

ECGMBA BAPTIST INSPIRER

THE MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Reverend Dr. George Crews III, MDiv, Moderator

"Answering God's Call For Courageous Living And Faithful Service In Uncertain Times" (Joshua 1: 1-9)

Dealing With Hurt in the Church

Written By Reverend Dr. George Crews III, MDiv, Moderator ECGMBA
Pastor Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Hurdle Mills, NC



I think it's safe to say that most of us have experienced trauma and hurt in our lives. Whether it was from our childhood, teenage years, or something that took place during our adulthood. These hurts may stem from dysfunctional families, being bullied at school, a bad relationship, and sometimes it can be something that happened at church. Pastor Emmett Price has a term for what a lot of people went through before they came to his congregation: "church hurt." The term, which refers to the pain sometimes inflicted by religious institutions — a pain that distances sufferers from their communities and from God — is an increasingly prominent topic of discussion among Christian clergy.

The Church is a place that Jesus himself instituted, it was created to be a safe place where everyone could experience God and heal from things that have hurt them in the world, but unfortunately it has also been a place where people have been hurt and has caused many to leave the church and even leave the faith. Some may ask how can someone be hurt at church? Well- according to an article in the Washington post in March of 2017, it is due to members talking badly about one another and sermons that target people and betrayal of confidential personal information. According to the same article a young woman was so embarrassed during a Sunday morning message that she burst into tears because of the pain and rejection that she felt and this caused others to feel like the church was not a place for them. Nearly four of every 10 "unchurched" Americans avoid worship because of negative past experiences in churches or with church people, according to new research by The Barna Group. This should cause us as leaders and congregants to dialog about this thing known as "Church Hurt".

1. Ken Sande author and founder of Peacemaker Ministries and of Relational Wisdom 360 gives 6 Tips on how we can prevent Church Hurt from occurring in our churches. Start by Modeling Christ: He says that Jesus has given us powerful tools through His teachings that will help in assuring that Church Hurt doesn't continue in our churches. Jesus says in Mark 12:31 "The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.", He also teaches us in John 13:35 "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Sande states that It all starts, Sande explains, when people take seriously Jesus' teaching: "Get the log out of your own eye before you start pointing at the speck in the other guys' eye."
2. Practice Relational Wisdom: Sande states that when most of us get into a conflict we only address the situation with a "two dimensional" approach. He says that we only focus in on a horizontal relationship, our righteousness verses the other person's wrong. In fact, we should approach conflicts from a "Three Dimensional" aspect, instead of being self-aware, we should be other-aware and then God-aware as well. This approach is Gospel driven and promotes a horizontal relationship as well one that is vertical. Here's how we practice relational wisdom!
 - Self-awareness – Ask yourself What's in my heart? What am I feeling and why? How am I going to respond? What will I do instead?

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- Other-awareness – Ask yourself How am I affecting others? What do others seem to be feeling? What do others need? How can I demonstrate genuine love and forgiveness?
 - GOD-awareness - Ask yourself What is God doing? Why did He allow this situation? Am I acting in faith or unbelief? What would glorify Him?
3. Recognize the Three Faces of Fear: Sande says that one of the things that we need as pastors and leaders is the discernment to recognize the three faces of fear. When people fear something, they typically have one of three responses: control, anger, or withdrawal. If a pastor reacts only to what he's seeing, he's missing the point. He goes on to say that once we can recognize this that we move forward and resist the temptation of becoming defensive. Sande says the more quickly you address others' fears with the gentleness, kindness, and love of Christ, the more often you'll see a positive result.
 - 4.. Practice the 'Three Ps' of Satisfaction
 - Process satisfaction – Create a process that is fair, orderly, and even handed, in which everyone involved feels that they had enough time to present their side of the issue.
 - Personal satisfaction - Everyone has been treated with respect, courtesy, and equality just we would want to be treated ourselves.
 - Product satisfaction – A final solution that is reasonable, just, and equitable as humanly possible, with the understanding that everyone will not be totally satisfied but they will accept the results if they were treated fairly and with respect.
 5. Remember the Golden Result: The Golden Result is very similar to the Golden Rule – To unto others as you would have them to unto you. This principle involves listening carefully and with humility, doing this usually brings down the level of in the situation. Sande states that we should always ask the question how would I want to be treated if this were me?
 6. Promote Biblical Peacemaking: Sande says that we should promote biblical peacemaking skills throughout the church. In essence we should teach this in small groups so that all of the leaders and lay members can learn how to solve their own conflicts without always bringing them to the pastor of the church. If this is done, then church hurt is less likely to happen and the church can move beyond the conflicts that we sometimes experience.

Although the Church is a place for healing, and restoration there are instances in which people are hurt and abused through by leaders as well as members. As the body of Christ we should seek to reduce if not eliminate Church Hurt in our churches. You may not use this process, but I encourage you to find a process that works for your church. Remember if we are responsible for one of God's children being turned away from Him and His Church, then their BLOOD IS ON OUR HANDS.

1 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/03/08/amid-a-wave-of-church-hurt-one-boston-pastor-tries-to-repair-christians-relationship-with-god/>

2 <https://wordandway.org/2010/04/12/barna-four-in-10-unchurched-have-been-hurt-by-churches/>

3 <https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-articles/disasters-emergencies-and-health/general-health-and-injury-prevention/conflict-resolution/>

4 <https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-articles/disasters-emergencies-and-health/general-health-and-injury-prevention/conflict-resolution/>

5 <https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-articles/disasters-emergencies-and-health/general-health-and-injury-prevention/conflict-resolution/>

The Invisible Church

Written by Pastor Dorothy Evans, Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church,
President of Ministers, Deacons and Deaconess Union, ECGMBA



Throughout my ministry, I have often heard of the church as being the ecclesia, the bride of Christ, the body of Christ, etc. I then heard the terminology, "invisible church." I was attempting to reflect to see how often I have heard the term "invisible church" and somewhere I missed that terminology throughout my church years. It has been explained as the difference between the church as the local congregation and the church as the kingdom of God. Once I gained that understanding, the perspective became clearer.

