



# NJ Deacons Newsletter

*"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, If ye have love one for another.*

John 13:35

## *The New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention*

### *Deacon Robert B. Greene — Parent Body President*

March 29, 2021

**VISION:** To serve as a model to the local church for the training of competent, enthusiastic and compassionate leaders that support God's plan and the pastor's vision for the church.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose shall be: (a) to create an opportunity for growth and fellowship among Deacons, Deaconess and Youth of the Baptist Churches of the State of New Jersey; (b) to educate members so that they can better carry out their duties as church officers; and (c) to provide financial assistance for the needy or sick members.

#### **Inside this issue:**

Message from President

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Health information

State Deacons Announce-

National Announcements

Personal Improvement



To the Delegates and Friends of this Great Convention:

Grace and Peace to everyone and I hope all of you are well and safe. During the Coronavirus national emergency, events in our churches, associations and National conventions have been canceled or postponed to a future date. We have been unable to meet in our church buildings. Many people are talking about their longing and excitement for the grand reunion that will take place once life gets back to "normal", anticipating the *joyous feeling* once the congregation gathers together again in person. While we can't just snap our fingers and get back to normal, we *can* provide as many opportunities as possible for people to come together again.

Again, **we are in no rush to go back into the church building until we all feel that it is safe to do so.** However, it is very important that a plan is developed by the church leadership and communicated to the congregation for a safe return to the "new normal".

Until then, we need to continue to use on-line communications methods for sermons, Sunday School/Bible Study, ministry meetings, etc. to augment in-person services for those that are at risk, are unable to attend, or are uncomfortable leaving home.

We look forward to our working together and should share what works, and what doesn't., in unity and in love, as one body in Christ.

Your Humble Servant:

Deacon Robert B. Greene, Parent Body President

# Message From the NJ State Deacons Newsletter Editor, Deacon Robert B. Greene

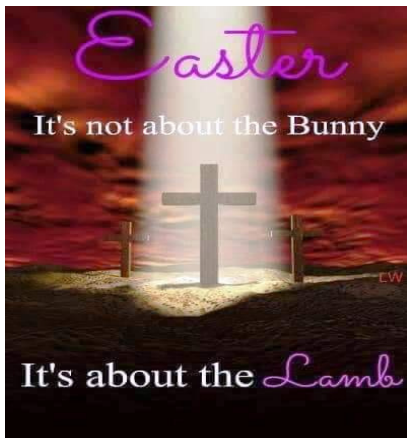
The NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention now has a quarterly Newsletter to keep it's members and friends updated as to the events and activities of the convention. Activities and initiatives of the Parent Body, Women's Auxiliary and Youth/Young Adults will be documented in the newsletter. We also intend to provide words of encouragement, Black History information and articles to educate members so that they can better carry out their duties as servant leaders .

The next Quarterly newsletter will be available on Tuesday, June 29, 2021. Please take time to read and comment on this newsletter and recommend ways to make it better.

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Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021



Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

# Words to Live By

The Lord calls and equips us individually. It's okay if no one else understands your calling. It wasn't a conference call.

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The only time you need to look down on someone is when you are turning to help them up.

\*\*\*\*\*

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything that they have.

\*\*\*\*\*

I Believe..That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

\*\*\*\*\*





Greetings fellow Sisters in Christ:

It is my pleasure to serve as the Women's Auxiliary President of the New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention. If you are a Deaconess and are looking to further refine your knowledge, strength and growth in sisterhood, and be united with likeminded prayer servants, then this is the place for you.

As we continue to navigate through this pandemic, with a sense of hope and seeing a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines that are being distributed. I pray that there is a Word, a song, a message that is said or sung that you will take away from this convention and share it with others. This is our time to come together to fellowship, worship, study the Word as well as being ministered to through the Word, and to take care of kingdom building business that will glorify God.

Our 2021-2022 theme continues from last year "Set Your House In Order" Proverbs 23:3-4 and Matthew 6:33. God has afforded us through a time such as this to not only get our physical homes in order but to get His house in order and our spiritual home. So, we welcome you to participate in our upcoming annual convention, join us as we seek His face to do His will.

Thank you for sharing your time with us. We are excited to have this newsletter outlet to showcase what our convention is about.

