

ECGMBA BAPTIST INSPIRER

THE MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

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

NEW YEAR; NEW METHOD

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



Greetings in the Name of Our Lord & Savior Jesus the Christ, it's the beginning of another year and we're all probably going through the same thing and asking the same or similar questions. What am I going to make my New Year's resolution? And then, after thinking about we probably become somewhat depressed or frustrated because we just remembered our resolution from last year and how we didn't see it through. Well, that doesn't mean we just give up on the idea, or resign to the fact that our lives will remain the same or never get better. Maybe it's the method we used to get the end result. All of us want and need change in our lives, but we fail to plan for that change. You know the old saying, "anyone that fails to plan, plans to fail". So let's start out with some ways that we can plan for a successful year, one that will yield results and a great harvest for us and for the Kingdom of God.

Before we start with all of our plans and grandiose ideas, we should go to The Lord in prayer. You ask the question, what does prayer have to do with my plans and ideas? Well, the Bible says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." What better place to start than with the one who created us and has a plan for our lives right now and for our future. He continues to encourage us to pray in Philippians 4:6,7 where the writer says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God." So, we should take everything to God in prayer, even our new year resolutions.

After we've prayed, then we should sit with what The Lord has revealed to us begin to draw our vision board. The other day I was talking to my eldest child and I asked her what she was doing for the day since she was home from California for the holidays, and she said that she was going to work on her Vision Board. I knew what it may have meant to me but I wanted to know what this Vision Board meant to her. She began to explain that a Vision Board was her map for her career and life in general, something that she could look at and see her progress during the course of this year and beyond. It also helped her to see areas that she needed to tweak, if need be. I said wow! The body of Christ should have a Vision Board, the Bible supports this; Habakkuk 2:2 says "Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. Then the light came on!

Not only do we need a Vision Board for our personal lives but we need a Vision Board for our Churches, our families, communities and so on. This Vision Board should be somewhere you can see it all of the time; so find a place in your home/ church where you can place your vision board. Let's go deeper with this Vision Board, your board should have room on it for additions. The Lord may reveal his plans, but He reserves the right to add to it as He pleases. Additional space is good also for prayer request that may come up during the course of the year. After receiving God's will for your life, break them into smaller goals so that it doesn't feel like it is impossible. For instance, if you want to lose weight then set it up that you lose the weight but in smaller increments. As you meet certain points on your Vision Board remember to give thanks to
(Continued page 2)

CONTINUED, PAGE 1 *NEW YEAR; NEW METHOD*

The Lord and ask Him for your direction and begin the process again. If your journey with your Vision Board seems unsuccessful then let's go back to The Lord and ask Him for your direction and begin the process again. Remember the Board is not the key to your success, but the Key is THE LORD!

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### **CHOOSE "KINDNESS"**

By: Brother Messiah Wyatt  
 New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church  
 7th Grade Lucus Middle School, Durham, NC



Being kind brings meaning to our lives and joy to the lives of others. Being kind allows us to communicate better, be more compassionate, and be a source of positive energy for one another. God reminds us in his Word to 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. (*Ephesians 4:32*)





## WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

2 Corinthians 5:7

By Sister Queen Earle, President, Woman's Auxiliary, ECGMBA  
New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church, Oxford, NC

Walking by faith and not by sight means that we live today according to God's promises, even though we cannot see them, and not according to the temporary, arbitrary things that our eyes often focus on here on earth. Walking by faith is living by faith.

As believers, we cannot see the promises of God with our naked eyes, but we have faith. Faith is believing all God has said in His Word, first for our justification and then for living a sanctified life. Paul says in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

As a child, we trusted our parents to provide food for us and to take care of us. When we went to bed at night, we trusted that our parents would still be with us in the morning. This type of trust is a type of faith. We had faith in our parents.

As an adult, we may not realize it, but we operate in faith every day. For example, we have faith that when we leave home for work, we will return safely. We have faith that when we fly in an airplane, we will arrive safely to our destination. In the same way, God wants us to put our faith in Him. We all live by faith in something. But let us put our faith in God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

To live by faith, we must pray daily, read God's Word daily and meditate on it, attend Bible Study, attend church on Sunday, and meet the needs of others.

