



Capital Baptist Newsletter

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DCBC Churches, Pastors Take Part in History

Balls, Worship Services, Other Festivities Mark Historic Inauguration

By Leslie Copeland-Tune

Minister for Communications

As more than two million people gathered in the nation's capital for the inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African American and 44th President of the United States, pastors and members of DCBC churches were fully participating in, and in some cases organizing, the history-making events. DCBC churches hosted Inaugural Balls, worship services and other events to commemorate the historic Inauguration. Adding to the historic moment was the fact that Monday, Jan. 19 commemorated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. A Baptist preacher who led the Civil Rights Movement, King's famous words from

"It was an exciting time to be in the nation's capital and to be a part of history," said Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, DCBC Executive Director/ Minister.

his "I Have A Dream" speech that spoke of a day when America would no longer judge people by the color of their skin but by the content of their character, seemed to resonate through the streets throughout the weekend. DCBC offices were open as a welcome station during Inauguration Day for visitors to the

nation's capital. Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, a member of DCBC, welcomed the First Family to worship on the Sunday before the Inauguration. Nineteenth Street was the first church for the Obamas to visit as they search for a new church home (see interview with Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins, the pastor of Nineteenth Street in this issue). Shiloh Baptist Church held its own Inaugural Ball and a special worship service, where Congressman John Lewis from Georgia, the last living speaker from the 1963 March on Washington, was the speaker. Several DCBC pastors and members attended the National Prayer Service held the morning after the Inauguration. The Rev. E. Terri LaVelle, an associate minister at Metropolitan Baptist Church, was a member of the Inaugural Committee's Faith Outreach Team that organized the National Prayer Service. According to Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, DCBC Executive Director/Minister, "It was an exciting time to be in the nation's capital and to witness history being made. God is clearly doing something in our midst."



District of Columbia Baptist Convention

One Faith. Many Cultures. Endless Possibilities.



DCBC NEWS

Asia Trip Reveals Plight of Refugees By Leslie Copeland-Tune

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director/Minister of the DC Baptist Convention was a part of a delegation of American Baptist pastors who went on a mission trip to Asia, February 12-25. The delegation, which was organized by American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary Roy Medley, visited Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) to find out more about the status and condition of refugees from Myanmar. Myanmar has been hit particularly hard in the past two years by social unrest and natural disaster. The country has been under some form of military rule since the 1960s but a decision by the government in August 2007 to sharply increase fuel prices led to street protests. The government responded to the protests by warning Buddhist clerics, who led some of the demonstrations, that there would be consequences for protesters. In September 2007, 13 monks were killed and thousands were arrested for the demonstrations. In addition to this social upheaval, a cyclone hit the Irrawaddy Delta and Yangon (the country's main

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the following DCBC events. For more information or to register visit www.dcbaptist.org.

APRIL 10

Good Friday- DCBC Office Closed

APRIL 12

Resurrection Sunday

APRIL 13

DCBC Office Closed

APRIL 18

Vacation Bible School Training
Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church
Washington, D.C.

APRIL 28

Ministers Fellowship
John Leland Theological School
Arlington, Va.

MAY 9

Refresh Her 2009
Calvary Baptist Church
Washington, D.C.

MAY 14-15

College of Prayer-DC
“Weapons of Warfare”
Ft. Foote Baptist Church
Ft. Washington, Md.

OCTOBER 25

DCBC Sunday

OCTOBER 26-27

DCBC Annual Meeting
Ft. Foote Baptist Church
Ft. Washington, Md.

Asia Trip Reveals Plight of Refugees

Continued from Page 2

city) in May 2008 killing more than 80,000 people with about 50,000 having been injured.

Many refugees from Myanmar flee to Thailand and Malaysia where, if caught, they may be jailed, sold into human trafficking rings or sent back to Myanmar. In some cases, 40 or more people live in small dwellings equivalent to a one-bedroom apartment here in the United States. One refugee commented to the delegation, “We live among human beings, but are not treated like we’re human.”

Dating back to the early 19th century when Adoniram Judson was a missionary, there has been considerable Baptist influence in Burma. Christian monuments and other signs of Baptist influence are common. The delegation met with dignitaries and others including the Burma Ethnic Assistance Program, Alliance of Chin Refugees, Chin Human Rights Organization, International Organization for Migration, Chin Christian Fellowship, Myanmar Institute of Theology, the Karen Baptist Theological Seminary and the Myanmar Institute for Christian Theology.

Refugees and those who have been given asylum here from countries like Myanmar, face many challenges in America. Language barriers often limit their employment opportunities and children even face obstacles in getting registered for school. DCBC pastors are working diligently to help these refugees transition and get settled here in the Washington metropolitan area. There are 12 DCBC congregations with refugees from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and other Asian countries. Dr. Duh Kam, pastor of Chin Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Md., was a part of the delegation. DCBC is exploring ways to provide support for Chin and other refugees in the United States.

Q&A

President Obama Visits Nineteenth Street

By Starlette McNeill

Communications Associate

On January 18, just days before his historic swearing in as the nation's 44th president, Barack Obama visited Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. Dr. Derrick Harkins has served as the pastor of Nineteenth Street for the past 11 years. Though the visit was not publicized, parishioners of the church and well-wishers of the President-elect were lined up outside the church as early as 8:30 a.m. for the 11a.m. worship service. Recently, I had the opportunity to interview Dr. Harkins regarding the President's visit.

SM: *How do you feel about being involved in this historic event?*

DH: It is definitely a privilege to have the opportunity to gather in worship with the first family just prior to the Inauguration. Being the one service he attended before being sworn into office is a sobering and high honor.

SM: *Was it difficult to keep it a secret?*

DH: It became more difficult than we bargained for. There was so much energy and enthusiasm because of the thousands of people who were here for this event.

SM: *What are your thoughts on meeting the first family?*

DH: It was a wonderful thing to see them as a family, to meet them as husband and wife, mother and father and of course the daughters and mother-in-law. It was a particular gift to see them in this light.

SM: *Do you have any words of wisdom for churches that the President might visit in the future?*

DH: Just be prayerful. The priority always remains worship. You do the most to be supportive of the President and the first family by being a worshipping body of believers.

SM: *How would you rate or rank this experience in terms of your professional ministry?*

DH: It's always significant to engage in lifting up the Gospel and if lifting up the

Gospel can bring encouragement and inner strength to someone who has a tremendous measure of responsibility, such as the President, then it is a privilege and a blessing. I've not thought about it in terms of rating or ranking—unique—in that it can't be ranked.

SM: *What was the title of your sermon that morning?*

DH: "For Such Time A Time As This" from Esther 4.13-17. It largely centered around MLK Sunday and talked about a number of different people who God uniquely used: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Fannie Lou Hamer, Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and of course President Barack Obama.



Top: Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins (photo from Nineteenth Street Baptist Church website; Bottom: Churchgoers waiting to get into church to worship with then President-Elect Barack Obama (photo from WTOP Radio website)



Treasures from the Earthen Vessel

By Joseph M. Smith

Executive Director, D.C. Baptist Convention Foundation

Thinking Possibilities While Others Are Thinking Impossibilities

Everywhere I go these days I hear people weeping and wailing and gnashing their teeth about the economy. Jobs lost, pensions devalued, property values down, adjustable rate mortgages coming due. It is rough, no doubt about it, for many.

