC, III, MODERATOR**

East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association of N.C., Inc. &  
Pastor, New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church

**Appointed**

***MODERATOR OF MODERATORS***

**General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.**



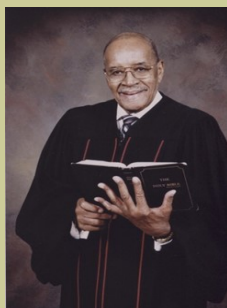
**MODERATOR OF MODERATORS, GBSC NC, Inc.**

Reverend James Isaac, III, 2017-2021

Reverend Rev. Dr. Langston Logan, Sr., 2005-2009

Reverend Dr. James Smith, 1997-2001

**A TRIBUTE TO ECGMBA RETIREES**



**Rev. T. E. Taylor, Lee's Chapel Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Hammonds, Union Baptist Church, &  
Rev. Dr. James Richmond, Sr., Shady Hill Baptist Church**

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7)*



Dinner  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
Special Guest  
 \*ANOINTED  
 \*Luther Barnes\*  
 ~~~~~  
 \$50 PER TICKET

Ticket may be
 purchased from
 Your

*Church representative



BLACK TIE GALA

Moderator
 Rev. Dr. James Isaac, III

Celebration Chair
 Rev. Dr. Alvin Downing,
 Sr. & Co-chair,
 Rev. Dr. Kenneth
 Williams

Contact Number
 919-604-7051
 919-673-0314, respec-
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 CHURCH  
 ASSOCIATION  
 COMMUNITY  
 AWARDS PRESENTA-  
 TIONS

**Saturday, December 14, 2019 @4:00P.M.**  
**Vance Granville Community College**  
**200 Community College Road**  
**Henderson, NC 27536**

*Souvenir booklets will be distributed at this event and all member churches, auxiliaries, and others are asks to submit ads to assist in supporting the association and its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.*

**The East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association is committed to**  
**"Proclaiming the Changeless Christ to a Changing World". (Hebrews 1:1-2; 13:7-8, ESV)**  
**2174 Brassfield Road, P.O. Box 808, Creedmoor, NC 27522,**  
**Moderator, Reverend James Isaac, III**

## **East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church Association Celebrates 125th Anniversary**

### ***Requests for the Anniversary Souvenir Booklet***

We kindly ask each member church, ministries and auxiliaries, businesses/organizations and individual members to participate in the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Session of the Association by **placing an advertisement (Ad) in the Anniversary Souvenir Program Booklet**. Souvenir booklets will be distributed at the Black Tie Gala Celebration of the Association on Saturday, December 14, 2019. **The costs of ads are listed below.**

|              |                                                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Full Page Ad | \$100.00 (Churches, Businesses, Auxiliaries, & Members) |
| Half Page Ad | \$ 50.00 (Churches, Businesses, Auxiliaries & Members)  |
| Sponsor      | \$ 20.00 (Individual Members)                           |
| Patron       | \$ 10.00 (Individual Members and Friends)               |

**Preferably, ads should be computer/camera ready and sent via email at [joycedc@aol.com](mailto:joycedc@aol.com).** Ads can also be sent by U.S. Mail to 1702 Milan Street, Durham, NC 27704. Make the check payable to ECGMBA and send to Rev. Joyce Daye Clayton at 1702 Milan Street, Durham, North Carolina 27704. **The deadline for ads is no later than October 6, 2019.** The contact number is 919-682-9873. Thank you for supporting the associations mission.

### **Lee's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Installs New Pastor**

At the age of 13 Reverend Blue, a native of Durham, NC began his Ministry in Singing and Preaching. He was installed as Pastor of Lee's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, located in Cedar Grove, North Carolina on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm. He succeed Reverend T. E. Taylor, former pastor. The installation sermon was rendered by Reverend Lloyd Oliver, Sr., Pastor of New St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Timberlake, North Carolina. Program participants included: Reverend Dwight Wilkerson, Reverend Dr. Langston Logan, Reverend Shelton Harris, Reverend Joyce Clayton, Elder Nicholas J. Gattis, Reverend Chester Downey, Reverend Phillip Cooper, Reverend Dr. Alvin Downing, Sr., Reverend Dr. William S. Wilson Jr., and Reverend Michelle Fitz.



Reverend Blue is the proud father of three very handsome young sons: Kaden L. Blue, Bryson L. Blue and Cason K. Williams; and is married to 1st Lady Jasmine Holloway Blue. He grew up in the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church and Cameron Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Durham NC, and later joined the Church of God in Christ Jesus under the leadership of Dr. WH Amos. He was ordained in 2018 at New St. James Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Lloyd Oliver, Sr. He has preached in several states across American and continues to spread the gospel.



Woman's Auxiliary Prayer Breakfast & Annual Banquet 2019

### APPRECIATION

Appreciation is expressed to members that submitted articles and photographs to include: Rev. George Crews, III, M. Div., Rev. J. Eric Morgan, III, Rev. Dr. Warren Herndon, Deacon Cynthia Lawrence, Deacon Ronnie Robinson, Rev. Pebbles Lucas, Rev. Alvin Downing, Sr., Rev. Elizabeth McCoy, Sister Mary McMannen Darby and Rev. Joyce D. Clayton. Thanks for prayers and encouragement from my son and daughter, Lucious and La-trise Clayton , Rev. Shelton Harris , Pastor Larry Wilson, and a host of supporters. All praises belongs to Almighty God .

Rev. Joyce Daye *ECG MBA IBAPTIST INSPIRER* Editor & Preparer

Smith-Thomas Convention Center  
 2174 Brassfield Road, P.O. Box 808  
 Creedmoor, NC 27522  
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