We must be mindful of our thoughts, words, and our actions. Our thoughts determine how we react to situations. Isaiah 26:3 says: "You will keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because He trusts in you." So, we must keep our thoughts on and our trust in God. Our words must demonstrate our belief that God is working on our behalf. Mathew 12:37 says, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." We must speak confidently and boldly as if the situation has already been resolved positively in our favor. Speak in faith.

We must take action, doing the work that is required. God has given us power and the ability to do His work. So, let us be doers of the Word, not just hearers.

There are many people in the Bible that walked by faith. Here are a few.

**Abraham** – His faith occurred when he willingly obeyed God to go and sacrifice his son as a burnt offering. Abraham was obedient to God.

**Noah** – Noah obeyed God. It was by faith that he built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He was not conformed to the world.

**Abel** – By faith, Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

So, as we walk by faith, be encouraged knowing God is always with us. He will never leave nor forsake us.

### **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 or by US mail at 1702 Milan Street, Durham, NC 27704. The contact number is 919-682-9873. The Association needs you! Thank you!

East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association  
CAPITAL GAINS INITIATIVE

## FUNDRAISING IS A MINISTRY

By Reverend Dr. Kenneth M. Williams, Pastor Hawkins Chapel Baptist Church  
Second Vice President ECGMBA



Fundraising is a ministry; however there are people who do not agree with the idea of fundraising. People may think fundraising is unfounded and unbiblical. However, the Bible shares scriptures promoting fundraising. For this reason, fundraising is primarily, a ministry, as much a ministry as prayer, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and other charitable activity in Jesus' name.

What does Bible say about fundraising? **Christians are called to be cheerful givers in 2 Corinthians 2:8-9**, and Jesus praised the widow who gave her last two coins at the temple in Mark 12 and Luke 21.

One of the first examples of fundraising is in Exodus 25, 35, 36, where Moses asked the people to give as their hearts prompted them to give. Another example of fundraising is in the life of **David**, as he raises funds for the Temple that Solomon will eventually build in 1 Chronicles 29:1-20. We see that David himself led by example, gave a sacrificial gift, boldly challenged other people to contribute as well. Because of David's faith, the people gave joyfully, and David saw that in the future people would benefit from their gifts. In Nehemiah chapter 1 and 2, we see that **Nehemiah** demonstrated the use of secular resources and support for God's Purpose, as he got tremendous support when he prayed and went to ask for help from Artaxerxes. In the Gospel of St. Luke 8:1-3, **Jesus** received support from those to whom He ministered. He was not bashful or hesitant to challenge people about money. In Matthew 19:16-30, you will find the story of the rich young ruler who was challenged about his love for money; and that's exactly what Jesus did.

Examples of fund raising are also found in **Apostle Paul's** life. Usually, we think of Paul raising his own funds for ministry through tent making, but in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, we see something different. Paul is raising funds for someone else. Examples of Paul's fundraising process are:

- He certainly was concerned with integrity and accountability.
- He made initial appeal in person (No phones back then)
- He sent letters making an appeal.
- He sent someone to collect the pledge.
- He encouraged others to honor their pledges.

Paul had a businesslike plan. He was unapologetic about devising a method to get to get people to contribute. He shared the results of the people's giving, and he thanked his donors. We also see that Paul challenged the people to give liberally according to their ability 1 Timothy 6:17-19. As you can see, we have scriptural examples that can remind us of how and why we raise funds for the Kingdom.

The East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association, Capital Gains Initiative, under the leadership of Moderator, Rev. Dr. George Crews, have begun a two-year journey together, in efforts of raising revenue in the amount of One Million Dollars, for a much-needed future, the Association Headquarters Building which will be designed to support the needs of East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association and surrounding communities. This conceptual vision for the Church and Multipurpose Center on Brassfield Road in Creedmoor will be further designed to serve both the Association and surrounding communities. The project is in three phases: **Phase One, a Multipurpose Center; ~ Phase Two, Church Sanctuary ~ Phase Three, Retreat Center**

Our goal of Christian Fundraising is to meet the genuine need in God's Kingdom by actively challenging donors to heartfelt and cheerful giving. The Campaign and the Pledge Giving Platform have been launched. It is our hope that you will join us in support of Kingdom Ministry. The Capital Gains Committee would like to thank you in advance for your kind support. (Continued page 5)