In essence, this perspective implies, if one is not making a visible difference in the world, they should not assume that Christ is their Savior. I found this to be a bit unsettling because often the differences others make maybe somewhat subtle and may not be as noticeable as some other movers and shakers. This mindset could cause one to feel that they do not qualify for salvation because there is not enough visible proof to validate the difference they might have made in Kingdom work.

There are those who believe that Christians should not be focused on making goals which I find a bit astonishing because as Believers, having goals represents exercising faith from my point of view. It has been stated that it is not necessary to live according to our wisdom to set our future goals since we know not what the future holds. However, if one takes into consideration that we have an omniscient God, should that imply that planning for future education, marriage, or family should not be a part of one's thought process? This thinking may lead one to believe that it is not necessary to seek for greater levels in life. If there are greater levels to be reached, God who holds the future will bring and/or lead one to that place. I personally do not feel that setting future goals would deter one from taking one day at the time. As a Believer, I would hope that before setting goals one would have already sought God for guidance and confirmation. My belief is, that it is God's goals and not ours that are crucial for God's people.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and the church should be a house of prayer and a life of prayer should be a priority for all Believers. Even our Lord and Savior prayed when things became more than He could bear as He did in the Garden of Gethsemane. From my perspective, Jesus prayed when He needed strength to follow through with His purpose and plan because He was human and divine.

The church is indeed the place that should be preparing others to go out and touch those who others may not want to touch and minister to the needs of them. I also see the church as being the hospital to get replenished and repaired from the spiritual wounds. It is the place that one comes for comfort and peace. Some may see the church as being somewhat of a training center, but I cannot begin to count the many times that my brokenness and wounds, and hurts have been mended just by making it to the House of God. Therefore, I am not too convinced that there is an invisible church for those who carry the title Christians for we are the salt of the earth seasoning tasteless situations and light of the world and shedding light in dark situations.

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Build Your Foundation On Christ

St. Matthew 7:24-27

Written by Written by Reverend Dr. Kenneth M. Williams
Pastor, Hawkins Chapel Missionary Baptist Church; Second Vice Moderator ECGMBA

Two men were standing in line to get a permit to build their house. While chatting with one another, they discovered that they were building their houses in the same neighborhood. They got their building permits and immediately began construction on their home, but their building process was totally different. One man shows up with his building equipment: wood, nails, hammer, and skill saw, but the other man shows up with only a pick shovel.

The man who came with all the building equipment quickly framed, squared up the walls, and stacked the roof, while the man with a pick and shovel was digging into the ground. When the man with all the carpentry tools finished his house, he had a house warming party, while the other man kept on digging until he found what he was looking for, and then he too began to build and finish his house. Before long, a storm broke out in the neighborhood and destroyed the house that was quickly constructed, but the house that had been put on a firm foundation was still in tack.

In this lesson, Jesus, who knew something about the house building trade, used a parable of two builders to convey a moral truth and spiritual lesson to all of us. Simply, once we are born into this world, we cannot escape the fact that we are either building our own life upon this world or upon Christ. How we build our lives determines our destiny in the eternal future. Christ elaborates that there are two classes: The "Wise" Class, and the "Foolish" Class. And He instructs both classes how a man must build. Some will follow and obey the instructions faithfully, and others hear, reject and choose to disobey the instructions and decide to build their lives their own way.

Both, the Wise and the Foolish Builder, faces storms in life. Neither is exempt from life challenging storms. In fact, the major reason for building a solid house is to be able to withstand all life storms of sickness, diseases, suffering, tragedies, whether natural and spiritual, that come our way. God said, "He make His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." Matt. 5:45.

The Foolish Builder builds a house, but note what he does it. He hears the instructions of the Master Builder. This means that he is in the church and he has some Christian influence. He receives the seed of the Word, through the minister, church, parents, radio, books, television and the social media, but he is in a most dangerous position, because he has the instructions (word) and knows how to build, but he chooses not to build according to instructions.

What Christ is conveying to us is, there are many foolish builders and only a few wise builders because many sit and receive His instructions in the Word of God, time after time and never guide their lives according to the plan of God. Many profess loyalty and respect for Christ, Sunday after Sunday, yet they go right on living and building their lives their own way upon sinking sand. Sand is anything other than Christ. There are three kinds of sand: The sand of the world, (material possessions), the sand of the flesh (stimulating pleasures), and the sand of fame (pride and recognition), and even being caught up in mere religion without Christ, can be sinking sand. What Christ is telling us is that, every man or woman faces rains and storms of life. Storms wait upon nobody, prepared or not. And as we live and build, little pellets of rain will start dripping and dropping all around us, and sometimes wind forces and trials may come in like a flood.

In closing:, a terrible storm is coming at death and in the Great Day of Judgment. This is a storm when all of our work and life trials will be tested and made manifest and storm in which no man can stand unless you are held up and anchored on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Great will be the fall of our lives if our lives are not built upon Christ. The person who built his or her house upon sand will have to face Christ in that day (1 Cor. 3:13-15). The day will come when it will be too late to build! Therefore, we all must realize that there is no middle ground. Once we hear, we either build wisely (obey) or build foolishly (disobey)

Build your foundation on Christ and continue to build that relationship with him. Amen. 1st Corinthians 3:10-11 (TNIV) By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it.

“The Sound of Grace”

Written by Rev. Dr. Alvin B. Downing Sr., Pastor Pettiford Grove Missionary Baptist Church
First Vice President, ECGMBA



In this time in which we live, it's so easy to focus on our own agendas and find ourselves sometimes discounting the grace of God. At some point we must consider, with everything going on around us that we must come to the realization that every moment is a blessing and a gift of the grace of God. That grace of God that says, I did nothing to receive this divine favor of God; it was totally unexpected, and I surely did not deserve it. I have come to understand God's grace and see this beautiful picture of the grace of God in this story of Jesus and the woman caught in the very act of adultery.