Let's not come out of this pandemic the same way we went in it. Set your house in Order and let God fill it with rare and beautiful treasures.

Grace and Peace:

Deacon Sharon J. Hunt, President of Women's Auxiliary

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Inaugural Poet Amanda Gorman captivated the world when she read her poem “The Hill We Climb” at President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris’ Jan.20, 2021 Inauguration. Miss Gorman, from Los Angeles, CA, was named the first National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017. In the above portrait by Awol Erizi for Time Magazine, she is portrayed with a bird cage with an ‘indirect nod’ to poet Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”.



He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn  
of praise to our God. Many will see and  
fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

Psalm 40:3



Everybody ought to Praise Him –The Robin Song– by the MIGHTY  
CLOUDS of JOY (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4QrjjGNZB0>)  
If a Robin can say thank you, you can do it too.

I THANK GOD FOR  
PROTECTING ME FROM  
WHAT I THOUGHT I  
WANTED & BLESSING ME  
WITH WHAT I DIDN'T  
KNOW I NEEDED.

# COVID-19 Vaccine: What To Expect

Written By Because Market

Many people around the country have been offered the COVID-19 vaccine. Many older adults who are generally at greater risk from suffering from COVID-19 have been prioritized for vaccine distribution. This will help many feel more at ease knowing that they are protected to a degree from this dangerous virus, it may also feel scary if you are the first person you know of to receive the vaccine. Here are a few things to expect when receiving your dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the CDC guidelines.

## It Can Cause Side Effects:

A large percent of those who have received the vaccine complained about experiencing symptoms after their dose. There may be pain at the site of the injection which can be minimized by applying ice or a cool compress to the area. If the pain is significant, many people have noted that using over-the-counter medications like ibuprofen and acetaminophen helps subdue pain or soreness.

Other side effects include headache, fatigue, or other fever symptoms like hot flashes and chills. This is to be expected with this vaccine, and again these symptoms can be subdued with pain relief medication rather easily.

## Expect Discomfort For a Couple Days:

It is normal for symptoms to last up to a couple days, but please do seek medical attention if the severity and persistence of symptoms are concerning you.

## Make Sure to Get Your Follow Up Dose:

Vaccine distributors will let you know this information as well, but the efficacy of these vaccines can only be achieved if you receive both doses. If you receive the Pfizer vaccine, the second dose must be administered 21 days after your initial dose. If you receive the Moderna vaccine, the second dose must be administered 30 days after your initial dose.

## Keep Following Safety Guidelines:

Although the vaccine is highly effective in protecting patients against COVID-19, it is important to follow safety guidelines until advised not to. Wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently, and avoiding contact with those outside of your household are all recommendations we must continue to follow.

For a more detailed information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

## **COVID-19 Funeral Assistance (UP To \$7,000)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19 -related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

We are working with stakeholder groups to get their input on ways we can best provide this assistance, and to enlist their help with outreach to families and communities. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April.

Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.

### **Who is Eligible?**

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.

There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

### **How to Apply**

**In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications.** If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

**An official death certificate** that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

**Funeral expenses documents** (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.

**Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

### **How are Funds Received**

If you are eligible for funeral assistance you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.





WE NEED TO TEACH OUR **DAUGHTERS**  
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
A MAN WHO **FLATTERS** HER  
AND A MAN WHO **COMPLIMENTS** HER,  
A MAN WHO **SPENDS MONEY** ON HER  
AND A MAN WHO **INVESTS** IN HER,  
A MAN WHO VIEWS HER AS **PROPERTY**  
AND A MAN WHO VIEWS HER **PROPERLY**,  
A MAN WHO **LUSTS** AFTER HER  
AND A MAN WHO **LOVES** HER,  
A MAN WHO BELIEVES  
**HE IS GOD'S GIFT** TO WOMEN  
AND A MAN WHO REMEMBERS  
A **WOMAN WAS GOD'S GIFT** TO MAN  
AND THEN TEACH **OUR SONS**  
TO BE THAT KIND OF MAN

## **Pilgrim Baptist Church provides help for those in need**

From Nov. 15, 2020 through March 20, 2021, there has been a total of eighty eight (88) Code Blue Alert Nights in the Red Bank area.