### HEALTHY HAPPY SPIRITUAL LEADERS

By Reverend Dorothy Evans  
Pastor Pine Gove Missionary Baptist Church  
President Ministers, Deacons and Deaconess Union



As we come to the end of another year, I began to do some inventory and posed a question to myself. "What good is service to God if we have lost the Lord in our purpose for saving?" At times it seems that those who are in leadership positions are as oblivious as those who are being served. The reason may be that some may feel that since they were called by God into ministry, certainly He will equip them to do whatever needs to be done. Therefore, as new pastors, we start off full blast doing all those things named under the descriptions of duties which are expected of a pastor. Often we find ourselves in a whirlwind because so many things are occurring at once.

However, what I have learned is that signing up for such an assignment may very well mean signing a premature death certificate. Admittedly, it seems that the position of pastor has transcended from spiritual care providers into one who directs the various activities of the congregation. If only leaders would aspire to utilize the prayer by Howard Thurman, "God, teach us how to respond to the needs of Thy children in ways that do not undermine the self, but inspire and enliven the spirit," it would make for healthier leaders. I read that when self is undermined, it leads to a form of violence and abuse which is a topic that is not often spoken about. Perhaps, it may cause leaders to feel that they are not meeting expectations. The fact that being overloaded and hurried is an acceptable form of brutality which is in my opinion, a "silent killer". It is something that is being done and it is not recognized because it plays off as being dedicated and loyal, when in reality, one may be slowly dying while others rant about how they so unselfishly serve others when they are really walking and living on life support.

As we approach a New Year, as leaders I pray that we will consider ways to live better so that we may serve our congregation better. This will mean that we purpose to serve ourselves so that we can be better equipped to serve our people. This will help us to maintain in not losing the Lord in our purpose for saving while we yet serve God. I pray that 2023 will truly be healthy, prosperous, and purposeful, In Jesus Name.

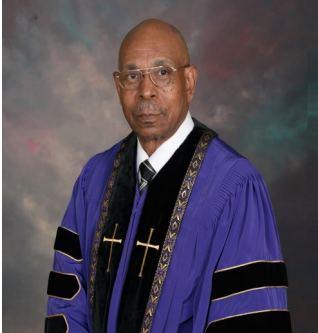


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| <b>Yes, We Can"! For your convenience I am including a list of payment options:</b> |                               |
| Check _____                                                                         | Credit Card _____             |
| Credit Card PayPal _____                                                            | Givelify (Givelify.com) _____ |
| Name on Card _____                                                                  |                               |
| Card # _____                                                                        | CVV _____                     |
| Expiration _____ / _____                                                            |                               |

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association  
IF MAILING DONATIONS, Please Send to the Following Address: Deacon Linda Bradsher, 1476 Saint Paul Church Road, Roxboro, NC 27574. All forms of payment are Payable by November 30, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! For reference on fundraising, I recommend the book. [\*A Spirituality of Fundraising\*](#). Written by Henri Nouwen, this quick read provides an inspirational new vision for our efforts.



## SYNOPSIS ON THE CHALLENGE OF PREACHING

By Dr. James A. Richmond, Sr., Ph.D., D.D., Senior Pastor Emeritus (Retired)  
Shady Hill Missionary Baptist Church - Roxboro, NC (10/1988-12/2018)

*"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, One who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the Word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)*

**PREACHING A SERMON** that is acceptable, motivating, stimulating, insightful, and inspiring as well as biblically sound can be challenging. It requires prayer, patience, preparation and perseverance. Success is feasible by understanding and applying the topics below. Still the sermon will fall short sometime! Be encouraged by doing the work and knowing the Holy Spirit is present!

### SUBJECT: Practicing

- ◆ Apologetics is the branch of Christianity that deals with the defense of the Christian faith.
- ◆ Exegesis is when a text is interpreted based solely on what the text reads, no more and no less.
- ◆ Eisegesis is when a preacher interprets and reads information into the text that is not true.
- ◆ Epexegetics is the addition of word(s) to explain preceding word(s) or sentence (Thesaurus).
- ◆ Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of interpretation of the scripture or Word of God.
- ◆ Homiletics is the study of the preparation and delivery of sermons.