In the constant situations of Jesus doing the will of his Father, the Pharisees were always constantly interrupting Jesus and trying to test him to bring accusations against him. In John 8: 3-11 the scripture reads “8 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”

I get joy in understanding the Grace of God, the one who is able to forgive our sins; by seeing this picture of a woman experiencing God's grace. Her being in the presence of Jesus and seeing him operate in the words of God. Proverbs 17: 27-28 “He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.” We also can follow Jesus' example of grace of how we should be in a time of heated conversations and operate in the words of truth. In this beautiful picture, she heard and experienced the Grace of God as Jesus raised up from the ground and said; “He who is without sin among you, let him cast a stone first at her.” The Bible tells us that Jesus stooped back down and continued again to write on the ground, and they left from the oldest to the youngest. No one cast a stone at the woman but were convicted in their hearts by the Words of the Son of the Living God.

This woman heard the sound of the Grace of God, in the voice of Jesus the Son of God as he said “woman where are those accusers of yours?” “Has anyone convicted you?” She said, no one Lord. And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

This woman also heard sound of the Grace of God; when she heard the stones, the huge stones, that were meant to kill her were now hitting the ground. What does your grace moment look like and sound like? That you can say it's because of the Grace from God, through Christ Jesus we are not condemned, and we are still here today. I love the sound of God's Grace.

Spiritual Growth

Written by Sister Queen Earle, President Woman's Auxiliary, ECGMBC
Member, New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church



Spiritual Growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins the process of making us more like Him.

In order to grow spiritually, there are some things we must do. First, we must have a desire to grow. I can remember as a child, living with my parents, I could not wait to grow up. I can remember wanting to be old enough to get my driver's license so I could drive myself where I needed or wanted to go. I also remember wanting to grow up to go to college. I wanted and had a desire to grow.

It is the same with spiritual growth. Without the personal desire, spiritual growth can not occur. Just as we are to be sure we get proper nutrition, which is essential to our health, and physical growth and development. Likewise, to grow spiritually, we have to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This requires us to feed daily on the Word of God.

Spiritual growth does not occur over night, it cannot be obtained instantly. Today, we live in a society where everyone wants what he/she wants now! There are instant downloads for your computer, instant food for your meal, and even instant coffee. You name it you can get it instantly. So let us remember, spiritual growth requires patience.

Spiritual growth results from faith in Jesus Christ and spending time in God's Word.

"The righteous shall live by faith." (Galatians 3:11) A life of faith will enable you to trust God with every detail of your life. To help facilitate your spiritual growth, practice the following:

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| - Go to God in prayer | Colossians 4:2 |
| - Read God's Word daily | 2 Timothy 2:15 |
| - Obey God | John 14:21 |
| - Witness for Christ by your life and works | Matthew 5:13-16 |
| - Trust the Holy Spirit to direct you and empower your daily life | Acts 1:8 |

Spiritual growth is a lifelong process that never ends. It depends on our study and application of God's Word. God's desire for us is to grow spiritually, and He has provided us all we need to experience spiritual growth.

“Let America Be America”

Written by Rev. Dr. Larry G. Wilson., Pastor, New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church; Chairman Catechizing Committee, ECGMBA



Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and racial hatred. Four things that are distinctly American and deeply ingrained in the culture and mindset of this nation. And though each of these distinctions formed at various times in our history, the oldest, and most ingrained is this disease *racism*. In 1619, before the Mayflower, and just twelve short years after the first permanent settlement of Europeans in America, the sale of African people began in this country. What followed was the capture and theft of over 13 million additional Africans who were brought to this land against their will and forced into harsh and brutal labor.

Even more, those who settled this country and governed this country wrote laws to justify the murder and eradication of the native people who were already here. Taking their land, destroying their way of life, and justifying it by saying native Americans were racially and culturally inferior and incapable of properly utilizing the lands on which they lived. And in the midst of their continued oppression this nation had the audacity to construct a document and propose an ideology declaring this to be a nation of the free.

I am reminded of this ugliness of our nation’s history each year as the nation celebrates its birthday, and its declaration of its *freedom* on July 4 of each year. It is not a holiday that I can celebrate as there are too many reminders, personal and historical, that the freedom of which the nation’s founders idealized was not intended for me! I’ve struggled mightily for words to express my thought. But I found these words of Langston Hughes, the Poet Laureate of the African American experience, which speak to what I am trying to express:

<p><i>Let America be America again. Let it be the dream it used to be. Let it be the pioneer on the plain Seeking a home where he himself is free. (America never was America to me.)</i></p> <p><i>Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed— Let it be that great strong land of love Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme That any man be crushed by one above. (It never was America to me.)</i></p> <p><i>I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart, I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars. I am the red man driven from the land, I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek— And finding only the same old stupid plan Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.</i></p> <p><i>I am the man who never got ahead, The poorest worker bartered through the years. Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream In the Old World while still a serf of kings, Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true, That even yet its mighty daring sings</i></p>	<p><i>In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned That's made America the land it has become</i></p> <p><i>O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas In search of what I meant to be my home—</i></p> <p><i>O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas In search of what I meant to be my home—</i></p> <p><i>For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore, And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea, And torn from Black Africa's strand I came To build a "homeland of the free."</i></p> <p><i>The free? Who said the free? Not me?</i></p> <p><i>“Let America Be America Again”</i></p> <p>~ Langston Hughes “Let America Be America Again”</p>
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Why Can't We "Let Go and Let God"?

