



Talk It Out!

**Young People's Department of the
Woman's Auxiliary to the National
Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.**

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National Baptist
Convention, U.S.A. Inc.
Officers

Dr. Julius R. Scruggs
Convention President

Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood
Women's Auxiliary
President

Dr. Marian J. Hockenull
National YPD Director

Southeast Region
Sis. Karen McKinney
Holley

Southwest Region
Sis. Mary Hopkins

Western Region
Sis. Rhonda Mitchell

Midwest Region
Sis. Wanda Hines

Northeast Region
Sis. Lisa Malone

Annual Prayer Breakfast

Theme: Prayer: "Be Still and Know"

Psalm 46:10



As in the past, the gathering of the YPD at the 133rd Annual Session of the NBC USA, Inc. began with the Annual Prayer Breakfast. From start to finish, it was spiritually uplifting and started the entire session on a high note. YPD Musician Alice Boyd set the tone by playing beautiful hymns of our faith as we entered.\.

Deandre Pendergrass, a young member of First BC-West, read the scripture, which was followed by prayer invoked by Bro. Chandler Sanders of Silver Mount BC. We were warmly welcomed by Sis. Shandoria Burett of Pleasant Hill BC, after which we enjoyed a delicious breakfast meal.

The hallmark of the Prayer Breakfast, lifting our leaders and youth in prayer, was moving. State Director of Kansas, Midwest Region, Theresa Byrd lifted prayer for President Scruggs and his family. Invoking a covering for our Woman's Auxiliary President Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood, was Rev. Brown of Oklahoma, Western Region. Director of the Congress Youth Rally, Sis. Stacy Benn offered prayer for Dr. Marian Hockenull. For our focus—our youth—Dr. Mary Rice-Crenshaw, South Carolina YPD Director, Southeast Region prayed for youth seeking God's direction, and Rev. Lee N. Jones of Texas, Southwest Region, prayed that the Lord would guide our children out of the grips of depression, a growing problem among our youth. Sis. Dorothy Burns offered the final prayer for President Obama and his family.

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OUR EMBLEM



Our Emblem is a heart with the cross superimposed on the world in the center and enclosed by a circle.

The circle represents faith.

The heart inside the circle represents our undying love.
The world inside the heart is the scope of our Christian mission;
we are to go into the whole world.

The cross inside the heart represents divine grace and
eternal hope..

YPD – Young People's Department

“The Young People's Department in Action” Sunshine Band, Red Circle, YWAs, Matrons, Directors

*Workshop presented by
Regional Youth Directors*

National Young People’s Department Director, Dr. Marian J. Hockenull, officially opened the Eighty-eighth Annual Session of the Young People’s Department following the Annual Prayer Breakfast. The Worship Committee, Sisters Stacy Benn, Theresa Byrd, and Debra L. Johnson, led the gathered Young People’s Directors and other youth workers in “Lord, I Love You (More Than Anything).” In her continuing presentation of creative methods of devotion and worship for youth, Sis. Benn, Director of the Congress Youth Rally, asked that each person in the circle give an attribute of Jesus starting with the letter—from A to Z—assigned to that person’s turn. Knowing that the list was not an exhaustive one, it was a moving experience to hear 26 characteristics of Jesus at once, and everyone rejoiced.

Director Hockenull asked everyone to review the program, and it was adopted as presented. Our secretary, Sis. Brenda Lott, was not in attendance because she was ill, and Sis. Gloria Simmons, Florida State YPD Director, stood in, reading highlights of the minutes, which were approved.

In a unique, interactive presentation format, the Regional Directors conducted sample meetings of the age-graded Mission Circles that were the hallmark of the YPD, beginning in 1925, the year following the organization of the YPD under the auspices of the Woman’s Convention, Auxiliary to the NBC USA, Inc. The original six mission circles and the ages were as follows: Sunshine Band (4-8), Red Circle, divided into three age groups, Junior Red Circle (9-11), Intermediate Red Circle (12-14), Senior Red Circle (15-17), Young Women's Auxiliary (18-25), Young Matrons (marriage to 35), and the circles for the boys—Cavaliers (9-11), Trail Blazers (12-14), Teen Age Boys TABS (15-17), and Jr. Laymen (18). The Sunbeams/Sunrays (1-3) were added later. Each group had a director or counselor in leadership, a scripture, motto, song, and a designated color, which complemented the color white, representing purity and symbolizing the cleanliness of heart necessary to do God’s work.