Below is a recent report (March 17, 2021) that was done by the Pilgrim Baptist Church (PBC) for the Code Blue Response Team committee.

JBJ & PBC  
**SOUL FOUNDATION**  
WARMING CENTER  
HOPE & COMFORT  
PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

*"When The Temperature Falls Below Freezing"*

**Warming Center for Men**  
*"A Place of: Hope & Comfort in Red Bank"*

**Check-In: 5:00pm-6:00pm**

**Pilgrim Church Annex**  
**166 Shrewsbury Ave., Red Bank**  
*(limited space available due to coronavirus pandemic)*

**Services Available:**  
Caring Staff & Volunteers  
Covid Screening  
Socially Distant Sleeping Areas  
Showers & Hot Meals!

FACE MASKS REQUIRED

**Code Blue**  
Hot-line 848-260-9076

### **Good Morning PBC Code Blue Response Team, PBC Officers and Community Advisory Committee**

At the Resource Day last night, we had a total of twelve (12) guests that stayed the night (thanks to Cedric Carr and Billy Brown). There were no hotels available, so we did not want to turn anyone away. Social Distancing protocols remained in place, we just got very creative (smile). Another two guests didn't stay over. Six guests wanted/received vaccine shots (thanks to Dr. McGuinness and Mrs. Dyer from the Parker Center, as well as Teena Lomack). Six guests received haircuts (thanks to Trustee Lee Williams).

All guests had an opportunity to receive new clothing (thanks to Minister Walter Brown). The Mental Health Association was on hand to provide resources (thanks to Alex) and all guests received snack bags for the evening (thanks to Deaconess Lydia Mutungi). Dinner was provided by Soul Kitchen and their staff. It was a great night making a positive difference for the homeless guests of our community!

Pastor Terrence K. Porter, Sr. Minister  
Pilgrim Baptist Church of Red Bank, NJ

## **New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention, Celebrating 55 Years of Fellowship and Service to New Jersey Baptist Churches 1966 – 2021**

**VISION:** To serve as a model to the local church for the training of competent, enthusiastic and compassionate leaders that support God's plan and the pastors vision for the church.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Convention shall be: (a) to create an opportunity for growth and fellowship among Deacons, Deaconess and Youth of the Baptist Churches of the State of New Jersey; (b) to educate members so that they can better carry out their duties as church officers; and (c) to provide financial assistance for the needy or sick members who meet criteria established by the convention.

### **SERVICES PROVIDED:**

The State Deacons Convention offers an array of positive services that support worship, training and fellowship (e.g., Appreciation Services, Workshops and Ministry Training). We also assist area churches, when called upon, with devotions, worship leaders, speakers, training, ordination, etc.. We also support local and foreign missions and provide Book Awards for graduating High School Seniors.

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### **Five (5) Local Deacons Unions that Support the State Convention**

- Baptist Deacon's Alliance of Central New Jersey Inc. and Its Auxiliaries
- Baptist Deacon's Association of New Jersey Inc. and Its Auxiliaries
  - Deacon's Union of Trenton and Vicinity and Its Auxiliaries
  - Deacon's Union and Its Auxiliary of South Jersey
- Deacon's Union and Women's Auxiliary of Monmouth and Adjacent Counties

**Join Us** Membership in this Convention shall consist of organized Deacons' groups of the Baptist persuasion, who are in good standing in their local churches and in their area associations. Such members shall pledge their support to the Convention, and pay such fees and assessments as may be voted upon by the Convention. **Come join us for fellowship, study, training, worship and to learn ways to encourage and support your Pastor and your church.**

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A registration form is attached on Page-11, if you would like to join us at the May 22, 2021 New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention Annual Session on ZOOM. It will be hosted by the Deacons Union and Women's Auxiliary of Monmouth and Adjacent Counties. Send the completed form and all monies to: Deacon James S. Hall, 210 Maple Avenue, Neptune, NJ 07753. You can also Register on-line using the Donate Button on our web page at: <http://www.njbaptistdeacons.org> .