Written by Rev. Wanda Williams-Pettiford
Greater Cleggs Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



Romans 8:28 reads, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." As Christians, we state we love Him and have been called according to His purpose, but if this is the case, then why do we have such a hard time knowing that God will work out everything for our good? Why do we feel that we must remain in control of every situation? Why can't we simply let go and let God?

There are several possible reasons for this. The first possible reason is that even the faithful can be control freaks. Some of us are type "A" personalities; we are perfectionists who want to control all aspects of our lives at all times. As mortal humans, we attempt to assume roles God has not assigned us.

Proverbs 16:9 emphasizes this by stating, "In his heart, a man plans his course, but God orders his footsteps." Isaiah 55:8-9 drives this thought further home, saying, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." The imparted truth here is that we can do nothing of eternal value apart from Christ and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Another reason that we do not trust God to handle our problems due to our weakened faith. If we do not spend time in God's word, in prayer and supplication, and meditating on His nature and works, we forget the promise found in Philippians 4:19, God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. This weakened faith will always cause us to struggle to trust and depend on God when life gets hard. God promises us in Isaiah 26:3 that if we keep our minds steadfast, because we trust in Him, He will keep us in perfect peace.

Even for those who have strong faith, life is not as easy as relaxing, releasing, and letting go. We have been programmed to remain in control of our actions, thoughts, and deeds at all times. It is this internal programming that wars with our faith.

Contrary to our programming, we must learn to take a lesson from Paul regarding the thorn in his flesh found in 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. It is not until we truly embrace that God's grace is sufficient and made perfect in our weaknesses that we can truly "let go and let God."

Wanted and Needed A Call to Youth and Young Adults

East Cedar Grove wants to hear from you! We need to hear your views, positions on issues, and your experiences pertaining to the church and society. Please consider writing essays and poetry for submission to the East Cedar Grove newsletter, *The Inspirer*. Appropriate sketches and drawings are also welcome. Submit your works to: Joyce D. Clayton via email at joycedc@aol.com and the con-

“Living After Death”

Written by Dr. James W. Smith, Pastor, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Bahama, NC



“When it comes to support of our churches, most of us think in terms of our tithes and offerings or fundraisings. But I want to suggest that there are other means of support for the church. I want to focus on an issue of which I think we need to concern ourselves. That is “Living After Death.” I am talking about our funding a ministry, a church library, an education building, etc. or just a plain monetary gift in our name. I call this living after death. Think about this. What’s wrong with continuing after death our stewardship to the church we confess to loving and caring about during our lifetime? Why not think about a life insurance policy or a will leaving the church as beneficiary?”

One may not be in a position to write a \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 dollar check to his or her church but may be able to afford \$50.00 or less a month for an insurance policy leaving the church as the beneficiary. Also one can consider leaving the church as a beneficiary in his or her Last Will and Testament. It is easy to do. Just as we leave spouse, children or anyone else a beneficiary of our insurance policy or in our Last Will and Testament, we can do the same thing for the church that we have given almost a lifetime of service.

And one would be surprised at the people or things that are beneficiaries of a deceased person. I read once of a deceased multi-millionaire and actress leaving no spouse or children and guess what, she left her entire estate to her beloved cat. It’s humorous but if one can leave a cat as a beneficiary, certainly one can designate his or her church as a beneficiary.

Now, to make sure one understand the legal and tax implications, it’s always wise to seek counsel regarding these matters. Good planning will minimize the effect of taxes and other administrative costs relating to settling the estate as well as provide for the effect of taxes and other administrative costs relating to settling the estate. It is nothing wrong with the church encouraging her members to consider the church even after death. This is known as “Living After Death.”

“What the World Needs Now is More Love”



*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..”
- John 15:12*

Cherish Our Children and Pray

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”

Proverbs 22:6 NRSV



“Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.”

Psalm 127:3 NLT

Reflecting on Family; The One that God Made

Written By: Dr. Warren L. Herndon, Visiting Minister Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist Church; Founder/President, The Triangle Youth Leadership Institute, Chairman, Special Events Committee The Durham MLK Steering Committee Past President DCIA



In the African-American Church and in our families, the old saints would oftentimes say that **"Our God Created Family and All Human Life Will Come Through The Mother"**. In our Father's creation, He has the **"Divine Plan"** for the institution of our families. In the **"Black Church"** we have a tradition of celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day year after year. Our Lord gives Mothers and Fathers responsibilities for parenting as found in Deuteronomy 6:6, "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts, 6:7, Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." That is a good reason to recognize mothers and fathers on a special Sunday in the church on an on-going basis. Some of my reflections on family, mothers, fathers and the Black church are in the brief summaries that follow:

"Mothers: We Love You and Give You Praise"

The Strength of a Good Woman (Proverbs 31)

In this book of Proverbs, it states that a **"Virtuous Woman"** will get up early in the morning and prepare for her family and children and serve with **"Distinction, Dedication and Perseverance."** As we all read the Bible and go into "Deep Study", we find God's plan for the family. As a child growing up in a Black Church, and as for me, the great-grandson of The Reverend Presley Lewis Royster, we were taught the Ten-Commandments early in life. In the church and during Seminary School, I continued to learn that there are hundreds of other Commandments. However, in the ministry, as we grow as teachers and preachers and "Proclaim The Gospel of Jesus Christ" on our Christian Journey, that the "Greatest Commandment" is "To Love God With All of our Heart" and "To Love Your Neighbor As Yourself". The Bible teaches that if we, as families follow these two basic laws, we will be led to follow all the others, too. Therefore, in the Christian church as we continue to celebrate our mothers from year-to-year, it is so important that we honor them always. "We Serve an Almighty God and What A Mighty God We Serve". Mothers, we love you and give you all the praise for loving, teaching and holding us in your arms for all these years. For our mothers who have transitioned and have been called home to be with the Lord, your spirits will always be in our hearts.