### STYLE: Preaching

- ◆ Expository preaching presents the meaning and intent of a biblical text with commentary and examples to make the passage clear and understandable.
- ◆ Topical preaching starts with a selected topic (i.e., love, laziness, peace, death, life), then finds biblical scripture that addresses the topic.
- ◆ Textual preaching starts with a selected biblical scripture to make a point without examining the original intent of the scripture.
- ◆ Biographical preaching is about a person in the bible (i.e., Adam, Elijah, Job, Ruth)
- ◆ Historical preaching is about biblical events through time that may or may not be applicable today (i.e., the great flood, the exodus, the virgin birth, the Pentecost).
- ◆ Evangelistic preaching is the recounting or telling of the Good News as a way of converting people to Christianity or other beliefs.
- ◆ Holistic preaching is combing the concern for biblical subjects and the context of personal style to meet the need and purpose of delivering the sermon. The message is divinely inspired and humanly empowered!

### SOUND: Presenting

- ◆ Scripted preaching is done with previous preparation and using notes or a manuscript.
- ◆ Extemporaneous preaching is done without much preparation, an outline and memory.
- ◆ Impromptu preaching is done without preparation and notes, mainly from the head and heart.

### SUBSTANCE: Powering

- ◆ Scriptures are the primary source of sermon foundation (several bible versions helpful).
- ◆ Commentaries provide breadth and depth to scriptures for scholarly enlightenment.
- ◆ Storytelling adds personal, historical, and contemporary touch to the message.

**FINISH is knowing when to end the sermon with *take-home point (s)* ! VERY IMPORTANT!**

## CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR LONG

By Reverend Dr. Alvin Downing, Sr.  
Pastor Pettiford Grove Missionary Baptist Church & First Vice President ECGMBA



As Christians we celebrate the biblical prophecies of God Himself given the shepherds a sign of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:15-16 tells that after the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying one to another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see the thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made know to us." "And they went and found things just as the angels had told them." Many go through the motions of the holiday festivities but never know the essence of this great occurrence. I heard a wonderful story of why we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

The story by Paul Harvey goes like this. A father refused to go to church for the Christmas Eve Service because he didn't want to go feeling he was a hypocrite. Acting one way and deep down convicted another way. This father told his wife that he didn't believe in Jesus being incarnated and born to the Virgin Mary. He said he just didn't believe the story and for that reason he was not going to church that night.

After his wife and the children went to church and left him alone; he heard a tap on the window. Then it occurred again and it caused him to look out the window only to see birds in the cold snow trying to get into the house. These birds were trying to get in the warm house by coming through the windows. In the cold snowy evening all of their efforts caused them to become frustrated and weak and cold. So the father decided that he would lead the birds to his garage. He put on his coat and hat and did all he could to lead them to the warm barn. The birds paid him no attention and did not follow him.

He tried everything and it did not work. The man thought long about how to get the birds to follow him but all his efforts were no good. Then he said to himself, if only I could become a bird like them, then they wouldn't be afraid of me and would be able to understand that I am only trying to help them. The story goes that about that time the man heard the bells of the church. And then it hit him, that what God did at Christmas when he sent Jesus to become like us. God sent Jesus so we could see that he cares and loves us. And the story goes that the man heard a voice saying to him "Have a Merry Christmas" and the voice called his name.

The Apostle John said it this way in John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory. The glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." ***Have a wonderful Christmas all year long.***

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THE MASTER'S TOUCH

Sprinkled with His sunshine,
Fertilized with His love,
Watered with His kindness,
Pruned with His gentleness,
Soothed with His comfort,
Filled with His Holiness,
Bathed with His grace and His mercy, too.
The "laborer's are few"; and there is so much work to do.

By Reverend Joyce D Clayton
Assistant Pastor, New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church, Rougemont, Nc

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.

INTEGRITY

By Reverend Angela Nevels-Thompson

Director of Christian Education, ECGMBA, Associate Minister, New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church



All through scripture we can identify the importance of integrity. In this sinful world we live in today, it is obvious that our integrity is imperfect. Perfect integrity can be found in Jesus and through Him we are able to aim towards true integrity for ourselves.