Divided into four groups, those in attendance moved from one mission circle to another and took on participant roles. Sis. Rhonda Mitchell, Western Region Director, served as Sunshine Band Director, and her “children” could be seen enthusiastically participating in age-appropriate activities, such as a walking-like-a-duck race, which teaches following directions and teamwork, and singing “I’ll Be A Sunbeam”, complete with hand motions.

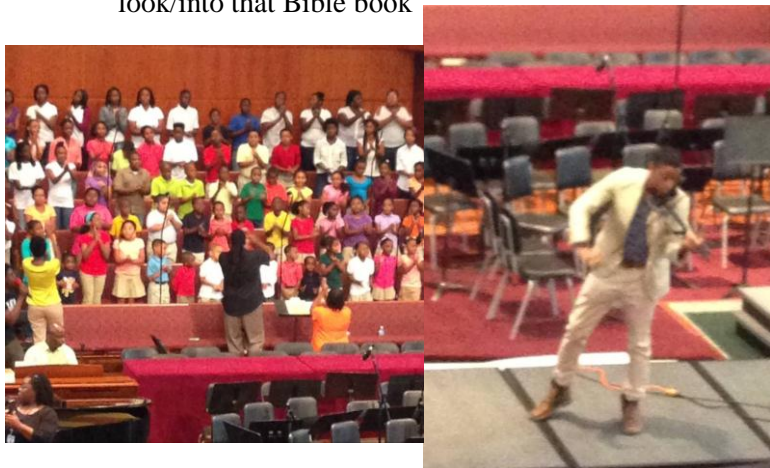
Director Mary Hopkins, Southwest Regional Director, as Red Circle Director introduced participants to the basic components of a meeting, understanding the YPD emblem, mission study, prayer retreats, and suggested programs as appropriate for each level. Sample t-shirts on display gave everyone a sense of pride and unity that developed among the Red Circle girls. As they sang and prayed, and conducted their mock meetings, the progression of maturity from child to adolescent became evident.

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CAROLINAS WELCOME PROGRAM

Special Concert

A 70-voice Children's Choir opened the program enthusiastically singing two selections. The emcees, Kevin and Cameron then introduced the violinist, Dante Davis, who gave a powerful rendition of "It's the God in Me". In his spoken word presentation on the prodigal son, J. Buchanan acknowledged that his life was on a downward spiral "until I took a closer look/into that Bible book"



A moving presentation of the play entitled "A New Beginning" written by Miss Ariel Harris handled a number of issues faced by youth and how adhering to biblical principles in everyday life rather than trying to fit in with the crowd leads to a better life. As the older sister of a young man warns him when he is going astray as he navigates a new school environment, "Just because you go to a new school doesn't mean that you have to act brand new, and she admonishes him to hold fast to his Christian upbringing.



The acappella group from UNCC Winthrop took everyone way back with "I Call Him Jesus, My Rock" and "No More Shackles, No More Pains." Bro, Dennis Reid, CEO of Inspire the Fire, a non-profit organization offering the opportunity for youth ages 10-21 to develop through the arts, stated that "because of my family, my church, and the NBC USA, Inc., I was able to get my start in music." He is giving back by encouraging more than 400 youth to use their gifts in a positive manner. As they presented several selections, this high energy group of young people declared through their theme song, "Light on Fire," "We are the possible/gonna live a life so blazing that "Ain't Nothing Gonna Stop Me". Through the program, they are learning to give back, and they declared "I've been living life just for me/Now, it's time to live selflessly." Our future is in good hands.



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Northeast Region Director, Sis. Lisa Malone. Thank you.

Transition from adolescent to adult with the increasing maturity and responsibility that marks that time period was emphasized in the changing role for the Young Women's Auxiliary. Southeast Region Director Karen McKinney Holley assumed the role of Counselor, as opposed to Director, and the YWA President conducted the meeting following parliamentary procedure and planning a mission project. Likewise, the Young Matrons, led by Midwest Regional Director Wanda Hines, conducted their meeting, planning outreach projects themselves with Director Hines serving as advisor of counselor.