# New Jersey State Baptist Deacon's Convention, Inc. Women's Auxiliary And Youth Department Finance Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_

Meeting Place \_\_\_\_\_

	REGISTRATION FEES	Midsession	Annual
Deacon's Associations, Unions, Conferences, etc. _____	\$75.00		\$150.00
Deacon Boards _____	\$45.00		\$75.00
Deaconess Boards _____	\$45.00		\$75.00
Churches _____	\$45.00		\$75.00
Members _____	\$25.00		\$25.00
Youth _____	\$15.00		\$30.00
Youth Advisors _____	\$15.00		\$30.00

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FOR COVENTION EXPENSES \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

James Hall \_\_\_\_\_ George S. Sims \_\_\_\_\_

**RECEIPT: N.J. State Baptist Deacon's Convention, Inc. and Woman's Auxiliary and Youth Department**

Received From: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Coming National Baptist Deacons Convention (NBDC) Events**

- March 26, 27, 2021      **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2021 Arnetta Thomas  
Youth Day (Semi-Annual Session) on ZOOM**  
**Host State Convention:** Pennsylvania State Deacons Convention  
**Host Hotel:** Double Tree Hotel, Plymouth Meeting, PA.
- April 17, 2021              **National Baptist Deacons' Convention Region II Meeting  
(Delaware)**
- July 10—15, 2021        **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2021 Annual Session**  
**Host State Convention** South Carolina State Deacons Convention  
**Host Hotel:** DoubleTree by Hilton, 2100 Bush River Road,  
Columbia, SC 29210
- March 19, 20, 2022      **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2022 Semi-Annual Session**  
**Host State Convention:** Not Yet determined  
**Host Hotel:** Not Yet determined
- July 12 – 18, 2022      **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2022 Annual Session**  
**Host State Convention:** NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention  
**Host Hotel:** Crown Plaza Hotel  
Route 70, Cherry Hill, NJ

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## **Coming Events for New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention**

- April 24, 2021            New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention  
Workshop on ZOOM from 11am to 1:00pm
- May 15, 2021            New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention Annual  
Session  
**Host:** Deacons' Union and Women's Auxiliary of  
Monmouth and Adjacent Counties
- September 18, 2021    New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention Executive  
Board Meeting, Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton
- November 20, 2021    New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention Semi-  
Annual Session  
**Host:** Deacons' Union and Women's Auxiliary of  
Monmouth and Adjacent Counties

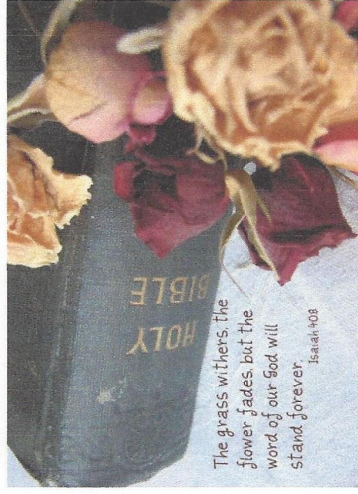


# NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention



## Guest Instructor

Deacon James Gardner, 2nd Vice President of National Baptist Deacons Convention of America



## NJ State Baptist Deacons

### Convention Officers

Deacon Robert B. Greene, Parent Body President  
Deacon Sharon Hunt, Women's Auxiliary President  
Brother Yamir Chapman, Youth President

## **Participants**

All are Welcome to participate

## **Where**

On ZOOM, Meeting ID and PassCode

provided to all registered participants

## **When**

Saturday, Apr. 24, 2021

11am to 1:00pm

*State Wide Workshop on how to respond to the current challenges in Obtaining and Retaining Membership*



## Spring comes in

Talk to your doctor about important health screenings. March is colorectal cancer awareness month. Early detection could save your life.

## Be healthier, be happier

There's a lot you can do to promote mental health and happiness in day-to-day life. Call a friend, work a puzzle, take a walk—physical activities can have mental well-being benefits.

## 5 Veggies That Are Better for You Cooked

Common wisdom says that raw veggies are more nutritious. But in some cases, cooking releases nutrients that your body can more easily absorb. Here are five you may want to heat, then eat.



### Spinach

Oxalic acid can block the absorption of calcium and iron from raw spinach. Heat breaks it down.

**USE IT:** Blanched and served under grilled fish, with salsa.



### Mushrooms

Grilling and microwaving in particular can increase antioxidant activity.

