

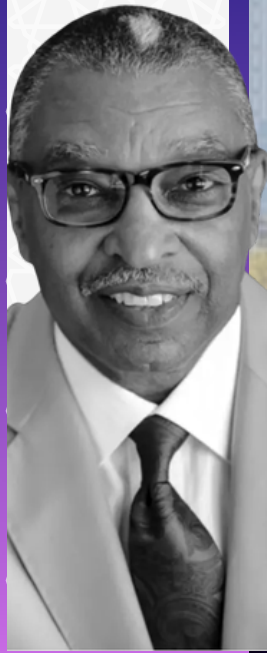
Obie McKenzie

Author, "Bible Economics" | Fmr Black Rock Executive



Deforest "Buster" Soaries

Fmr Lt. Gov. of New Jersey | Author "DREE Book"



Tonya Baker

World Renown Gospel Recording Artist



Jeremy Winston Chorale



The BEST CONFERENCE & CONCERT

Bible Principles. Economic Power.

September 25 - 27, 2026



Wintley Phipps



Natalie McKenzie



Shaun Ford



Marshall Mitchell

More information
www.thebestconference.com

Salem Baptist Church of Abington
2741 Woodland Ave
Abington, PA. 19001



The BEST Conference and Concert (Bible Economics Summit Training Conference & Concert) is a premier three-day leadership event that brings together world-class experts in biblical economics, finance, business, and inspirational music to equip churches and communities with practical, faith-based economic solutions. The conference recruits, trains, and certifies Bible Economic Counselors who will return to their churches and communities prepared to teach financial literacy, biblical stewardship, debt reduction, wealth creation, entrepreneurship, investment principles, and generational wealth-building through a biblical worldview.

The BEST C&C addresses many of today's greatest economic challenges—including living paycheck to paycheck, overwhelming debt, lack of savings, limited financial education, and the inability to build lasting family wealth. Participants learn practical strategies for making capital work for them instead of working for debt.

More than a conference, the BEST C&C is a movement to make Bible Economics a core ministry of the Church, equipping congregations to become centers of economic empowerment that create businesses, jobs, affordable housing, educational opportunities, and sustainable community development.

By establishing a standardized certification program for Bible Economic Counselors, the BEST C&C creates a trusted national network of trained leaders committed to helping individuals and families become faithful stewards of God's resources while strengthening the economic health of churches and communities.

For visionary sponsors and philanthropic partners, the BEST C&C represents an opportunity to invest in a scalable initiative that combines faith, financial literacy, leadership development, and community transformation to create measurable, long-term economic impact for generations to come.

Our Request: Please allow that document to serve as an official request of the Adelpia Banking Institution to partner with GMBC, as an Official Sponsor of the BEST C&C as we work together in our various capacities to build and rebuild Black communities in the US.

Banks are uniquely positioned to help strengthen the financial well being of the communities they serve. Sponsoring the BEST C&C provides an opportunity to support measurable economic development while engaging with thousands of potential distant clients and consumers as this Conference and Concert series go nationwide, attracting people in various locations seeking trusted financial guidance and services especially from a church perspective and patronizing a Black owned bank



Obie McKenzie is a retired investment management executive, Bible teacher, and nationally recognized leader in institutional asset management. Prior to retiring in 2018, he served as Managing Director at BlackRock Financial, where he managed relationships with some of the nation's largest public pension funds after more than 30 years of success in institutional asset management. His distinguished career earned numerous honors, including the 2010 AIMSE Richard A. Lothrop Outstanding Achievement Award, recognition by Black Enterprise magazine as one of the 75 Most Powerful Blacks on Wall Street in 2011, and the 2013 Public Fund Marketer of the Year award from Money Management Intelligence. Beyond finance, Mr. McKenzie is an accomplished public speaker, vocalist, and expository Bible teacher with more than three decades of ministry experience. He is the author of [Bible Economics - Things I Wish I Had Known](#), which draws upon his decades on Wall Street and lifelong study of Scripture to explore biblical principles of wealth, stewardship, and financial wisdom. He resides in Englewood, New Jersey, with his wife, Natalie Bowen-McKenzie.

Dr. DeForest B. Soaries Jr. is a globally respected leader at the intersection of faith, finance, media, and public service. As founder of the DFREE® Financial Freedom Movement, he has empowered thousands across the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa to eliminate debt, build generational wealth, and achieve financial freedom through biblical principles. He is the Black Authors Matter TV Award winner for Say Yes to No Debt and was honored in Ghana as Nkosuohene by His Majesty the Okyenhere for his longstanding commitment to community advancement. Through DBS Solutions LLC and Corporate Community Connections, Inc., he helps organizations develop scalable strategies for economic empowerment and leadership. Dr. Soaries has served as New Jersey's Secretary of State and Chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. A dynamic communicator, pastor, and visionary, his life's work is dedicated to building leaders, strengthening communities, and advancing financial, spiritual, and economic freedom.