Spiritual integrity is the state of being undivided together with the quality of brutal self-honestly. It demands a considerable depth of self-awareness and an uncompromising willingness to be authentic. God is looking for a characteristic in His people that is rare in the world and even uncommon among believers. Man is a diverse, multidimensional being. A person of truth and integrity has learned to integrate and manifest truth in every aspect of life. The person of integrity is authentic, genuine and real regardless of the setting or situation.

So how do we as believers walk in integrity? What principles can we apply to our lives that will help us become more authentic, genuine and real? First allow God's example of integrity. God does not say one thing and do another. Second, understand that believers often lie simply to protect themselves (a subtle form of pride). Third, break the habit of making promises. People who make too many promises are doomed to break some of them. Fourth, identify your inconsistencies by inviting the Holy Spirit to search your heart. First, learn to tell yourself the truth. You can never be honest with others until you are honest with yourself. Sixth, fill your heart with integrity Scriptures. Finally, realize integrity is not popular. You must personally value integrity and learn to encourage and challenge yourself to walk in integrity.

Traits of integrity

Honesty – Telling the truth, being open and not taking advantage of other. It does not entail sharing unnecessary information.

Respect – We have all witnessed reckless single-minded insensitive behavior. Respect necessarily means exercising a broader sense of what's going on and giving the other party the benefit of the doubt and a chance to articulate their concerns or interests. Respect can only be earned and is achieved when there is mutual effort applied.

Generating Trust – Trust develops when people demonstrate their reliability and positive commitment. Actions do speak louder in this instance than words.

Pride – There is unhealthy pride {the sort that goes before a fall, and which is entwined with entitle mentality} and there is the pride which grows from caring about expectations {of oneself and others}, demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment, appreciating, and responding to what needs to be done.

Responsibility – demonstrating responsibility is very much aligned with trust. If you are responsible, live up to it. You are a steward, entrusted with looking after something. Use care and foresight: not mindlessly carrying out a task.

Keeping promises – It's disappointing when someone says they will call you back and they do not. Or they promise something by a certain time, but nothing eventuates. Who wants to collaborate with or be connected to a shifty unreliable quantity?

Helping others – This should not be a cliché like: "Is there something else I can help you with?" A person is only being helpful when someone as demonstrated a need. The quality of helpfulness can be boiled to two crucial elements, (CONTINUED, PAGE 9)

“MY HURT IS MY CONNECTION TO THE LORD”

By Reverend J. Eric Morgan, III
 Pastor Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church , Creedmoor, NC & Former Moderator, ECGMBA

Sometimes ago, I read a story of a teenager named Emily. Emily grew up being a happy young woman. Her father died when she was about four years old. Therefore, her mother raised she and her younger brother by herself. The absence of her father caused Emily, her brother, and her mother to be very closed. The three of them were great source of comfort for each other. When Emily had a soft-ball game, both her mother and her brother would attend and cheer her on. When her brother had a basket-ball game, both she and her mother would do the same for him. When her mother led the church choir on Sunday morning, both Emily and her brother would be there to cheer her on. The three of them served as great inspiration to each other. They did almost everything together.



Soon after college Emily got a job and moved away to another state. Even though she was living away from her family, she continued to enjoy their faithful support and encouragement. One night while Emily was entertaining some of her friends, she received a call from a police officer that changed her life. The officer said to her; “I am sorry to inform you that your mother just got killed in an automobile accident”. At that moment, she shouted out loud, while her friends were listening; *“Got killed? How can that happen?”* Then she shouted to the police officer; *“That can happen. She is my best friend”*.

At that moment, Emily felt like throwing up. She asked her friends who were visiting her; “How could my mother be dead? What will happen to me and my brother? How could the Lord allow this to happen?”

During the days leading up to her mother’s funeral, although the hurt was excruciating, Emily reflected on a passage of scripture that she, her mother, and her brother had read often. That scripture is found in the Old Testament book of Job chapter 19, verses 25 through 27. The text reads; *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”* (NKJV).