*“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”
(II Corinthians 4:7)*

But did you know that these times also permit some strong possibilities for those not only with some resources, but also with some imagination? Did you know that if you were to invest funds now, while the market is down, in some appropriate gift instrument, you could benefit some cause that you love in a very substantial way? The old principle of “buy low, sell high” still applies. Give a gift now through a charitable annuity, and it will very likely pay off very well for that church, that missions organization, this Foundation – whoever the beneficiary might be.

Thinking about possibilities of that sort when all others are thinking about impossibilities should be nothing new for Christians. After all, we

are the spiritual children of One who was dead, sealed in a stone-cold tomb, and gone, so they thought.

But on the third day – ah, you know the story! God is able and God will give life where it seemed death reigns. If you have some resources that you think could and should ultimately benefit Christian causes, this is a very good time indeed to plant them and watch them grow for Kingdom purposes.

May I visit with you to show you how this can work? Conferring with your attorney and/or financial planner, I am confident we can find a way for you to support the Kingdom with your legacy gift and do so in a way that will have wonderful and lasting benefits. Please give me a call at 202-234-7194 or email me at dcbaptistfoundation@juno.com, and we'll rejoice together in finding new possibilities.

Let others worry! We follow the One who taught us not to be anxious about material things.

DCBC Website Has Exciting New Feature

By Leslie Copeland-Tune

The DCBC website has a new feature that will help visitors and those looking for a church home to find a church that will meet their needs. The “Church Finder” search feature has been added to the home page with basic information about DCBC churches, missions and new church starts. Seekers can enter in criteria they are looking for and get a list of DCBC churches that meet those criteria.

Pastors and church leaders are being asked to go to the website and complete their church's profile including detailed information about worship times, ministries at the church and any other information that should be included in the church's profile. **All** information will be verified before it is added to the church's profile. Help others find you—complete your church's profile by going to www.dcbaptist.org and click on the “CHURCH FINDER” button at the top of the page.

Congregations Focus on Forgiveness

By Robert D. Cochran

Associate Executive Director

John Kohl, a member of University Baptist Church, College Park, led a seminar on forgiveness that was sponsored by the Center for Congregational Health, Evangelism and Discipleship (CHED) on Saturday, February 14, at the offices of the DC Baptist Convention. Kohl has studied the topic of forgiveness for many years and has exercised that ministry in a variety of settings. Robert Cochran, Associate Executive Director, also served as leader for a portion of the workshop. This seminar followed up a similar effort in February of 2008.

Forgiveness is an issue for CHED for at least two reasons. The first of these is the health of congregations. Every congregation experiences major challenges in its life. These episodes may involve conflicts with the church's host community, or they may be flare ups between members of the congregation. Some of the greatest challenges that occur in the lives of congregations often involve the relationship between pastoral staff and the church. Churches that cannot get past such challenges find themselves falling into poor health. For such reasons as well as others, churches need to find ways to express forgiveness corporately. While any of these challenges may affect the life of a congregation, churches in the DCBC without pastors at this time received special invitations to this Forgiveness Seminar. Only as a church finds a way to express Forgiveness to others

and among its members can it come to full wholeness, to full spiritual health.

Discipleship is also a value for CHED. Those who seek to follow Jesus ever more closely find it necessary to grow in forgiveness. Believers will encounter opportunities to learn forgiveness both within the Christian community as well as outside it. Growing as a disciple includes learning to forgive others, to receive forgiveness from others and to experience reconciliation. The Forgiveness Seminar is an expression of the focus on Discipleship which CHED currently has.

The Forgiveness Seminar focused on sharing the Biblical principles of Forgiveness, from both the Jewish and the Christian traditions. The group also viewed the film, *The Power of Forgiveness* as an opportunity to reflect on these principles in life experiences. DCBC member churches may borrow these materials through the DCBC offices to focus on forgiveness within their own congregations.



DCBC Sponsors Mobilization to End Poverty

DCBC will join other faith-based organizations as a local sponsor for Sojourners' Mobilization to End Poverty conference, April 26-29, 2009, here in the nation's capital.

The Mobilization to End Poverty is a historic gathering of thousands of Christians and other anti-poverty advocates. Together, they will call upon President Barack Obama and the new Congress to make overcoming poverty a national priority.

This year's Mobilization is particularly significant. In this time of worldwide economic crisis, Christians are witnessing the effects of financial insecurity: more people losing their jobs, savings, homes, and healthcare. Many more will join the 36 million people living below the poverty line in this country. And, around the world, billions who already live in extreme poverty will experience even more suffering. According to Sojourners, continuing the status quo of poverty is unacceptable.

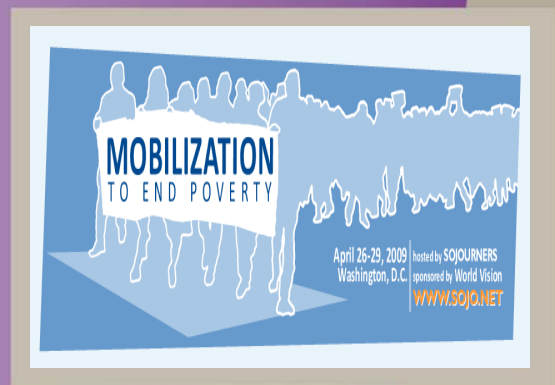
President Obama has been invited to address the conference participants. Other featured speakers include: Jim Wallis, Rich Stearns, Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Angela Glover Blackwell, Tavis Smiley, Freddie Haynes, Rep. John Lewis, John Perkins, Jeffrey Sachs, Donald Miller, Zina Jacque, Sharon Watkins, Brian McLaren and Wes Granberg Michaelson.

Registration is \$299 per person and \$169 for students. A kick off worship service will be held on Sunday, April 26 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1500 Ninth Street, NW. The Mobilization is sponsored by World Vision. Additional co-sponsors include: National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, The ONE Campaign, Oxfam America, and Wesley Theological Seminary. For more information and a complete program, or to register, visit www.sojournal.net/mobilization or call 800.714.7474.

DCBC Gets Ready for Season of Giving

The DC Baptist Convention is getting ready for an extended season of giving for the National Capital Area Mission Offering (NCAMO). Last year, DCBC congregations gave \$34,807 to NCAMO. This year, DCBC is hoping to raise at least \$100,000 to support the ongoing ministry needs of DCBC member churches in the Washington metropolitan region.

With the downturn in the economy, the numbers of people who need assistance has increased enormously. DCBC is committed to advancing the emerging work of God through stewardship, worship, evangelism, disciple-making, leader-nurture, ministry and missions. DCBC supports our churches as they provide food, shelter and clothing as well as disaster relief, prison ministry and other resources to those in need (see related article in this issue on National Baptist Memorial's food pantry and after school program). Please support the NCAMO this year. Offerings will take place in area churches from June 1-December 31. For more information on giving to the National Capital Area Mission Offering, visit www.dcbaptist.org or call 202.265.1526.



“The District of Columbia Baptist Convention is a cooperative of Baptist congregations, on mission for Christ in the National Capital Region and the world, that covenant to participate in advancing the emerging work of God through stewardship, worship, evangelism, disciple-making, leader-nurture, and ministry.”

DCBC Center News

(continued)



Rev. Dr. Duncan McIntosh teaching during the Spiritual Gifts seminar

Spiritual Gifts Seminar Held at Johenning

By Robert D. Cochran

Twenty-two DC Baptists, from six congregations, gathered at the Anna B. Johenning Community Center on Saturday, January 24, for the Spiritual Gifts seminar. The seminar was led by Dr. Duncan McIntosh, pastor of First Baptist Church, Silver Spring. Both the Center for Church and Community Ministries (CCCM) and the Center for Congregational Health, Evangelism and Discipleship (CHED) sponsored the event.