Tonya Baker is an acclaimed gospel recording artist, worship leader, author, songwriter, and mentor whose powerful voice and faith-filled ministry have inspired audiences across the United States and around the world. Through her independent production company, she has released several acclaimed musical projects, including Life In Him, Since He Came In, The Live Encounter—produced by Grammy® Award-winning Myron Butler—and the holiday album Merry Christmas Baby II. A sought-after vocalist, Tonya has shared the stage with gospel legends such as Shirley Caesar, CeCe Winans, Fred Hammond, Israel Houghton, Mary Mary, and Tye Tribbett, while also contributing as a songwriter and background vocalist for numerous renowned artists. Her voice has been featured on Grammy®-nominated and nationally recognized recordings, and she has appeared on programs including Bobby Jones Gospel (BET), The Gospel SuperFest, and Praise the Lord (TBN). She currently serves as Worship Volunteer Director at The Potter's House of Dallas, where she remains devoted to cultivating authentic worship and encouraging others to fulfill their God-given calling.



Shaun J. Ford is a serial entrepreneur, real estate developer, author, and visionary business leader whose work bridges purpose, innovation, and large-scale execution. Best known as the author of *BiGPurpose: The World's First Book on How to Discover and Fulfill Life Purpose*, Shaun has spent more than two decades helping individuals and organizations transform vision into reality. As Executive Chairman and Co-Founder of EVLO, he leads a portfolio of real estate and wellness ventures, having completed more than 230 residential and commercial development projects while overseeing a pipeline exceeding \$750 million in value. Beyond real estate, Shaun has successfully built and exited multiple consumer brands and is now leading the national expansion of EVLO, an innovative human optimization platform combining wellness, aesthetics, and longevity services. A sought-after speaker and mentor, Shaun is passionate about equipping entrepreneurs and leaders with practical strategies to build businesses, create lasting impact, and live out their purpose with discipline, excellence, and intention.

Dr. Wintley Phipps is an internationally acclaimed gospel singer, pastor, humanitarian, and founder of the U.S. Dream Academy, whose extraordinary ministry has inspired audiences around the world for more than four decades. An ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister, he is renowned for his powerful bass-baritone voice and has performed for six U.S. presidents, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, and at numerous National Prayer Breakfasts, presidential inaugurations, and historic national events, including the funeral services of Congressman John Lewis and General Colin Powell. A graduate of Oakwood University and Andrews University, Dr. Phipps has combined a distinguished musical career with a lifelong commitment to service through the U.S. Dream Academy, an award-winning organization that provides mentoring, academic support, and life-changing opportunities for children of incarcerated parents. Recognized worldwide for his message of hope, faith, and excellence, Dr. Phipps continues to impact lives through his music, preaching, and unwavering dedication to transforming communities.



Natalie B. McKenzie is the Founder and CEO of The Whole Woman, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of women, children, and families through health, education, and community service. A graduate of Montclair State University with a certificate in Lifestyle and Wellness Coaching from Harvard Medical School, she is recognized for her “Parties with a Purpose,” which unite community leaders and philanthropists to support meaningful social causes. Natalie has been honored by the State of New Jersey and numerous civic organizations for her leadership and service.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Bible Principles. Economic Power.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:00 PM | The MEGA - Meet, Eat, Greet, Assemble

Shaun Ford, Host

7:00 PM | Opening Session

8:30 PM | Networking Reception

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 AM | Financial Literacy Workshop

Dr. Deforest Soaries

1:00 PM | Bible Economics Session

Dr. Obie McKenzie

7:00 PM | JW Chorale Concert

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Marshall Mitchell, Host Pastor

Dr. Obie McKenzie & Natalie McKenzie

Rev. Wintley Phipps

Tonya Baker

Salem Baptist Church of Abington | 2741 Woodland Ave, Abington, PA 19001

www.thebestconference.com

CONFERENCE COST

Bible Principles. Economic Power.

BEST VALUE

FULL CONFERENCE PASS

\$ 50

discount

★
ALL ACCESS TO EACH EVENT

INDIVIDUAL ACCESS OPTIONS



FRIDAY MEGA ACCESS

All Friday events

\$20



SATURDAY SESSIONS AT THE DOOR

All Saturday workshops & sessions

\$25



SATURDAY CONCERT JW CHORALE CONCERT

\$35



SUNDAY SERVICE WORSHIP SERVICE

OFFERING
FOR CHURCH

INVEST IN KNOWLEDGE. IMPACT GENERATIONS.



REGISTER TODAY

Seats are limited. Secure your spot.