**USE THEM:** Sliced and sautéed, then added to an omelet.



### Carrots

Our bodies seem to be better able to use the beta carotene in cooked carrots than in raw ones.

**USE THEM:** Cut into rounds, steamed, and served with a bit of honey or cinnamon.



### Tomatoes

You can better absorb lycopene, which may protect against cancer and heart disease, from cooked tomatoes.

**USE THEM:** Slow-roasted in the oven at 200° F and served on a sandwich.



### Broccoli

Steaming preserves its anti-cancer compounds and makes it easier to digest.

**USE IT:** Tossed with olive oil and lemon juice, or with sesame seeds and red pepper flakes.

This article previously appeared in the January, 2021 issue of Consumer Reports On Health

*New Jersey State Baptist Deacons'  
Convention, Inc., and Its Auxiliaries and  
Youth Department*

**55th Annual "Virtual" Session**

**Saturday, May 15, 2021**

**Time: 10am to 12noon**

***Preparing Saints for Service thru  
Worship, Prayer, Fellowship,  
Training and Preaching***

**Theme: "Set Your House In Order"  
Proverbs 24:3-4 and Matthew 6:33**

**ZOOM Information**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8568185289?pwd=ZVNVc0JLTVBKVWMzUlhZdkNoZzZYUT09>**

**Host Union**

***The Deacons' Union of Monmouth & Adjacent Counties  
Deacon Bill Smalls, Parent Body President  
Deaconess Lindell Plummer, Women's Auxiliary President***

**State Officers**

***State President, Deacon Robert B. Greene  
Women's Auxiliary President, Deacon Sharon Hunt  
Youth President Brother Yamir Chapman***

***YOU'RE INVITED – BRING A FRIEND!  
We look forward to seeing some new faces!***



### **Dr. Martin Luther King – Day of Service Activity on Jan. 18, 2021**

Deacon Robert Greene had the pleasure of spending this “Day of Service” with his Mt. Calvary Baptist Church family in Mullica Hill, NJ, as well as Mullica Hill Mayor Lou Manzo and his team. The Mount Calvary Community Outreach Ministry joined with the Mayor’s I.D.E.A council to give snacks and gift cards for local area restaurants to around 30 families in need. They were very grateful and we have continued this event each month since January !



## **NJ State Local Union Officers and Activities**

### **Baptist Deacons Alliance of Central NJ, Inc. and Its' Auxiliaries**

Parent Body                      President, Eugene McArthur 908-245-7581  
 Women's Auxiliary              President, Deaconess Linda McArthur 908-245-7581  
 No Activities to Report. The local will meet starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

### **Deacons Union of Trenton & Vicinity and Its Auxiliaries**

Parent Body                      President, Deacon Johnnie Mathis 609-672-1532  
 Women's Auxiliary              President, Deaconess Gladys Evans 609-387-2364  
 No activities to report. The local meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

### **Deacons Union and Its Auxiliary of South Jersey**

Parent Body                      President, Deacon James Vidal 856-728-8396  
 Women's Auxiliary              President, Deaconess Marilyn Greene 856-863-0293  
 No Activities to Report. The local meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

### **Baptist Deacons Associations of NJ, Inc. and it's Auxiliaries**

Parent Body                      President, Deacon James L. Highsmith 908-377-0388  
 Women's Auxiliary              President, Deaconess Joyce Murphy 908-391-2601  
 No activities to report. The local meets the third Friday before 4th Sunday.

### **Deacons Union and Women's Auxiliary of Monmouth & Adjacent Counties**

Parent Body                      President, Deacon William Smalls, 732-996-3977  
 Women's Auxiliary              President, Deaconess Lindell Plummer 732-644-0901

Holding meetings after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month using ZOOM. We invite you to our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service, to be held on May 30, 2021 virtually . We will be using Zoom Video and Conference calling.

Our Deacon's Union and Women's Auxiliary has provided scholarships to graduating High School Seniors, donations to Breast Cancer Awareness and support of our Monmouth Bible Institute which has trained church leadership for nearly 50 years. We normally fund these endeavors through our Praising in Pink and Monmouth Bible Institute tuition. Due to COVID19 restrictions we are not permitted to host in-person events this year. However, our scholarship, Cancer Awareness, and Monmouth Bible Institute commitments have not wavered. We have opened an online Pop-Up Store to sell Double Good gourmet popcorn! You can help support our programs by purchasing some delicious popcorn that was named the most awesome snack they've ever tried by the Chicago Tribune!