During the Spiritual Gifts Seminar, Dr. McIntosh explored with participants the various New Testament Greek words representing spiritual gifts, depicting the source and character of these gifts. The English word, "gift," does not sufficiently depict these different words with their own nuances. McIntosh also explored the relationship of ministerial gifts and the gift of love.

Participants received published materials to assist them in discovering their spiritual gifts and to place those gifts in ministry as servants. DC Baptists, both individuals and churches may access the study materials through contacting staff of either CHED or CCCM at the DC Baptist Convention offices.

Spiritual Gifts is one of the assignments of CHED, which relate to the development of disciples. Those who long to follow Jesus more closely find it necessary to discover their spiritual gifts and to put these in service of God's Kingdom. The process of discovering and utilizing spiritual gifts, with its accompanying challenges and victories is part of the process of growth as Christian disciples. Those who want to grow as disciples need to discover and utilize their spiritual gifts.

CCCM also sponsored the Spiritual Gifts seminar. One of the purposes of CCCM is to help churches and their members to develop their interests and skills in ministries. The Johenning Center intends to become a place that not only ministers to the residents of Ward 8 in southeast Washington where it is located, but also a place where DC Baptists can hone their skills in Christian ministry. The objective is for Johenning to serve as a catalyst for ministry and a place for training laity in ministries, returning them to replicate such ministries in their churches throughout the metropolitan area. The Johenning Center will continue to hosts similar seminars and classes as CCCM works to fully develop the ministry there.

Lessons Emerge from Ravensworth Study

The Center for Congregational Health, Evangelism and Discipleship (CHED) provided the Outreach Committee of Ravensworth Baptist Church with a community study, which was conducted over the past three months. DCBC churches have the opportunity to approach CHED to provide such demographic studies. The Ravensworth study included some participation from the Baptist General Association of Virginia of which Ravensworth Baptist is also a member.

One of the major discoveries in the Ravensworth study impacts most churches in the DCBC. Statistics pointed out the high mobility in the community around the church. More than 50 percent of the population had moved into a new residence from 1995 to 2000. While such mobility is expected in the District, the fact that suburban families moved with such frequency surprised church members.

Mobility suggests that churches can grow by adding new members. Those who have moved recently typically are open to new relationships with both individuals and institutions, like congregations. Because of this mobility of community residents, DCBC churches should expect good results to well-developed efforts in outreach. High mobility also presents distinct challenges to

congregational life. Churches who have long histories sometimes struggle to develop ways to open their congregational lives and circles of relationship to newcomers. High mobility like that found in our area dictates the need for strong outreach processes in a church. A second concern arising from community mobility is the challenge to develop a leadership core in a church of long-term members who also find ways to engage newcomers and to utilize them in the life of the church. Mobility, though, does give DC Baptist churches opportunities to prepare leadership for other churches distant from their own communities, those to which short-term members move. High mobility also provides churches the challenge of grief as they bid farewell to those who move away. High mobility presents challenges to churches in outreach efforts, congregational dynamics and pastoral care. The mobility also gives DC Baptist churches opportunities to add to the beauty of God's dispersed church, both reaching out to newcomers and sending them on to serve elsewhere at a later time.

Promoting 'Church Health'

Each year millions of people make New Year's resolutions to improve their health, oftentimes by losing weight. For some, these resolutions don't last very long but for the church being healthy is crucial for the health and well-being of its members as well as to those who she serves.

What do people mean when they use the term "Church Health?" Some people think of the people within the church, those within the fellowship. They define "Church Health" as the health of the individuals who are members of the church. In many churches, there are ministries of nurses, physicians or technicians who work to improve the health of individuals who attend the church. While this is a valuable ministry, it is not how the DC Baptist Convention defines, "Church Health."

The term "Church Health" seeks to describe the health of the overall group known as a church. Even groups that are not yet fully developed as Christian churches, missions, for example, focus concerns for "Church Health" within the

Center for Congregational Health, Evangelism and Discipleship (CHED). Congregations are by definition groups of people who are going together to some destination. These congregations may be headed toward becoming an existing church, but many have not yet developed fully their expression of life as a church. CHED is concerned for the health of young congregations, for mature churches

"Church Health refers to how well the body of Christ functions fulfilling God's mission and purpose."

and even for churches in their declining years.

"Church Health" has been defined in different ways. Some feel that Church Health can be defined through the functions of a traditional, Christian congregation. One has defined it in the following manner, "Church Health refers to how well the body of Christ functions fulfilling God's mission and purpose." Others have suggested that Congregational Health comes whenever a church, through functions like evangelism and discipleship, expresses the Good News and prepares people to follow Jesus. Many consider Church Health to be functional. In other words, the church is healthy whenever the church functions in worship, discipleship, ministry and outreach. These see Church Health in functional ways.

The definition of Church Health, like the health of humans, cannot be recognized always by traditional characteristics. Expectations of health for an infant may be very different from the health of a senior, but they can both be healthy. Stages of life and circumstances as well as giftedness allow the health of each church to manifest itself differently. One of the signs of Church Health will be balance both between various functions of life and among the spiritual values found in God. DC Baptists are discovering that good Church Health emerges when animated by the Spirit of God a congregation expresses its life together in authentic relationships and relevant forms. Join with CHED and its team of leaders as they probe and discover the elements of "Church Health." To find out more about church health, contact Robert Cochran at 202.265.1526.

DCBC Church News



Rev. Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Senior Servant at Metropolitan Baptist Church, processes into the sanctuary during the last service at 1225 R Street, NW

Metropolitan Moves Temporarily

By Starlette McNeill

After more than 100 years at 1225 R Street, NW, Metropolitan Baptist Church has moved to a temporary location. Services are being held at the Virginia and Ernest Amos Campus of the Dorothy I. Height Community Academy Public Charter School, which is located at 1400 First Street, NW, while their new sanctuary in Largo, Md. is being completed. Metropolitan held its last services on R Street on Sunday, January 25 to overflow crowds. The first service at the new location on February 1 was also full. Worship service times at the new location are slightly different with 7:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. start times. Sunday school is at 8:45 a.m. and a continental breakfast is served between services.

Metropolitan Baptist was a staple in the Shaw community since before the turn of the twentieth century when the area was called, "Hell's Bottom." Many changes have taken place in the

neighborhood and the church since that time with the congregation growing to 6,500 members with close to 40 ministries. Having outgrown the old facility, Metropolitan embarked on building a new sanctuary in 2000. Transition has had its ups and downs. In a letter posted on the website, Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Senior Servant at Metropolitan, said:

"While some may have noticed a few unavoidable challenges, we praised God and gave Him the glory on Sunday, February 1, 2009! We were almost at capacity at both services, and for a congregation that expected our next move to be to Largo, you helped to thank God for providing a brand new home on our way there!...Our journey will continue to Largo, and it is still filled with challenges, but if you will work with me, with each other, and with our Servants, we will get to where God wants us to be in God's own time."



Kingdom Building in Partnership!

By Kasey Jones

Pastor, National Baptist Memorial Church

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

~Matthew 25:37-40

Every second and fourth Saturday of the month, National Baptist Memorial Church opens its doors at 9:00 a.m. to a steady flow of people coming to receive food from our food pantry. Monday through Friday at 5:15 p.m., an average of 22 children from the church's after school program gather around a table to eat dinner.