In this text, Emily found her connection to the Lord, even though she was hurting. And this is how she discovered her connection. In verse 26, it states: *And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God”*. She allowed herself to recognize the Lord’s presence, even in the midst of her hurt. Job says; *“This I know”*. In other words, Job was saying; *“even though my body is decaying, yet I know I will see the Lord.”* The certainty for Emily is that her mother is now in the Lord’s presence, even though her physical body has been destroyed by the automobile accident. Reflecting on this; Like Job, Emily was convinced that her Redeemer lives. The word that translates *“Redeemer”* in the Hebrew language means, *“The One who rescues or the One who buys back”*. Therefore, Job was saying the One who brought me back from my disappointments and my hurt is alive. He lives! And because He lives, like the song writer says; *“I can face tomorrow!”*

In spite of your hurt and agony, don’t ever let go of your confidence in the Lord. If He can care for you in good times. He still has the grace to care for you when you are hurting and disappointed. Always be mindful that in your hurt is when you can really see the favor of the Lord. I heard a song sometimes ago that says; *“The God of the mountain is still God in the valley”*. Always be assured that your hurt is the means to the Lord’s care.

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### INTERGITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

responding promptly to requests and being prepared to shift one’s own schedule to accommodate others.

All of the traits above exist independently of each other, but integrity combines the lot. Regardless of what is expressed, demands and fads exist when it is not true integrity. Integrity in one’s life shines through and provides a vital certainty in a confusing and threatening world.

## The Second Annual Triangle Youth Leadership Institute

By Dr. Warren L. Herndon, Visiting Minister, Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist Church, Durham, NC; Founder/President of The Triangle Youth Leadership Institute; Past President DCIA & The Durham MLK Steering Committee and Special Events Committee Chair

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it”  
- Proverbs 22:6*



For the last five to ten years, several industry journals have been reporting in the triangle that companies are having challenges attracting qualified candidates that meet their technology requirements for filling vacancies. These employers are seeking a higher skilled and technically trained applicant pool. The state of North Carolina is going through shifts in economics, education, technology, healthcare, digital divide and other equitable challenges to become prepared to meet the future. Our top performing students will remain competitive and job ready one day for these corporate needs. Additionally, these high performing positions require young adults that have the ability to perform in collaborative work teams and other innovative assignments. However, our “Middle Tier” and first-generation students, by no fault of their own, will have difficulties performing in these highly skilled corporate environments. Now, the challenge becomes; how will our educational institutions provide the necessary educational, technical and soft skills to close the gap with those students needing remediation and/or additional skills training to meet the needs in our Triangle region for the next three to five years.

In 2017, our planning team assembled several leaders across the Triangle to discuss and implement a strategy to address our students, parents, tutors and mentors; all working together to seek a way forward to assist our students in choosing careers and early college planning. Consequently, our planning teams across six counties created, planned, and implemented two college tours for our participants. Our first tour was held at Shaw University in June 2017. Our next tour was held in July of 2018 at Saint Augustine’s University, where we were hosted by the president’s office, the mission directors, professors, and students. These career opportunities and early college admission sessions were greatly beneficial to our “Middle Tier” students in the Triangle counties.

Over the last five years, with collaborating partners and strategic planning sessions, we have assembled a cadre of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and clergy leaders, working in unity to wrap our arms around our students as they choose careers and seek early college and university admission. Additionally, this initiative has created job shadowing opportunities, internships, quarterly Zoom training sessions and other mentoring relationships to prepare our students as they seek to become life-long learners.

Our “Leadership Institute has continued to meet the vision, goals and objectives for students, ages 14-29 to assist these students in their career interest and early college application process. Additionally, during our planning sessions, we recognized that there are several different learning styles when working with today’s students. Many students today grew up with technology and several different platforms in their educational stages. Therefore, over the last several years our planning team has embraced several components in teaching, instructing and preparing our students for future trends. We have introduced job shadowing teams, mentor/mentee relationships and summer job experiences.

At these sessions, we have had several highly trained professionals working in the field and skilled presenters working with our students. Now, for our 2022 institute, we are adding not only panelists but several resource tables with information, resources, and other college-bound financial support. Over the last several years, the President has been addressing the skyrocketing cost of a college education and putting measures in place to resolve college debt.