Fathers: The Steps of a Good Father

Walking in Faith, Love and Unity in Our Families (Galatians 5:1, 16, 22, 23, 25)

In Galatians 5, we find Apostle Paul teaching the early Christians about the unity in the Christian Faith. He was giving instructions about "Love, Kindness, Humility, Wisdom and Gentleness." Today, we are living in some "Difficult Times" and the Bible teaches that we need "Fathers" teaching, walking and leading in our homes. As Christian leaders, we should be leading our families into *Salvation, Re-Dedication and Transformation*. Today, like in the early church, we need fathers to understand that life is not going to be easy and we need our fathers walking and setting examples in our families. Consequently, the "Steps of a Good Father" will lead him to lead by "The Fruit of The Spirit".

In summary, over the last 5 to 15 years, many faith, educational, political and community leaders have been sharing that our neighborhoods are slipping into decline. Additionally, that our next generation is traveling down a very dangerous path with the erosion of "God's Order for Our Families". Today as leaders, we must go back to our grandmother's and grandfather's day and teach "Biblical Based Principles." Church, we must get back in order, and Mothers teach "Love, Consistency and Compassion" in our families. Fathers must put their arms around our children and teach "Discipline, Self-Respect and Leadership in our families. The *Elders* must stand tall, call attention to and remain committed to our churches. As "Christian Leaders," we must remember that July is "National Family Reunion Month." Additionally, we are observing that these family centered occasions are on the decline. We must strive to bring our children, youth and young adults back into church. As we all come into unity and walk in our callings; the power of the Holy Spirit will lead our families into God's order. Therefore, as we all seek to become overcomers in these "Turbulent Times," I am encouraging us to listen to a contemporary gospel singer, Brian Courtney Wilson's song, "This Time I Will Stand Still" and listen to the voice of our loving God. Hallelujah, Hallelujah and Amen."

*Excerpts from Mother's and Father's Day Sermons, Dr. Warren L. Herndon

“Let’s Break Down Those Barriers”

Written by Rev. J. Eric Morgan, III, Pastor Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church; Former Moderator, ECGMBA



There is a story written about two friends who grew up in the 1960s in Raleigh, North Carolina. They were known as Jack and Joe. Jack was a white young man who lived with both of his parents in the suburbs. He was their only child. Joe was a black young man who lived with his mother and seven other children in the inner city. They both were nineteen years old. They met at a factory where they both worked as janitors. Jack was preparing to go to college at NC State and he wanted to earn extra money. Joe, on the other hand was working to help his mother with the bills for him and his other siblings. They befriended each other and begin to talk about their lives and experiences. This they enjoyed doing.

One evening, Joe invited Jack to dinner at his home in the inner city and to meet his family. Jack without thinking got excited and said yes. In the 1960s, white people from the suburbs did not travel to the inner city at night, especially to the projects. However, Jack did travel to Joe’s home. When he arrived and knocked on the door and Joe answered the door, he had the surprise of his life. Two of Joe’s younger siblings jump in his arms. Three others questioned him. They said to him; *“You are in the wrong place. White people don’t belong here”*.

Joe explained to his mother that Jack was his friend and he wanted him to see where he lived and meet his family. Joe’s mother, like every kind black mother, invited Jack to her home and shared the little food she had with him. After the visit, Joe’s mother made sure Joe and his older brother walked Jack out of the projects to a safe location where his parents met him.

During Jack’s visit to Joe’s home, Joe’s mother talked through the evening about their life in the inner city. One thing she said to Jack that stayed with him was this. *“I told all of my children, if you’re ever lost and can’t find your way home and you see the police coming toward you, you need to duck and run”*. Jack listening to this thought about what his mother told him. She said; *“If you’re lost and can’t find your way home, look for a police officer and he will help you get home”*.

Thinking about what Joe’s mother said to him and what his own white mother told him confused him. He thought to himself, “the police officer should be there for all of us. So, why should some of us cherish them while the others are afraid of them?” This thought stayed with Jack for the next four years, while he was in college. After college, he became a police officer and helped clean up his neighborhood. His life’s work was to break down the barriers that separate us by race.

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This story reminds me about a story in the Gospel of John chapter 4. In this biblical story, Jesus and His Disciples were traveling to Galilee one day. On their way, He felt the urge to go through Samaria. Now, this was out of their way, but He felt like going that way. Near Samaria was a well. Jesus and His Disciples had been traveling a long way. He was tired and needed to rest. The Disciples decided to go into the city and get some food while Jesus sat at the well. At noon time, a woman from the city came to the well to draw water. When Jesus saw her, He asked her to give him some water to drink. In verse 9, the woman was surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink. Her point was that the Jews refused to have anything to do with the Samaritans. Listen to how the Scripture records it. ***“Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’...”*** (verse 9, NKJV).

It’s important for you to know that societal prejudices, along with cultural expectations, can have a strong influence on who we can become. For too long we look at people by their race and not who the Lord says they are. When the woman met Jesus at the well, automatically she identified Him by the color of His skin and His nationality. Wouldn’t it had been proper if she had seen Him as another person who needed water just like she did? She came to the well to get water, while He was sitting at the well asking her for what she could provide Him. The irony about this is that the well was built by Jacob. And Jacob was the ancestor of both the Jews and the Samaritans. This is the same thing for us. The God that created the black person is the same God that created the white person. Why can’t we accept the fact that we all are children of the same Father?