National Baptist's new hunger ministry was established through a partnership with the DC Baptist Convention's Church and Community Ministries. The partnership has facilitated tremendous outcomes for God's kingdom.

The Well Food Pantry and The Well After School Program started in order for our church to become Christ's presence in the community. The name of the ministry is derived from John 4 when Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at a well. During this encounter, Jesus accepts the woman just as she is; social barriers and taboos were broken; and, the Samaritan woman received the revelation knowledge that Jesus is the Messiah. National Baptist strives to create such an encounter with the children and parents of the after school program and every recipient that comes to the food pantry each time they enter our space.

The Well Food Pantry opened its doors August 23, 2008 and we have been able to provide food for about 2,000 people. Our pantry has distributed fresh produce, meat, canned and dry goods. There have been a number of occasions when men and women have shared with tears in their eyes that if it wasn't for this food pantry, they would not have anything to eat.

Not only did the Convention's seed money assist National Baptist in providing food for the community, the food pantry and the after school ministries have created opportunities for members of our church to participate in evangelism and discipleship. Members are developing relationships with children and families so that they can be seen as an expression of Christ's love in community. There are members who have prayed with strangers for the first time and who are discussing what God is doing through the hunger ministry, in their homes and on their jobs. This in turn has inspired family, friends and co-workers to get involved. God is truly blessing!

Employment Opportunities

The Little Whitewater Baptist Church seeks new Pastor.

The Little Whitewater Baptist Church in Patton, Missouri is seeking a full-time pastor. The current pastor has retired and the Pastor's Search Committee is now accepting applications. The church provides a parsonage with salary and benefits.

Patton is located in rural southeast Missouri, about 33 miles from Cape Girardeau and 30 miles from Perryville. The church has more than 200 members and the average Sunday School attendance is 70. The church is intergenerational and has a youth group and Team Kids, Brotherhood & WMU. They recently purchased a van for group activities. Inquiries about the position should be addressed to Jim Thompson, Jdt48@earthlink.net or Scott Mayfield (call evenings) at 573.866.2124. Resumes should be sent to: Nancy Mayfield, Rt 1 Box 2110, Patton, MO 63662.

Cross Roads Baptist Church is searching for a full-time Pastor.

Cross Roads Baptist Church in Minot, ND, is looking for a man devoted to God's Word and prayer, who will join us where God is working in our community and help guide us into the future. Please send resume and any questions to Dan Carlson: E-mail – dancarlson@srt.com Phone: (701) 852-0805.

Luther Rice seeks Church Administrator.

Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church, in Silver Spring, Md., is looking for an Administrator to fill a three-quarter position of 35 hours per week on weekdays. A college degree is preferred, but not required. This multi-functioning position requires an applicant with excellent character and professional references, a mature sense of team ministry, a professional appearance and attitude, and a minimum of 5-10 years combined employment in any two or more of the following fields: office administration, professional ministry, community non-profits, and/or office or property management.

All qualified applicants are asked to mail a resume, references, and a personal cover letter to The Rev. Dr. Connie M. Stinson, Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church, 801 University Boulevard, West, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20901, or send all by email at cnstins@aol.com. See LutherRiceChurch.org for more information. Compensation for the right candidate will be a salary in the low 30's.

Volunteer Opportunities

Youth Looking for Service, Work Projects

A Baptist church in the Midwest is interested in bringing two teams of upper level high school and college students as well as adults to the D.C. area in June and July for ministry, service and work projects. The dates that they are considering would be June 15-20 and July 13-19. There will be no cost to the host church. They would like to partner with a local church in the area and minister with them during the time they are here. If your church is planning mission or service projects this summer, please consider inviting them to join in your work. Contact Rich Gibbs at 608.695.7996 or via email at cutmad@tds.net for more information.

Youth Choir Looking to Serve and Sing in the Nation's Capital

The youth choir of First Baptist Fort Smith, a large church in Arkansas, is planning to visit the nation's capital during the first week in June. They are looking for opportunities to serve and sing while they are here. There will be more than 60 youth participants. There will be no expense to the host church. The youth choir will give an hour-long musical with drama, which is self-contained except for electricity. They are willing to sing select songs or perform the entire work. They are also willing to do any type of service work from handing out literature door-to-door to painting. The choir will have hotels for everyone and are planning for food. Hospitality will be appreciated; however, First Baptist Fort Smith is paying for this trip so that the youth can do some mission work in a large city. Interested churches should contact James Runyon, the Minister of Music, at jrunyon@fsfbc.org.

DC Baptist Convention
Church Mission Giving
For the Two Months Ended February 28, 2009

Churches	DCBC - 65%: Coop - 35%			100% Designated					YTD Total Gifts
	Unified Coop	SBC Coop	ABC Unified	PNBC Designated	DCBC Designated	SBC Designated	ABC Designated	Misc.	
Agape Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 1,599	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,699
Agape Bible Christian Fellowship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Alafia Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Brazilian Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600
Brookland Union Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Clifton Park Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,143	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,143
Dayspring Community Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300
Eglise Baptiste Du Calvaire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Emmanuel Spanish Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
First Baptist Church Of Washington	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,528	\$ 1,168	\$ 2,043	\$ 1,078	\$ 9,817
First Baptist Church/Camp Springs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 315	\$ 1,277	\$ 164	\$ 4,256
First Baptist Church/Front Royal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 138	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 138
First Baptist Church/Gaithersburg	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,927	\$ -	\$ 7,569	\$ 2,569	\$ 12,065
First Baptist Church/Hyattsville	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,122	\$ 1,077	\$ 2,199
First Baptist Church/Silver Spring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 295	\$ -	\$ 2,239	\$ -	\$ 1,410	\$ 650	\$ 4,593
First Baptist Church/Upper Marlboro	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 161	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 161
First Temple Hills Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 279	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 279
Forest Heights Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 848	\$ 264	\$ -	\$ 245	\$ 1,357
Fort Foote Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,896	\$ 4,067	\$ -	\$ 258	\$ 24,221
Getsemani, Iglesia Bautista	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 338	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 338
Heritage Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 784	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 784
Hillandale Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 3,473
Israel Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 660
Kingdom Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Mt Airy Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Mt Vernon Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400
Nations United Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 845	\$ 4,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,315
New Creation Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Paramount Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 450	\$ 1,850
Ravensworth Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,164	\$ -	\$ 580	\$ 1,450	\$ 3,194
Temple Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300
Trinity Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,455	\$ 3,370	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,825
Twinbrook Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249	\$ 2,915	\$ 270	\$ 260	\$ 3,694
University Baptist Church/College Park	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,509	\$ 50	\$ 1,702	\$ 3,942	\$ 7,202
Vienna Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 1,600
Village Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750
Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church	\$ 1,199	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 633	\$ 100	\$ 2,132
Sub-total	\$ 1,199	\$ 300	\$ 533	\$ -	\$ 50,054	\$ 19,862	\$ 17,905	\$ 12,693	\$ 102,546

Missions and New Starts	DCBC - 65%: Coop - 35%			100% Designated					YTD Total Gifts
	Unified Coop	SBC Coop	ABC Unified	PNBC	DCBC Designated	SBC Designated	ABC Designated	Misc.	
Clinton Korean Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Lighthouse Christian Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200
Word and Spirit Baptist Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500
Sub-total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800