As our “Planning Teams continue to build on this Comprehensive Framework for our Middle Tier Students in the Triangle,” **we are seeking to increase more caring mentors and professionals.** Additionally, next summer, our goal is to provide several opportunities for our students to choose job shadowing, internships, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and other mastery of trades. This will assist them in connecting the dots in their future educational endeavors to become life-long learners. In order to accomplish these goals, **we need the support of pastors and youth to become involved in our team efforts to prepare our students.**

## THE CHURCH SAFETY & SECURITY PROGRAM

By Deacon Ronnie G. Robinson

Usher Union President, ECGMBA & Member St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church, Durham, NC



Our churches must take all necessary measures to ensure that it is safe from hazards. We must provide a safe worship center that is free of unsafe conditions and to identify, repair or remove anything so that it no longer poses a hazard.

The best way to get in front of this is to establish a Safety and Security Program with two separate areas. The first area (**prevention**) can be accomplished easily by reducing or eliminate hazards **before** they occur by conducting safety inspections, safety education and training, fire extinguisher inspections and a visible security force. The second area (**response**) is made up of all actions that take place **after** a hazard or risk event has occurred. Here, your goal is to reduce the effects and enhance recover from the event.

The end result is to ensure that we have identified and eliminated threats and unsafe conditions. You can go on-line to locate a "Safety & Security" template and adjust it to your needs. While working on the first draft and throughout the process, work with your churches Executive Board. In the end, they will be the ones to approve it. While working on this plan together, ask yourselves the following questions:

- A. Who shall have operational oversight of the Safety & Security Program?
- B. What personnel will be a part of the Safety & Security Team?
- C. What type of training will each member have to undergo?
- D. What will the Training Standards be?
- E. What Initial Training must take place?
- F. Will the Safety & Security Team need firearms training.
- G. What will the Team Composition be for:
  1. Sunday Morning Services.
  2. Sunday Evening Services
  3. Wednesday Evening
  4. Special Events.
- H. What will be the job descriptions and duties be for:
  1. The Minister of Safety & Security:
  2. The Safety & Security Team Leader:
  3. The Individual Safety & Security Team Member:
- I. What will be the assignment standards for:
  1. Exterior Security Patrols.
  2. Interior Security:
- J. What will be the intent for Team Meetings?
- K. Will it be your intent to have an armed or unarmed Safety and Security Team?
- L. What other equipment will the need?
  1. Flashlights.
  2. Radios.
  3. Safety Vests.
- M. Will this ministry team require a specific dress code? If so, what will it be?
- N. Who will conduct safety surveys of the church property, grounds and other items?

Yes, it is quite a lot to digest at first. My recommendation is to break this down into smaller, "bite-sized" tasks, sub-divide it with the involved members and "Run, Forrest, Run".

# East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association

## CAPITAL GAINS INITIATIVE

### PLEDGE DRIVE THERMOMETER

### A Goal without A Plan Is Just A Wish!

**The Pledge Giving Platform Has Launched. We are excited to announce we now have over \$51,000.00 in pledges. This is a great start, but we still have a long way to go in order to meet our \$1 Million Dollar Goal.**

We wanted to be sure to catch your eye with this fundraising thermometer. This thermometer is a visual representation of our fundraising progress as we work towards our fundraising goal. It will show the progress made so you can visually see how the donation is coming along. We set a fundraising goal and it's presented at the top of the fundraising thermometer graphic. The mercury only rises if there is money raised. It is our hope that the mercury rises quickly. We can all get excited as the swift rising of the mercury presents that the fundraising campaign we have launched is running smoothly and we will reach our goal in a very short time. **This is a two Year Funding project to raise \$1 Million for our future Association Building and the good news is you can pledge now and pay later!** The Pledge card is available and attached. After completing the card, please mail it to the address on the card. I am sure everyone will want to know how we are doing, and as we mentioned before the thermometer will give our supporters and donors a visual representation of how they're helping us reach our goal and offer them a feeling of accomplishment. Not only that, the thermometer will be a great motivator for all our donors. We will be more than happy to keep you updated with the progress as we watch the mercury rise! In a continuing effort to keep you informed of the progress and plans for the Capital Gains Initiative the Thermometer will be on our web site of The East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church webpage: eastcedargrove-mba.org. There you will find information on the process we will post updates to this site as we have new information.