A Raindrop in a Dry Season

Written by Rev. Joyce D. Clayton
Asst. Pastor, New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church



“The Times They Are a-Changin’” was the title of an extremely popular song written and released by Bob Dylan, American singer-songwriter, in 1964. The lyrics further say, *“Come gather ‘round people Wherever you roam, And admit that the waters, Around you have grown, And accept it that soon, You’ll be drenched to the bone, If your time to you is worth savin’, And you better start swimmin’, Or you’ll sink like a stone, For the times they are a-changin’!”* Would you agree with me that Dylan’s lyrics speaks loudly to our nation’s current social, cultural, political, economic and religious climate that impacts our families and communities, our nation and our world? Yes, **indeed the times are changing, but in what direction and to what end?**

It seems that America is in a *dry season- in a spiritual drought*. Let us take a birds eye view at the year 2022 that the Lord has allowed us to see. What change do we find in our land- the land of the United States of America, the home of the free and the brave? We find violence rising in our neighborhoods- young people, primarily young black men dying of gun violence before they reach 21 years of age. We find mass shootings in our schools, supermarkets, churches, at holidays and parades creating mayhem and fear among the very the very young to the most senior. Additionally, we find enshrined civil liberties and rights vaporizing before our eyes. Truth is on trial and blatant lies are giving truth a run for its money. *O, the times, they are changing*, but how? Hate is running rampant like a plague on the human race infecting the learned, the uninformed, the clergy and the pews, the “saved.” In this spiritual dry season we find some people making themselves gods and building their hopes on “golden calves” instead of being steadfast and unmovable trusting Almighty God. These times, O yes they are changing; they are going backward- turning away from God, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ- our teacher, our mentor, our example, our rock and our salvation!

Perhaps with all of *this change*, we are stunned and shocked at what we see, finding it hard to accept the challenges that morality, ethics and righteousness face. These virtues are being rendered malleable based on personal desires- not on the absolute teachings of Jesus Christ! There is so much disdain for doing what is right. It seems that our society is infested with the virus of hate and selfishness that leads to destruction, just as it did for the Israelites when they complained and disobeyed God on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. They took God’s blessings for granted. Almighty God did not let their behavior go unnoticed, nor does he ignore our actions today. The Israelite’s disobedience caused them to be the beneficiaries of God’s wrath- their generation, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, would not enter the Promised Land, a plague befell them, and an invasion of snakes killed many of them. (Numbers 14-21). They wanted change- a change of leadership and to go back to enslavement, back to Egypt where they felt at times that their lives was better. They turned their backs on God, trusting their own wisdom and yearnings. It is evident that change without God and His plan for us is destined for failure and pain. Today’s spiritual dryness, as it was for the Israelites, is characterized by *the love of self*. Jesus said, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”* (John 15:12, Matt. 22:37-38)

As I reflect on our current dry season of societal and cultural breakdown, I am reminded of an article printed in *the New England Farmer*, a monthly journal devoted to agricultural and related sciences, written in 1853 entitled, **The Fable of the Little Raindrop**. It has a great deal of relevancy for our changing times- our dry seasons, offering responses and resolutions. So, let’s examine the story of the *Little Raindrop* as it unfolds as follows.:

Clayton article continued on page 14

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WHICH CAME FIRST

Written by Rev. Angela Nevels– Thompson
Associate Minister, New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? This is an aged-old question. Strong arguments can be made on both sides. Life is filled with these types of questions. Scientists study, examine and argue over the origin, makeup and effects of different forms of life and matter, all the time. Sometimes they find definitive answers and sometimes they are left with more questions.

Likewise, there are many deep, theological questions that are continuously examined and debated in the Christian community. Some of these are important, while others only serve to divide, confuse, and preoccupy. Therefore, “Which came first, my faith or my salvation?” While some might be frustrated by such a question, I believe it is a necessary one.

Faith and works are both factors in the work of salvation. Faith is the life root of which works are the fruit. The Jews sought to justify themselves by works and then inferentially organized faith to work the works of God, as to drive a bargain with God. “What good thing must I do?” Christ shows that the way to the Father was and is no such circuitous route, but by faith in Him. This is not a Jewish question. It is the question of humanity. Man has never been able to throw off a belief in God nor to escape the apprehensions such a belief creates. In our unrest and great hunger, we still ask this question.

Whenever we think of the word, ‘work’ – it brings to mind some activity that we have to DO. As good Christians we want to work for the Lord and indeed we are called to do His work. We desire to be good and faithful servants – workmen who will not be ashamed when we stand before Him. Indeed, the Bible tells us that we are His workmanship, who have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has already prepared for us. Yet, Jesus presents a very different perspective of work when the crowd asked, what must we do to work the works of God. BELIEVE ON – IN ME, was His straight – to -the-point answer, believe on - in Him Whom He has sent. As an unbeliever we believe in Christ as our sin-substitute, who died to pay the price for our sins. As believers we must continue to believe in Christ. We are to have faith in Him. We are to trust the written Word of God – to trust the Word of God made flesh.

The work of God is not the alone work of God’s appointing. It is God and man mutually working. A Fractured relation of the soul and God necessitates for its readjustment with the correlation of two forces. In this work a factor is demanded that we cannot supply. A man can receive nothing except it be given him from above. That which our working secures is just the willingness to receive what God alone can give. The want to go in quest of God is not God’s work, but ours. On the other hand, to pacify the disquieted heart by renewing it is not man’s work, but God’s. Our first lesson, therefore, touched the pride of our self-sufficiency. We are powerless with all our power when power is needed most. There are things which we must cease to do. We must cease to do evil, get clean away from all dependence on our own works.

There is a danger for Christians to emphasize that we have done over what God has done in Christ when it comes to our salvation. We do not mean to but it happens. We look to our repentance, our prayer of salvation and other outward signs to give us confidence that we are saved. We look to the point of our realization of what Christ has done; instead of to the cross thousands of years ago, as evidence that we are His.

The Truth is, however, that if any of us are right with God, it is because of what Jesus did- prior to anything we have done. We are saved totally because of His finished work on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. When God reveals the truth of the Gospel to us inviting us to believe, and we accept His invitation, we experience the supernatural grace of God. All at once, we stand right with God. Not because we repented and believed but solely because of what Jesus has done.