TOTAL	\$ 1,199	\$ 300	\$ 533	\$ -	\$ 50,854	\$ 19,862	\$ 17,905	\$ 12,693	\$ 103,346
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Misc Column: Gifts for NCAAM, JBCC, BWA, BJCPA, CBF, Bapt Sr Adults & National Ctr Children & Families

DC Baptist Convention
Church Mission Giving *(continued)*
For the Two Months Ended February 28, 2009

Non-Contributing Churches

Agape Life Ministries Inc.	First New Horizon Baptist Church, The	Purity Baptist Church
Antioch Baptist Church/DC	Fort Washington Baptist Church	Rehoboth Baptist Church
Avant Memorial Baptist Church	Georgetown Baptist Church	Renaissance Baptist Church
Bethel Baptist Church	Greenbelt Baptist Church	Resurrection Baptist Church
Broadneck Baptist Church	Hahnuri Baptist Church	Ritchie Baptist Church
Broadview Baptist Church	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Rivers Of Joy Bible Fellowship
Brookmont Baptist Church	Holy Comforter Baptist Church	Riverside Church
Calvary Baptist Church	Iglesia Bautista De Washington	Saint Mary's Baptist Church
Calvary Burmese Baptist Church	Johenning Temple of Praise	Saint Matthews Baptist Church
Canaan Baptist Church	Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church	Saint Paul Baptist Church
Capitol Hill Baptist Church	Metropolitan Baptist Church	Second Baptist Church of Washington NW
Carmody Hills Baptist Church	Metropolitan Outreach Ministries	Second Baptist Church SW
Central Baptist Church	Montgomery Hills Baptist Church	Shiloh Baptist Church - DC
Chevy Chase Baptist Church	Morning Star Baptist Church	Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church
Chin Baptist Mission Church	Mt Carmel Baptist Church	Spirit Of Peace Baptist Church
Christian Family Baptist Church	Mt Gilead Baptist Church	Takoma Park Baptist Church
Church in Bethesda	Mt Hebron Baptist Church	Temple Missionary Baptist Church
Commonwealth Baptist Church	Mt Jezreel Baptist Church	The People's Community Baptist Church
Covenant Baptist Church	Mt Moriah Baptist Church	Third Baptist Church
Cresthill Baptist Church	National Baptist Memorial Church	Three Strands Community Church
East Washington Heights Baptist	New Jerusalem Baptist Church	United Baptist Church
Fellowship Baptist Church	New Samaritan Baptist Church	University Baptist Church/Baltimore
First Baptist Church/Georgetown	Nineteenth Street Baptist Church	Upper Room Baptist Church
First Baptist Church/Southeast Washington	Parker Memorial Baptist Church	Washington Plaza Baptist Church
First Baptist Church/Wheaton	Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church	West Hyattsville Baptist Church
		Zion Baptist Church

Non-Contributing Missions & New Starts*

Balm in Gilead	Evangelical Missionary Church	Mision Bautista Hispana-Hyattsville
Beloved Community Church	Faith Shepherd Baptist Church	Mission Internationale Pour La Grande Moisson
Buenas Nuevas de Salvacion	Falam Baptist Church, Maryland	Nations United Alexandria Campus
Calvary Hispanic Baptist Mission	First Haitian Baptist Congregation	New Life Congregation
Christ Our Shepherd House of Worship Ministries	Glory Baptist Church (Korean)	Olive Branch Community Church, Inc.
Church of Restoration, The	Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church	Pavilion of God Baptist Community
Clifton Park Baptist Church Hispanic Mission	Greenbelt Vietnamese Baptist Church	Peniel Evangelical Church
Deaf Baptist Church of Washington	International Christian Church	Power House Baptist Church
Didem Chin Baptist Church	Korean Baptist Church of Faith	Primeira Igreja Batista Gaithersbur
Disciples of Christ Baptist Church	Lai Baptist Church	Redeemed Christian Worship Center
Eglise Baptiste de La Foi	Liberation Temple, The	Redeemed Life Christian Center
Emmanuel Eritrean Church	Lion of Judah Community Baptist Church	Salem Gospel Ministries
		Word for Life Church Ministries

**Some give through their affiliated church*

Thinking Outside of the Box

By Gloria Grant
OAM Consultant

At some period in our lives, we all need someone to advocate for us. As an infant and as young children, our parents make all of our decisions. As teenagers, we learn to make decisions under the guidance of our parents and other important adults in our lives, and often we seek the advice of our peers. As we mature and enter the adult world, we exchange ideas and seek guidance from our peers. We always need someone to help us make the best decisions, to weigh various possibilities, and find the best resources to meet our needs. In the later seasons of life, having someone to help us navigate Social Security, the Medicare/Medicaid system, and to find the best health insurance and even possible financial support to meet our needs becomes very important.

As the Older Adult Ministries (OAM) Team continues to determine ways to help our older adult population to lead a better and higher quality of life through workshops, convocations and trainings, we have recently discussed how valuable it would be to have a person in each church serve as an advocate—an ombudsperson—for the older members of their congregation.

To bring this new effort to fruition, we will be contacting the pastors of each DCBC church, asking them to identify two persons in their church to serve in this advocacy role. The OAM Team will provide training and other resources to help each advocate successfully meet the needs of the congregants. We will also be forming a support group, persons who have vast experience in working with older adults and who will be on call to assist advocates when they run into a problem or concern with which they need help.

In reading this article, if you think that you have a passion to serve as an advocate for older adults in your church, please let your pastor know so that he/she can forward your name and other contact information to Gloria Grant at DCBC.

We, the members of the OAM Team are very excited about this new endeavor and what it can mean to and for the older adult members of your church. The OAM Team of the DCBC is here to serve you, so let us hear from you.

AU Baptists Celebrate Black History

By Marinetta Hjort
AU Campus Minister



Marinetta Hjort, AU Campus Minister with Mrs. Willie Mackery King, who once worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and SCLC

On February 22, the American University Baptist group planned to go to an event organized by Rev. Lynn Bergfalk at Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church where Mrs. Willie Mackey King was the guest speaker. Mrs. King is currently a member, Deacon and Sunday School teacher at Montgomery Hills Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Md. As a young woman, she had the extraordinary experience of working for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mrs. King (no relation to Dr. King) shared her experience during the worship service and after that she remained available for a time of questions and answer in a more informal setting. That time was very helpful to get more insights on the Civil Rights Movement, especially for young people who don't know as much about that important part of American history and our Baptist spiritual heritage.





New DCBC Pastors Welcomed

DCBC is welcoming four new pastors to our fold:

Rev. Elizabeth Evans Hagan is the new pastor of Washington Plaza Baptist Church in Reston, Va. Rev. Hagan was the former youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg, Md.

Rev. Gary Long is the new pastor at First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg.

Rev. Larry Owens, Jr. has been called to be the pastor of Canaan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Soammes Williams is the new pastor of The First New Horizon Baptist Church in Clinton, Md. Most recently, he served as assistant pastor at First New Horizon under the leadership of Apostle Wilbert L. Williams, who is now Pastor Emeritus.

News Briefs

NewsBriefs goes online

DCBC's "Capital Baptist NewsBriefs," now "eNewsBriefs," will no longer be mailed. Each month an email will alert subscribers that a new edition is available from the DCBC website, www.dcbaptist.org. If you would like to continue receiving "News Briefs" in the mail, please call 202.265.1526 or send an email to communications@dcbaptist.org and we will be happy to send you a copy.