## Article submitted to Baptists Deacons Association State of NJ by Deacon Bill Cummings\*, North Jersey District Layman

As a parent of an adult son born with sickle cell disease (SCD), I am motivated to keep up with developments in the management of this genetic condition. But also as a member of the Pharma Industry that serves the SCD community, I am even more motivated to remain current with the field. The other day, someone asked me two key questions about SCD: 1.) What are the latest treatments? and 2.) Why does it affect Black people? After explaining, a request came for me to write up the answers in an article for this august body of believers. SCD Defined First and foremost, SCD is a genetic condition. You only get it by inheritance from both of your parents. It is not contracted like an infection or the result of exposure to an injurious substance. Like many inherited conditions, often the parents do not show signs of the disease. As carriers, they have the potential to pass on their genes that in common with the other parent can result in either the disease or the carrier state, depending on probabilities that can be calculated.

So, in the case of my own son, his mother and I knew of our carrier status and we had our son tested as a newborn. We were relieved when the result was negative. 9 months later, (32 years ago) that result would end up being reversed.

The treatment back then was often in reaction to a SCD complication like painful attacks on blood vessels and end organs including the lungs, spleen, and brain.

SCD Drugs Fast forward to the current time frame and we are experiencing the fruit of successful new drugs developed for SCD patients. Specifically, the drugs include: Endari (L-glutamine) by Emmaus Corporation Torrance, CA; Adakveo (crizanlizumab) Novartis East Hanover, NJ and Oxbryta (voxelator) GBT (Global

Blood Therapeutics) South San Francisco, CA. For more information look up these products and companies at the Sickle Cell Disease Assn of America at [www.sicklecelldisease.org](http://www.sicklecelldisease.org)

In addition, and older drug hydroxyurea, was introduced as a dissolvable tablet in the US by Medunik USA for pediatric SCD patients. Medunik USA is a division of Canadian firm, Duchesnay of Quebec, CA.

Article submitted to Baptists Deacons Association State of NJ  
by Deacon Bill Cummings\*, North Jersey District Layman (Con't)

SCD Cure There is a cure for SCD, and it is a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, most Black SCD patients do not have many bone marrow donors with bone marrow compatible for donation. This is due to our limited representation in the national bone marrow data bank.

Newer research is looking into ways to edit the genes of patients with SCD to alter the disease much like a bone marrow transplant. Current trials looking into several strategies are on hold pending a review of patients who developed leukemia or pre-leukemia conditions.

SCD Inheritance Black people are descendants of peoples from areas of Africa where malaria infection is rampant. Over many years, subsets of people developed a mutation in their red blood cells (RBCs) that resists malaria parasite infections. The problem of SCD occurs when parents with this natural mutation of their RBCs conceive resulting in a 1 in 4 chance of SCD developing.

However, malaria infection affects many other parts of the world. As a result, one can find populations of SCD among people of Mediterranean descent, even parts of the Middle East and far East, for example Pakistan and Asia.

*Deacon B. Cummings is an employee of Medunik USA as a Sales Professional responsible for North East US and Director of Patient Advocacy. He provides health care professional promotion and education on a brand of pediatric hydroxyurea.*

## How to deal with Life's "Challenges"

Deacon Robert B. Greene, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Mullica Hill, NJ

**Scripture:** James 1: **2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; **3** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **4** But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing . **5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering . For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed . **12** Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried , he shall receive the crown of life, **which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

### Dictionary Definition of "Challenge:

#### *Noun*

A task or situation that tests someone's abilities. 'the ridge is a **challenge** for experienced climbers'

an objection or query as to the truth of something, often with an implicit demand for proof.  
something difficult to deal with or achieve; expression of doubt about something; invitation to compete

"a **challenge to** the legality of the order"

#### *Verb*

invite (someone) to engage in a contest.