To believe in Christ’s mission is the work of man. Christ claims to have been sent into the world by the Father to perform a specific

Nevels-Thompson Article Continued on page 14

Clayton Article Continued from Page 12

"THERE was once a farmer who had a large field of corn. He weeded it for he wanted to sell the corn and buy good things for his family with the money. But after he had worked hard, he saw no rain fall. He felt very sad, and every morning he went out to the field and wished for the rain to fall. One day, as he stood looking up at the sky, two little raindrops saw him, and one said to the other: "Look at that farmer. I wish I might help him." "Yes," said the other, "but you are only a little raindrop. What can you do?" "Well," said the first, "I know, I cannot do much; but I can cheer the farmer. Here I go!" the second one said: "Well, if you insist upon going, I think I will go, too. Here I come!" And down went the raindrops. One came pat on the farmer's nose, and one fell on a thirsty stalk of corn. "Dear me," said the farmer, "A raindrop! I do believe we shall have a shower. "By this time a great many raindrops had come together and going down to cheer the farmer, and water his corn, because one little raindrop tried to do what it could." - The New England Farmer, 1853, Vol. 5

The message of the *Fable of the Little Raindrop* is clear- activate your calling; step out on faith; have compassion for others; do all you can, be courageous doing the Lord's work- "deny self and take up your cross and follow Him." We can make a difference; *the little raindrop* did! It started a shower, other raindrops followed and a shower began. The thirsty ground was fed, the corn was nurtured and the farmer was happy. Isn't that what we are called to do- "*make disciples and feed His lambs and sheep*" in dry seasons of changing times? Jesus said to His disciples, "*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*" (Matthew 5:14-16) Be a *little raindrop*! Be like Jesus; He said, "*I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you..*" (John 13:14-15)

Simply stated, now is not the time to be stunned or immobilized. It is the occasion for being a "*little raindrop*-" rain, rain, rain! It is the moment for Christians to suit up and trust that God will take care of His children, just as he did for Joshua, telling him "*to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*" (Joshua 1:7) So Christians, let us go far and near, raining in dry places, being His example, touching lives and extending helping hands, leading them to Christ and pleasing God! We cannot afford to remain on the sidelines. We must stay on God's battlefield. He always keeps His promises! The hymnist writes, "*This little light of mind, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! What about you and me? O the times, they are changing;* but we, the faithful- His change agents, are His *little raindrops* that can: "*We must work for the night is coming when no man can work.*" (John 9:4)

Nevels- Thompson Article Continued from Page 13

work. Miracles were His credentials. His own profound self-consciousness of His mission explains and necessitates this supernatural signature. Now, If Jesus believed Himself to be the Sent and the Son of God and was not, He was deceived and a deceiver; but if He was, we cannot put ourselves into harmony with God otherwise than as we accept this mission.

Accepting the mission. What does a man do when he believes in the Person of Christ? What does a blind man do when he commits himself to a guide? He puts himself out on trust. A drowning man, when he clings to his plank, lives suspensive on that to which he clings. A penitent sinner, when he believes in Christ, does both.

And this is the work of GOD for all men. As believers we have the life of Christ within us and the good works that God has prepared for us to do, are to be accomplished in our new Christ-life and through the power of the Holy Spirit. The works God has prepared for us to do cannot be achieved through the power we exert from our old self life.

As believers we must trust HIM to work the works of God in us to believe that God will accomplish His work in us – so that He gets the praise for the works that we do. We must not only believe in Him Whom God has sent for Salvation, but we have to also believe in Him Whom God has sent day by day, to do His good works, in us.



VOTE FOR:
**Reverend Elizabeth
 Pettiford McCoy**

Master of Divinity
**Lawson Chapel Missionary
 Baptist Church, Roxboro, NC**
 Associate Pastor
**Rev. Dr. Langston D. Logan, Sr.,
 Pastor.**
 Lord, Here Am I , Send Me!"

FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

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

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 WBHFMC Executive Board – 2 terms: 2014-2017. 2020-2024
 First Vice President, Woman’s Auxiliary of the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association
 Central Children Home Chair, WA-ECGMBA
 MDDU- Recording Secretary, ECGMBA & Founder’s Day Chair-five yrs.
 4th, 3rd. 2nd, 1st Vice Presidents of Woman Auxiliary
 Various other positions within ECGMBA & Received numerous awards

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Averett University, Business Administration
 Master in School Counseling, North Carolina Central University
 Master in Divinity, Grace Theological Seminary

STRATEGIC PLAN:

To serve as the greatest Stewardship Chair possible.
 To establish a line of communication with President and other V. P.
 Promote systematic giving of local circles’ time, talents, spiritual gifts.
 Collect and compile stewardship data from all 4th VPs.
 Represent the WBHFMC and GBSC with honor and dignity.

Author: “GOD’S WISDOM from BIBLICAL WOMEN to AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN”

Backwards Planning: Starting Where You Want to End

Deacon Ronnie Robinson; President Usher Union , ECGMBA
St. John's Missionary Baptist Church



A well-planned ministry event can greatly improve spiritual life and growth within in the church. Sadly, there are some pitfalls that include the following: 1) We often don't know what we don't know; our goals are too vague; 2) We get caught up in the day-to-day details and don't invest the time to reflect when making a detailed plan; and 3) Without support, we lack confidence in our goals achievement.

Mr. Stephen Covey, author and public speaker, addresses the idea of Backwards Planning in his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, as Habit #2 – **Beginning with the End in Mind**. Reverse planning involves starting with the end result in mind and working backward from there. According to Covey, “skilled ministry leaders begin by identifying the last step, the next-to-last step, and so on. They do this until they reach the step that begins the operation. It answers the question -- Where do we eventually want

to be?”

Whether you are a pastor, an associate minister, deacon, trustee, or missionary, the question always is “How can I improve my efforts for my ministry goals?” The answer is: **Backwards Planning (beginning with the end in mind)**.