Baptist Women Get Ready to Renew

Mark Your Calendars for "Refresh Her 2009!" on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 755 8th Street, NW. Sponsored by DCBC's Baptist Women's Ministries, the conference will feature worship, Bible study, exercise, a mini spa, and fellowship. Join us for a day of spiritual, physical, and emotional renewal for women. There will also be one workshop in Spanish. A \$15 registration fee includes lunch. Make reservations at 202-265-1526 by May 4.

Scholarships Available for Seminarians

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for students entering or returning to seminary in the Fall 2009 semester. The DCBCF provides scholarship assistance up to \$1,600 per semester to seminary students who meet the Foundation's criteria. Applications will be accepted until **May 1, 2009**. All decision awards are subject to funds availability. For a copy of the complete rules governing these scholarships and for an application form, visit www.dcbaptist.org and click on the link to DCBCF in the "About DCBC" pull down menu or contact the Foundation's Executive Director, Dr. Joseph M. Smith, at 202.234.7194 or dcbaptistfoundation@juno.com.

Church Building Available Sunday Mornings

Brookmont Baptist Church has space available at its church on Sunday morning for worship services. The sanctuary holds about 250 people and there is a chapel that holds 50 people. The church is located between MacArthur Blvd and Glen Echo in Bethesda, Md. For more information, contact Peter Ainslie at 301.320.3498.

"Weapons of Warfare" Focus of May 14-16 College of Prayer Module

The next module for the College of Prayer will be held at Fort Foote Baptist Church in Ft. Washington, Md. and will focus on the "Weapons of Warfare" available to Christians. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Bernadette Glover-Williams, executive pastor of the Cathedral International in Perth Amboy, N.J. and preacher-in-residence at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. To register, receive a conference brochure or get more information, visit www.dcbaptist.org, email Patricia Bolinger at copregistrar@comcast.net or call 202.265.1526.

Vacation Bible School Training To Be Held

It's time to begin preparing for Vacation Bible School 2009! DCBC will hold training for Directors and Teachers of Vacation Bible School on Saturday, April 18 at Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church, 3920 Alton Place NW, Washington DC 20016. There will be classes for directors and teachers of children of all ages and Spanish-speaking children. The training will feature ideas for using crafts, music, missions, recreational activities and snack rotations to enhance Bible study. There will also be an overview of curriculum options. For information contact Rev. Gloria Jenkins at revglo@verizon.net or call 202-265-1526. You may also register at www.dcbaptist.org.

International Missions

Showing God's Love in India

By Connie Stinson

Pastor, Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church



From January 15 to February 1, Luther Rice Pastor Connie Stinson was in India. There she participated in the first annual Living Water Pastors' Conference. Former Baptist World Alliance executive Tony Cupit led a team with Stinson and three others to hold this event for rural pastors in the Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. Pastor Michael Catlett of Northern Virginia was also on the team. The conference marked the birth of a new organization of churches: the Living Water Baptist Churches. This landmark group is a direct result of Leena Lavanya's efforts to minister to villagers who would otherwise have no such access to a church. The event was made possible by a financial gift from Luther Rice Church. Luther Rice and Connie Stinson hold a special love for India, sister servant Leena Lavanya, and for those who have come to know of God's love as a result of Leena's love for them. The following is an article about this amazing woman and the impact she has had on many.

Leena Lavanya is 42 years old. Her great grandfather (on her father's side) was a Hindu priest. He was converted to Christianity by American Baptist missionaries. His son, Leena's grandfather, became an outstanding Christian leader and raised Leena. She learned from him what it meant to have a "heart for the poor."

Leena's great grandmother (on her mother's side) ran away with her infant to escape being burned alive with her dead husband, a Hindu custom. The woman found safety and loving protection in the home of another American Baptist missionary. That woman's four grandchildren, including Leena's mother, were all raised to become dynamic Christian teachers and ministers. Leena learned from them the importance of Christian education and vocational ministry.

With a family background like that, one could rightly say that Leena Lavanya comes from "good

spiritual stock," but it is by personal choice and conviction that Leena carries the light of Christ as she serves the poorest of the poor in India. Her pure heart and quick mind may have something to do with good genes inherited, for her efforts are supported and encouraged by the uncompromising strength of a loving family. But because of her unique devotion and perseverance displayed in the last 15 years, Leena has also made an impact on the government officials of both her town and state, well-surpassing anyone's expectations.

Western visitors and others from affluent countries are always struck by the immense poverty in rural India. However, my five on-site visits over a 12-year period have left me profoundly struck by the improved quality of life for the thousands she has influenced. Yes, the poverty is overwhelming, but those in Leena's circles clearly have brighter futures because of the love she carries in her heart. Repeatedly social barriers are broken down because of Leena. Even the local government has now radically improved prison conditions, housing, and education in her area, all because she has inspired officials to hope for a better life for people they previously ignored. It all started with one beggar in the dirt that touched her heart...

Each time I return to my own place of ministry after a visit with Leena in her home place, my own spirit is renewed with the realization that God's love can make a big difference—one person at a time. When I think of her, I smile. This smile on Leena's face captures a bit of the light I am carrying in my own heart, and today it's a little brighter and a little more hopeful, all because I've been reminded that it really does shine in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.



National Ministries Sponsors Effort to Help Rebuild Gulf Coast

National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA and the National Council of Churches' Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast are sponsoring the third Ecumenical Work Week, August 2-8. Volunteers can choose to travel to New Orleans or Gulfport, Mississippi to help victims of Hurricane Katrina rebuild their homes, churches and communities. Youth groups are especially encouraged to participate.

Three years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, residents continue their efforts to rebuild. But they still need support. This week of worship, witnessing and working together will not help those still experiencing the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina but will highlight the need for continued work and ministry in this impacted region.

Volunteers are responsible for transportation and housing costs, starting at \$20/night. There is also a \$25 registration fee. For more information contact Victoria Goff at vgoff@abc-usa.org or 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2449.



*Members of Covenant Baptist Church
participate in Ecumenical Work Week in 2007*



Freshours Named 'New Life' Award Recipients By Robert D. Cochran

Rev. David Laubauch of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches, USA has announced that two ministers within the DC Baptist Convention will receive the "New Life Award" at the Biennial meeting in 2009. Revs. Maureen and David Freshour, have served Chevy Chase Baptist Church since 1997. The "New Life Award" is given, along with similar recognitions, at the Biennial Meeting, to recognize those who have brought new life to either a church or a ministry. The "New Life Award" is itself "new," having been given only since 2006.

Across the nation all denominations face the challenge of helping churches experience renewed life. Many of these congregations stand in communities that have changed demographically. Some of these are rural churches, while many urban churches also struggle with the dynamics of slow decline. National Ministries seeks to raise the consciousness of both churches and ministries experiencing these challenges and celebrate the successes of those working through such trials.

The Freshours have served two churches that have struggled to capture new life. Before serving in Washington, DC, the Freshours ministered at the North Parkersburg Baptist Church in Parkersburg, WV, where David acquired skills and techniques he would later use in Chevy Chase. In 1997, the Chevy Chase Baptist Church and its leadership extended a call to David to become the pastor of the "restart" effort at the church. Upon moving to DC with David, Maureen began her ministry as worship leader, ultimately receiving ordination at Chevy Chase. The couple has reached out to internationals in Washington and led the church to allow up to seven congregations to worship in the church facilities. Further, David along with staff of the DCBC have shared insights and lessons with other Baptists in the metropolitan area and other parts of Virginia who are interested in bringing new life to their churches.