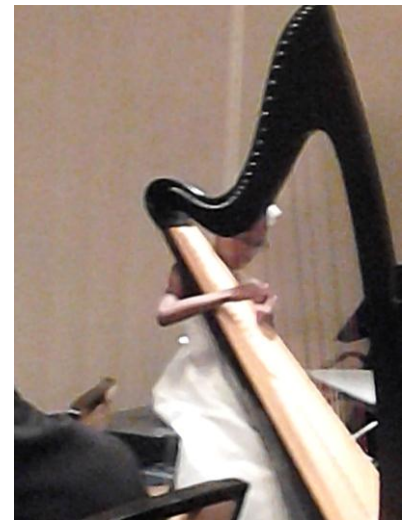


Dr. Hockenull recounted earlier days in the YPD when during the Annual Session, each state brought their young people and, in addition to classes, each circle had an hour to make a presentation, Elections were held, and young people who had the endorsement of their pastor, church youth director, and state YPD director, made application for positions. When elected, they served a 2-year term, and the President of each circle delivered her address during the session. Sis. Stacy Benn, currently Congress Youth Rally Director, served a term as President of the YWAs. Director Hockenull served as National Director of the Red Circle under Ms. Zee Anderson Barron, and Sis. Gloria Simmons, YPD Director of Florida, worked along with her. Sis. Alice Boyd, YPD Musician, showed her treasured Red Circle pin and others she had acquired during the years.

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Bro. Devin Rankin of Friendship MBC introduced the speaker, Rev. Atu White, pastor of Mt. Zion BC. A special treat was the music rendered on the harp by Little Miss Zion Moultime of South Carolina. Eight years old, Zion began playing the harp as physical therapy to help heal her left hand, injured when she was five years old. She played a well chosen mix of standard American folk songs, "Go Tell Aunt Rhody" and "Long, Long Ago" and traditional gospel, "Do Lord, Remember Me" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" warming the hearts of everyone as she played.

Dr. White brought a powerful word to feed us a supreme spiritual feast. Taking his scripture from John 14:8-14 with emphasis on verse 12, Rev. White titled his message, It's Time for Greater." He challenged us not to surrender to apathy but to strive for greater. First, you must see it. "Take inventory of what God has done in your life." When you are ready to give up, remember what you've seen God do, for the greatest trick of the adversary is to get you to forget what the Lord has done for you. "It's time for greater; you have to do it." Rev. White stated that our responsibility is to be "change agents" for God has blessed us to do His works. "He's calling us to do ministry for those who will never sit in our pews." He related that his grandfather, who attained only an 8th grade education, "chopped down trees so I could read books, and let them call him 'boy' so that I could be called "Dr."



It is time to do greater by letting God's resources flow through human responsibility. Verse 13 lets us know that because we are working we will be able to do greater. As Jesus told the disciples, "You've seen what I can do; I'm asking you to do greater than I've done." God has equipped you to do, and when you serve Him, He will open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a greater blessing that you are to pass on to others by allowing His resources to flow through you.

Honored to have Woman's Auxiliary Vice President At-Large, Sis. Bettye Speed with us, she was encouraging, stating, "It takes a lot to work with young people; keep up the good work, and continue to train up our young people." Echoing Rev. White, Director Hockenhull said, "It's time out for mediocrity. My husband used to say, 'Big talk, little do.' It's time for greatness."

DIRECTOR HOCKENHULL'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Sis. Stacy Benn and the Worship Team opened the afternoon session with song by Sis. Ethel Perkins and a challenge to "Look in the Mirror." Each person was asked to take out a mirror, look into it, reflect on the past, and say something encouraging to oneself. One young girl stated that as she looking back on past behavior, she is going to move forward by "making sure that I go to school and do what I am supposed to do."