First, define your Goal: Ask yourself “What do I want to accomplish?” Then, define your goal as clearly as possible. Ask yourself “Why it is important and is it realistic”?

Next, identify the steps needed to achieve your goal(s). Write out a random list of all steps and resources that you need to accomplish your ministry goals. Estimate the time and resources (people) you need to complete each step on the list. Group the random steps and sequence them. Try using some sticky notes on a wall for this activity, writing one step on each note. Then, you can easily move them into clusters. Then, think about creating a starting outline to begin the sequencing

Then, create a deadline-driven timeline; commit the plan both to paper and calendar by listing specific goal completion dates to each **major goal and supporting steps**. It is much easier to create your calendar by working backwards (keeping the end in mind). So, identify the date your goal should be completed. Identify the next to the last step; the third to the last, and continue until you finish putting all the steps in reverse order. You may need to move things around a bit until you finalize the plan.

Seek support: Get feedback from valued resources to make sure you aren't overlooking a key area. Backwards planning can give you confidence as you move forward toward achieving your goal.

A Plan of Action Example of Backwards Planning for Church Ushers:

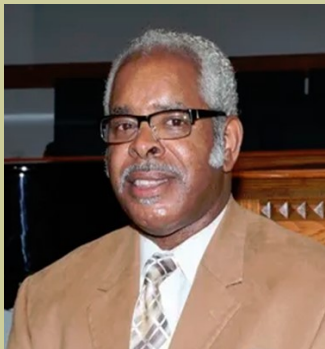
- 1). Conduct an after service briefing before releasing the team,
- 2). Disinfect all “Close contact” and “High touch areas” after service,
- 3). Be highly observant in your assigned area and to the pastor,
- 4). Return to your post before the pastor gives the benediction,
- 5). Go to your assigned post and check for all necessary items,
- 6). Check your assigned common areas before for going to your post,
- 7). (Team leader led) briefing (with prayer) and uniform inspection,
- 8). Conduct a “self-check” to ensure that you are ready to serve,
- 9). Arrive early to get screened and be in place for the team briefing,
- 10). Pray for your pastor, church, your team and church members, and
- 11). Prepare your uniform well in advance of your service date.

Begin with the end in sight and you'll find spiritual, mental and emotional joy, purpose, and fulfillment in whatever you do. CHARGE!



Current East Cedar Grove Past Moderators

From the Mid 1980s to 2021



*1st Row, Rev. James Isaac, III, Rev. J. Eric Morgan, III, Rev. Robert Daniels,;
2nd Row, Rev. Dr. James Smith, Rev. Mildred Chambers, Dr. Langston Logan, & 3rd
Row, Rev. Dr. James Richmond & Rev. Dr. William Richardson*

***Announcing
Planning for the New Smith – Thomas Convention Center
Church & Multipurpose Center***



***Rev. Dr. George Crews, III, Moderator
Rev. Dr. Langston Logan, Executive Board Chairman
& The Executive Board***

EAST CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MEMBER CHURCHES

Member Churches	Pastors	Est. Date & Site
Cameron Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Jessie L. Alston	1901, Durham, NC
Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Marvin Jones	1865, Roxboro, NC
First Calvary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Davis	1884, Durham, NC
First Chronicles Community Church	Rev. William V. Lucas , Senior Pastor	1999, Durham NC
First Community Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. William Richardson	1986, Hillsborough, NC
First Ledge Rock Missionary Baptist Church	Vacant	1975, Durham, NC
Greater Cleggs Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Louis Cash	1892, Timberlake, NC
Hawkins Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Dr. Kenneth M. Williams	1875, Franklinton, NC
Greenfield Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. A. J. Bell	1887, Creedmoor, NC
Henderson Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Johnnie Bethea	1915, Morrisville, NC
Jones Chapel Baptist Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Ronald K. Booker	1881, Roxboro, NC
Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. George Crews, III	1879, Hurdle Mills, NC
Lawson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Langston Logan, Sr.	1871, Roxboro, NC
Ledge Rock Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Marcellus Tyrone Moore	1863, Raleigh, NC
Lee's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Stephen Dickerson	1893, Cedar Grove, NC
Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. James Smith	1892, Bahama, NC
Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. William C. Turner, Jr.	1864 Durham, NC
Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. J. Eric Morgan, III	1872, Creedmoor, NC
Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Barnard Allen	1865, Durham, NC
New Calvary Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. E. Nathaniel Wall	1902, Durham, NC
New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. James Isaac, III	1888, Oxford, NC
New Hope Person Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Wilber L. Richardson	1878, Timberlake, NC
New Light Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Cicero Williams	1907, Wake Forest, NC
New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Larry G. Wilson	1874, Rougemont, NC
New St. James Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Arthur Haskins, Interim	1870 Timberlake, NC
Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Charles Bullock	1865, Oxford, NC
Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Johnny White	1865, Oxford, NC
Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Dickerson	1880, Durham, NC
Pettiford Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Alvin B. Downing, Sr.	1887, Kittrell, NC
Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dorothy Evans	1870, Creedmoor, NC
Rock Spring Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Haywood Dock, Jr.	1875, Creedmoor, NC
Shady Hill Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Eddie A Fuller, Sr.	1867, Roxboro, NC
Siloam Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Willie Wayne Johnson	1880, Rougemont, NC
St. John's Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Robert Daniels	1910, Durham, NC
Synama Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Randolph Morton	1861, Oxford, NC
Tally Ho Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Moses Fletcher	1863, Stem, NC
Union Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Prince Rainey Rivers	1897, Durham, NC
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	Vacant	1864, Butner, NC
Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Rufus Johnson, Sr.	1888, Hurdle Mills, NC
United Christian Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Eddie Harper	2002, Creedmoor, NC
West Durham Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. LaMont Johnson	1892, Durham, NC





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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Gratitude & Appreciation

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From

Rev. Joyce Daye Clayton, Editor
ECGMBA BAPTIST INSPIRER

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