Gratefully,  
 Reverend Dr. Kenneth Williams, Project Chair,  
 Sister Judy Jacobs, Secretary

**EAST CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
 CAPITAL GAINS INITIATIVE PLEDGE DRIVE**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR GIFT AMOUNT:**

|                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Church Pledge _____<br><small>Name of Church</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Family Pledge _____<br><small>Name of Family</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Individual Pledge _____<br><small>Your Name</small>    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 in Memory of LEAF _____<br><small>Name</small>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Hall of Honor _____<br><small>Name of Donor</small>  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 Corporate Recognition _____                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ Other _____<br><small>Name</small>                  |                                                                                       |

**PAYABLE BY: NOVEMBER 30, 2024**

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**  Credit Card  PayPal  Givelity (Givelity.com)  Check  Cash

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association**

**IF MAILING DONATION, Please Send to the Following Address:**  
 Deaconess Linda Bradshet, 1476 Saint Paul Church Road, Roxboro, NC 27574

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**



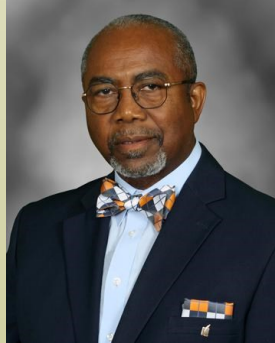
# East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association Capital Gains Goal Thermometer



## EAST CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF NC, INC.

### CONGRATULATIONS REVEREND DR. JAMES W. SMITH

Pastor Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Retired  
Bahama, North Carolina



For Thirty-one years of devotion, dedication and hard work as Pastor of Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Bahama, North Carolina. Your services to the Association as past moderator, workshop presenter and parliamentarian are deeply appreciated. Enjoy the new chapter in the plan that God has prepared for you, and follow Him wherever He leads you.

*“<sup>24</sup>The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” - Numbers 6:24-26*

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### God's Mercy

By Sister Carolyn Lee

Member Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church & Prayer Warrior Ministry, Woman's Auxiliary

We need to look away from our problems in order to see God's *loving mercy*. The scripture, Lamentations 3:22-26, reminds me that things happen so quickly that we might not have the chance to say "*Lord How Mercy!*" because things can happen in a "twinkling of an eye." God's mercy is in everyday things like if you are in the process of falling down, that your hands move right in front of you and you stop before completely falling and not hurt yourself. His mercy is in everything, both great and small!

One example of God's mercy to me was when I hit a deer on a Sunday morning. I still to this day don't know how I missed a great big rock and trees on the other side of the road as I ended up crossing from one lane to the other. All I could see was the big horns of the deer in front of my vehicle. When I stopped, I had to call in the accident and waited so long. When the police officer came, there were 6 police vehicles in a row looking at me, my vehicle, and the deer. Every second was even more scary than the second before. I started praying as hard as I could. Finally a police car made a U-turn and pulled right behind me. It ended up that his wife had almost the exact kind of accident I did about 3 weeks before me. He had compassion. That was nothing but God's mercy because of all of those police cars, God sent me the one officer I needed! I thanked God for sending me the right "one." He gave me an Incident Report that said "an unavoidable animal collision." That was God's mercy on me.

My conclusion is that God's mercy is "*never ending*", finished, ceased, gone, or incomplete. His mercy "never" fails, gets old, or is without love. You "*never*" have to wait for it because it is always there and it "*never*" leaves you or forsakes you. Every very single day God's mercy is like 4 R's: restored, refilled, refreshed, and renewed. God's mercy is always available and with us all the time.

**EAST CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MEMBER CHURCHES**

| Member Churches                                 | Pastors                               | Est. Date & Site       |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Antioch Baptist Church                          | Rev. Dr. Michael D. Page              | 1993, Durham, NC       |
| 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      | Rev. Reginald McClenton               | 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. Steven Dickerson                 | 1893, Cedar Grove, NC  |
| Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church           | Rev. Quincy L Davis                   | 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 Beginnings Church of All People             | Rev. Kevin Blalock                    | Wise, 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. Dr. 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       |



First Moderator  
Reverend A. R. Satterfield



***Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.” - Ephesians 5:1,2***

## **ECGMBA OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

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**Minister Carlos Lewis, President Laymen’s League**

## **Acknowledgements**

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**From**

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

**Smith-Thomas Convention Center, 2174 Brassfield Road, P.O. Box 808, Creedmoor, NC 27522**  
**[eastcedargrove-mba.org](http://eastcedargrove-mba.org)**