ABCUSA Involved in Push for Tobacco Legislation

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, national coordinator of Public and Social Advocacy for National Ministries, was heavily involved in helping to introduce legislation to Congress on March 3 that would place regulation of tobacco products under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Tobacco products are the number one cause of preventable death and disease in the United States, killing more than 400,000 people and costing the U.S. over \$96 billion in health care bills each year. Tobacco products contribute to cancer, heart disease, chronic pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, pneumonia, and asthma, and harms virtually every one of the human body's organs. Yet, incredibly, tobacco products are exempt from the basic regulations that are administered to other products like food, medication, and cosmetics. Tobacco companies take advantage of this lack of regulation to deceive consumers about the harm their products cause and to market their addictive products to children. Until the FDA is given authority over their products, the tobacco companies will continue harmful practices that draw children into addiction and make it difficult for smokers to quit.

This legislation, if passed by Congress, would empower the FDA to effectively regulate the manufacturing, marketing and sale of tobacco products. It would restrict tobacco advertising and promotions, especially to children, stop illegal sales of tobacco products to children, and require more prominent health warnings in advertising and on tobacco packages. It would also allow the FDA to require changes in tobacco products, such as the removal or reduction of harmful ingredients or the reduction of nicotine levels.

In conjunction with the introduction of the legislation, numerous locations around the U.S.

will hold media events where local faith leaders will urge Congress to pass this legislation that will save the lives of countless Americans.

American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary A. Roy Medley says, "God calls us to healthy stewardship of all that has been entrusted to us. This legislation will save countless lives, prevent debilitating disease, and protect children who are easily made victims of tobacco products. I call on all American Baptists to support this legislation as an act of stewardship."

Naming of Sudan envoy greeted by Land, Graham

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Obama's appointment of a special envoy for Sudan drew commendation from evangelical Christian advocates for peace in the strife-torn east African country.

Obama named retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Scott Gration to serve as the U.S. representative in the effort to gain peace in Darfur, the country's western region that is engulfed in a government-backed, genocidal campaign, and to produce complete implementation of a treaty between Khartoum and the people of southern Sudan.

"I applaud the president for appointing a special envoy to focus on this critical crisis," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "I think it is critically important that we give our government's full and immediate attention to doing everything we can to avoid a human catastrophe of horrendous proportions in Sudan."

Franklin Graham, president of the evangelical relief organization Samaritan's Purse, applauded Obama's decision.

"This is a critical time in Sudan and it is important for the

United States to do as much as possible to help the millions of people whose lives hang in the balance because of the ongoing crises there," Graham said in a written statement. "My prayers go out to both the president and General Gration that God would grant them wisdom as they navigate the complexities of Africa's largest nation."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), a bipartisan panel on which Land serves, also commended the naming of an envoy. In February, USCIRF reiterated its call for a special envoy for Sudan in making a series of policy recommendations for peace in that country.

The crisis in Darfur deepened March 4, when Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir ordered at least 10 humanitarian aid organizations out of the country. Bashir's action came after the International Criminal Court in The Hague, The Netherlands, issued an arrest warrant for him on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"Sudan is a priority for this administration, particularly at a time when it cries out for peace and for justice," Obama said in a written statement announcing Gration's appointment. "The worsening humanitarian crisis there makes our task all the more urgent."

"General Gration's personal and professional background, and his service to the country as both a military leader and humanitarian, give him the insights and experience necessary for this assignment. He knows the region, has broad experience and has my complete confidence."

Gration grew up in the Congo, where his parents were missionaries.



Rev. Dr. Duncan McIntosh

Pastor, First Baptist Church Silver Spring, Maryland

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

What is your passion?

My passion is to revitalize churches that are dispirited and in distress. My view of the church is that the church is the body of Christ on Earth. I certainly don't want to see the body of Christ lying limp and lifeless. All churches go through a life cycle—it's a matter of how we help them discover where they are in their life cycle and how they can break out. I have had that passion for years, and it comes out in service as both pastor and teacher.

How do you then take that passion and translate it to the church you're working with now?

First, I have to get in touch with my own spiritual life. I must be alive in my spirit. Then, I have to interact with my context. I have to become a part of that congregation, to live and to study the situation. I have to know my congregation, discovering parts of its life that the congregation has overlooked. In some cases, I find you have to identify some set of dysfunction in order to open the congregation for God's healing. I can model for them a vision, but it is best to help them to catch their own vision. This is the excitement of leadership—preaching, guiding, modeling. At the same time I lead in these ways, I have to be careful I do not get in the way once things begin to change. I am freeing people to be themselves, and piecing them together. You have to work at this every day, taking steps forward as well as some backwards. It is like a dance, a little

waltz. Leadership, in this way, is never straightforward. You are constantly zigzagging back and forth, rounding up some who are off to the side, moving the whole group forward toward a larger goal. I have to help congregational members to sense and embrace the developing work of God.

What would you say is the group of people you have a heart for?

Primarily, I have a heart for the church. In the particular church I have been serving, it has been the 90 year olds. Ministry to this group is strategic, for they will give permission to the younger generations of members to follow my leadership. I am pastor to all the people, but these advanced in age need my care—through visits and prayers. They are convincing their younger family and friends, who are in their 70s now, to follow my leadership. Ultimately, we have to fill the nursery through young families. We do see now a whole new group of people coming in; catching the excitement of what is ongoing.

A second major emphasis is one on diversity. First Baptist, Silver Spring is no long mono-cultural. Once it was the big church on the corner with 1,500 members, but when I came, it was down to 60 members. Four congregations were meeting in the building: one the remnants of the original group; one Hispanic; one Caribbean; and one, diplomats and bureaucrats. They all loved one another, but they had no unity. They ministered to one another, but it was not one integrated congregation. Rather, it was four separate groups. I began helping to create a single identity, one recognizing the first generation of immigrants and their countries of origin. We have 53 nationalities represented at FBC, Silver Spring today.

My Passion Is...
Rev. McIntosh
(continued)

Another significant effort was to change the diversity of the staff. It was amazing to see how God opened the door for this first change! The church had already changed from a suburban to an urban congregation, but it had not recognized this. The lack of diversity on the staff said that everyone was a generalist. Suburban churches need ministers who are generalists (ministers of everything), but urban churches need specialists. God brought the church to see staff in a new way. Now we have a staff of five persons, all specialists, none of them full-time. Three staff members preach in rotation. If the church went back to me preaching every Sunday, I think they would fire me. They have begun to realize that we are developing something unique. Now, First Baptist, Silver Spring is beginning to live something that they never have lived before, and they are excited about it.

“The church is the body of Christ on Earth. All churches will go through a life cycle—it’s a matter of how we help them discover where they are in the life cycle and how they can break out.”

**Clergy Renewal
Grants Available**

The Lilly Endowment has announced the 2009 National Clergy Renewal Program for pastors. The endowment provides an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the obligations of daily parish life and engage in a period of renewal and reflection. This year the endowment anticipates awarding as many as 120 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to Christian congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for congregational expenses associated with the renewal program. Activities funded by a grant in the clergy renewal program may begin no sooner than January 1, 2010, and must be completed by December 31, 2011. The pastor and congregation work together to design the renewal program. The congregation will then submit the proposal to the endowment. Those interested in applying for these grants can obtain more information at www.clergyrenewal.org. The application deadline is May 14, 2009.