National YPD Director, Dr. Marian Hockenhull, related some of her challenges as she carried out her stewardship during the past year. Delayed and cancelled planes wreak havoc with one's schedule, but she was able to make the adjustments as needed and attend each regional conference. At the Mid-Winter Board meeting, she met with the Regional Directors, and the entire body had a very informative workshop presented by Sis. Jelyne Martin Jenkins on "Ministering to Special Needs Children and Youth." Sis. Jenkins provided very practical tips and an abundance of resource material for helping this population to be included in our youth ministries and the life of the church.

She admonished those assembled not to seek after positions "because leadership is not as easy as it seems." She encouraged everyone to focus on serving the Lord and said of herself and the regional directors, "We are serving because we love it; none of us asked for it." Answering a question she hears repeatedly about why so many of the YPD Directors are advanced in age, Dr. Hockenhull related a situation that occurred during one of the regional conferences. A youth was drowning in a hotel pool; fortunately, a young man, 17 years old, was able to jump into the pool, bring the child to safety, and administer CPR until emergency responders arrived. The Regional Director met the family at the hospital, and then kept in touch with the family until the child was released to return home, and continued communication with the family after they returned home to keep updated on the child's progress until he was fully recovered. "You must have a certain level of maturity—and experience—to be effective as a leader of young people and handle the many situations—some of them potentially life-threatening—that arise."

While she experienced many positive activities as she attended the Regional Youth Conferences, Director Hockenhull chose to relate one highlight from each region:

- Western Region – tremendous growth from 8 pre-registered the first year to 200 this year. A representative from the NAACP Youth Council and young people involved in the Youth Council were in attendance to



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encourage youth to sign up and register to vote; we need to get our youth involved in these organizations that help our people to be engaged and advance.

- Southeast Region – wonderful classes with extremely good dialogue with the young people. The instructor was kind, and the young people were engaging with her, asking questions and responding to her questions and ideas to ponder.
- Southwest Region – youth officers were presiding; there were no adults on stage with them. This is the training ground for our youth, and they must have opportunities to carry out programs.
- Midwest Region – an excellent exchange of all classes and an especially effective presentation by the Sunshine Band., Kansas State Director Theresa Byrd gave the Sunshine Band a grammar lesson, teaching them the homophones sun and Son. The little ones will remember that the sun provided light to the world and healing for the Earth, and the Son of God, Jesus Christ, provides the light of salvation.

In her exposition on the theme, Dr. Hockenhull stated that she was originally given the theme “Solidarity with the Savior through Works” but the program reads “though Worships and Witness.” She encouraged everyone to keep working, keep serving. Relating how she was asked to be National Red Circle Director and then National Camp Director, she stated that they were positions that she did not seek. “I was just serving when I was asked to take these positions. I didn’t even like camping!” Upon assuming the leadership roles, she asked the Lord to lead and guide her. When she went to the camp, she found the mattresses in horrible condition. She went to then Woman’s Auxiliary President, Dr. Cynthia Ray, and asked for new mattresses, had the beds painted, and spruced up the camp so that it would be inviting. She did the best that she could with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

“Let your light shine before men; glorify your Father who is in heaven in all that you do.” Based on Matthew 5:14-16, she urged the YPD to do as the children’s song says and “Rise, Shine, and Give God the Glory”. As the light of the world, there should be a togetherness and unity of purpose as we follow the Bible. “Light dispels darkness; light is not something you have; it is something that you are.” Stating that you don’t have to “pump it up” and try to get people going, Director Hockenhull said, “the light is there if Christ is in you. Let it shine in the way you live.”



In his closing devotional message, Rev. Brown asked, “How many times do we remember all the bad things that happened, bad that people have done to us?” He challenged us to remember, instead, God’s grace and his mercy, and just say, “Thank you.” We sometimes get the entitlement complex and think, “the lights are supposed to work when I turn them on ,” or worse, we don’t even think about it at all, just expect them to work when we flick the switch. We must not take God nor our blessings for granted. God, the Alpha and Omega, has opened doors for us and shut some doors that should never have been opened to begin with.” He has gone to prepare a place for each of us, but while we are yet here, he gives us work to do in His name. We must be about our Father’s business.

In Memoriam - “Precious Memories”

Sister of Southwest Director Mary Hopkins
Father of Western Director Rhonda Mitchell
Father of Northeast Director Lisa Malone
Former Matrons Director Carolyn Meekins