"he challenged one of my men to a duel"

**Challenge**, as a verb, is derived from a Latin word **meaning** "to accuse falsely, dispute the truth or validity of"

"employees challenged the company's requirement"

A call to fight, as in a battle; a demand of a Guard/Sentry for identification or to Halt;

Typical ways the word is used: He/she is mentally challenged; He/she challenged me to do it, so now I have to do it (whether I want to or not);

Having to wait days for the results of this election for president puts my life on hold and is stressful; I know I can do it, but it will be a challenge.

### Message Thoughts

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps, if you are not willing to move your feet. You can depend on God, can He depend on you ?

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.

Every action you take is a seed you sow, every seed you sow is a harvest you'll reap."



## How to deal with Life's "Challenges" (Con't)

When dealing with life's "challenges", remember that God often calls us to do what no one else can do. (Because He assigned them specifically to us.) He may even push us out of our "box" or comfort zone. (We never did it that way before.) But, are we listening? You can run, but you can't hide. God can bring death, tornadoes, hurricanes, adversity, family problems, earthquakes, job losses, sickness, Elections, etc. to get our attention. Our song should be "Yes Lord, Yes Lord, to your will and to your way"; not our will and our way.

**God is waiting for you to ask for help with your "challenges".**

He wants to help, but the problem is, we don't bother to ask because we feel that "we got this" and don't need to ask for God's help. The last time you needed a car, money to pay for a bill, clothing, a house or apartment, did you ask God for it, or did you just go out and buy it? My guess is you probably didn't ask, you just went out and bought it.

Jesus says, "Ask and it will be given you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open for you." (Matthew 7:7 NLT) One of the reasons you never see miracles in your life is, you never ask. Would you like to see God work in your life more? Start asking. **Before you pay for it, pray for it.** Give God a chance to give it to you before you go out and charge it at rates of 19.9 to 29.9%.

Why does God want me to ask? So He can give. Why does He want to give? So I can receive. Why does He want me to receive? So I'll be full of joy. Why does He want me to be full of joy? It's a great advertisement for Jesus Christ. **Joyful Christians are a positive testimony.** This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me and the world can't take it away. You need to walk, to talk, and to act like you have the victory over life's challenges. If you have faith and believe it, you can achieve it.

### A few words of encouragement :

**Just when the caterpillar thought her world was over she became a butterfly.....**

"Into each life a little rain must fall, in order for flowers to bloom and grass to grow."

Don't give up. Have faith, patience and a prayer life, **knowing that God will** make a way for you to be able to successfully handle life's challenges.

### What does the Bible say about facing challenges ?

Isaiah 41:13 - For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and **says** to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

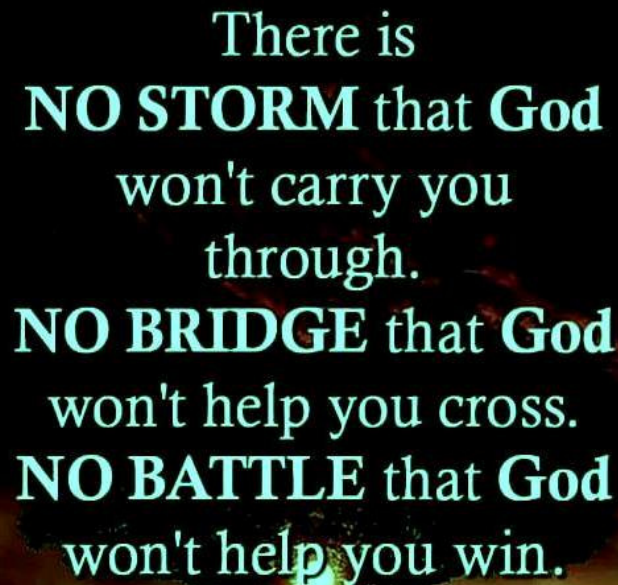
Psalms 56:3 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

1 Corinthians 15: 58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

# This hit me...


You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.





There is  
**NO STORM** that **God**  
won't carry you  
through.  
**NO BRIDGE** that **God**  
won't help you cross.  
**NO BATTLE** that **God**  
won't help you win.

*trust* **GOD**  
and Never give up.



Don't expect only  
Happiness in your life.  
There are going to be dark  
times, but remember that  
stars need darkness in  
order to shine!

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# March is Women's History Month