The 2009 Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, June 21-22, and will seek to call Southern Baptist back to a resurgence of commitment to the Great Commission. The theme of this year’s conference comes from Philippians 2:2 and asks the question, “What If?” What if Southern Baptists had one mind, one love, one spirit and one purpose? Join us for this important time of fellowship and renewal. For more information or to register, go to www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

COLLEGE OF PRAYER DC
Presents

Weapons of Warfare

May 14 -16, 2009

Fort Foote Baptist Church
8310 Fort Foote Road,
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Featured Speaker:



Rev. Dr. Bernadette Glover-Williams

Executive Pastor of Cathedral International in Perth Amboy, N. J. She also serves as Preacher in Residence at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, N. J.

Required reading:

I Give You Authority by Charles H. Kraft

The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

The Screentape Letters by C.S. Lewis

The registration fee is \$120. For more information contact Pat Bolinger at coperegistrar@comcast.net or call 202.265.1526. To register visit www.dcbaptist.org.

My Passion Is...



Rev. James Tiefel

**Pastor, First Baptist Church
Camp Springs, Maryland**

Favorite Scripture: Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

What is your passion?

Relationships—that’s where the gospel started and I think that’s the only way it’s going to go on now. I served as a missionary for about 18 years in Europe and I saw a lot of churches that had been built up by state churches and the accusation by most of the unbelieving population that they were empty was very accurate. Now for those people to come to know the truth and the hope and the love and the joy that I have, somebody’s going to have to love them into it. They’re not going to be able to preach it. Those people aren’t going to come into the church; believers are going to have to go out and rub shoulders with them, commit their lives to them and make an investment in personal relationships with them.

How have you taken that and translated that into your current ministry within your church?

I think it translates very well. My wife and I have tried to make a goal for a long, long time to have more friends outside the church than we do inside the church. It doesn’t always work out. This society is a little bit different than Finland where we lived for 10 years. It was a little bit easier to have contact outside the church because we didn’t have so many demands from the church and I wasn’t the pastor so that freed me up a little bit. But we’ve also tried to teach our people the same thing and to model that for them and help them understand that it’s okay to bring someone who is not a believer into our church. It’s okay to be in their home. It’s okay

to fellowship with them. It’s okay to socialize with people even if there are some things that they’re not necessarily comfortable with, as long as it’s not getting them into trouble. That’s the way those people are going to see the Christ that is supposed to be living in and through us.

We also try to model this in our deacon ministry. You don’t have to be a church member to be assigned a deacon. Somebody who has visited with us for a while, we ask for permission and if they’ll let us, we’ll put their name in our directory and we’ll assign a deacon to them so that we can stay in contact with them and meet needs when they come up. Not everybody agrees to that but you’d be surprised with how many do. I think they’re looking for that kind of contact. One good thing about it is that it doesn’t cost the church anything. There are a lot of things a church can do without it costing a lot of money but it takes some real education of people and I guess if there was a second passion that would have to be it—teaching. I think a lot of Christians don’t really know what they believe and that gets us all into trouble.

If there was a certain group of people that the Lord has laid on your heart, which group would that be?

Any person that steps into my realm of influence. That idea really hit me from a book that I read authored by a former Seminary professor, Dr. Oscar Thompson, The book is called “Concentric Circles of Concern” and he outlined seven circles in which I have a major influence with people; my immediate family, my extended family, friends, neighbors, work

associates and finally the person that I might meet once in my life. But for the moments that I am with them whether it's five minutes on a plane or someplace else, I'm supposed to have an impact on them—I'm supposed to be, maybe for some of them, the only representation of Jesus Christ that they get. So, I'd have to say that that would be my group of people and some of those people would be in the same groups that my church members are so we get a double, triple, quadruple whammy with some of them. They get hit from three or four sides and that's the idea.

Why the Mickey Mouse tie?

First of all, I think it goes well with the suit. My wife has taught me to have a great eye for fashion. The second reason is that my daughters bought me this tie and they have kept me supplied in neat little ties over the years. I take it as a personal message to myself, no matter how big or

important or how photogenic I think I am, when it comes right down to it I'm just another guy with a squeaky voice and big ears and that kind of keeps me humble. It reminds me not to believe my own press—not all the bad or all the good—kind of look for the middle of the road.

What are the unique challenges that you face ministering in the DC metropolitan area?

I think the pace of the lifestyle here doesn't allow a lot of time for people to really slow down and think about major issues in their lives. I think they're wrapped up in their economic struggles, they're wrapped up in their career, and they're wrapped up in getting through traffic. It's never surprised me that that 11 a.m. Sunday morning people have difficulty staying awake because it's the first time in the week they've sat down and are quiet and they're not being entertained by

television. I think the second thing is that our world has become quite cynical. It doesn't have to be that way but I don't think there are a lot of people that are living and experiencing true hope. To communicate that in a way that is not just some catch phrase or some little personalized idiosyncrasy or some little words that I filled out just to make people feel good—to really demonstrate and communicate that to a world that doesn't want to believe me is a challenge. Too many people have lied to them, and they're not willing to listen to anybody and everybody and they shouldn't. But that brings me back to relationships—you have to build that, you have to earn the right to be heard.

"It's okay to bring someone who's not a believer into our church—that's the way those people are going to see the Christ that's supposed to be living in and through us."

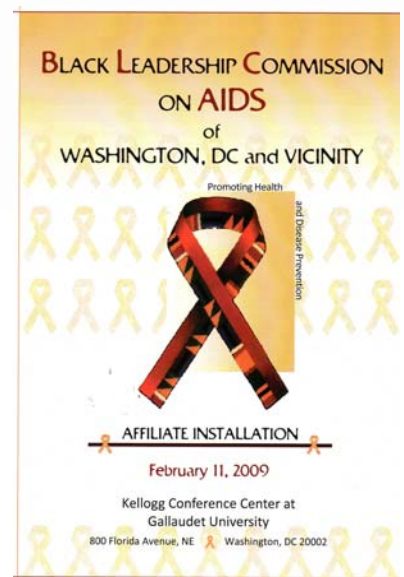
Organization fighting HIV/AIDS Starts DC Affiliate

By Starlette* McNeill

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which was created by the Center for Disease Control, marked its ninth anniversary on February 7. On February 11, clergy, lay leaders, elected officials, and medical professionals gathered at Gallaudet University for the installation of the DC affiliate of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA). The organization, whose mission is to "inform, coordinate, and organize the volunteer efforts of Black leadership... to meet the challenges of HIV/AIDS in their local communities," was founded in November of 1987. The organization's current president and CEO, C. Virginia Fields, was present and had this to say: "We are here because people are dying here." She also encouraged persons in the community to "get educated, get tested, get treated, and get involved."

The District of Columbia is number one in the U.S. and twenty-second in the world with regard to the prevalence

and instances of new cases of HIV/AIDS. In addition to a plethora of speakers from various fields and vocations that spoke throughout the gathering, DCBC pastors were in attendance: Dr. Christine Wiley, co-pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Dr. Ernest Trice, pastor of Takoma Park Baptist Church, Rev. Eldridge Spearman, pastor of Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church, and Dr. Derrick Harkins, pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. After lunch and the keynote message which was delivered by Dr. Calvin Butts III, pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS in DC and the Vicinity was installed as an affiliate of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA).



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Telephone: 202.265.1526 or Email: communications@dcbaptist.org

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