



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. Jerry Young
Convention President

Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood
Women's Auxiliary
President

Dr. Marian J.
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National YPD Director

Midwest Region
Sis. Queen Crawford

Southeast Region
Sis. Gloria Simmons

Southwest Region
Sis. Mary Jordan Smith

Western Region
Sis. Sonjia Daniels

Northeast Region
TBD

YPD Director Dr. Marian J. Hockenhull's Annual Address



Director Hockenhull Praise and Worship Team LA Thanks Dir. Hockenhull Sis. Brenda Lott

We come to the Annual Session expecting to take something back home to our state and local churches to enhance our work with young people. In addition to an eye-opening forum (p. 3), the Praise and Worship team, led by Sis. Debra Johnson, provided an exercise for young people to usher them into worship. Based on Psalm 28:6-7, start with **Count Your Blessings**. Ask the young people to think about something that really brings joy to their lives. Have them stand up and tell share their joy. **Tell the Lord Thanks**. Have the youth share what they really are thankful for. **Circumstances**. Ask the young people to think about a circumstance that does not bring them joy. Tell them to thank God even for that circumstance, and trust God that He will work it out. It's easy to name what you are thankful for, but what about the circumstances that are not easy? You can still thank God through those uneasy, unpleasant circumstances!

Director Hockenhull began by quoting one of her favorite passages of scripture, Psalm 27, and a gospel song, "flowing from my heart are the issues of my heart." From her heart, she continues to be grateful for the opportunity, the privilege and the challenge afforded her by Dr. Young and Dr. Gatewood to serve as the National Director of the Young People's Department. She explained that according to the NBCUSA, Inc. Constitution, the Young People's Department is a part of the Woman's Auxiliary. Mature Christian leaders who are part of the Women's Department or Mission in the local church are supposed to train the young people. "Before we put young people up to do something on a program—whether it is to read the scripture, pray, preside, etc.—we need to train them. If we train them, there will be no need to stand up with them; they will know what to do when they are before the congregation."

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Annual Prayer Breakfast



Although the official opening of the Young People's Department follows the Prayer Breakfast, there is no better way to begin our Annual Session than to thank God for His love and care that kept us through the year and ask His blessings, protection, and guidance for our leaders. Southwest Region Director Mary Jordan Smith masterfully led us through the program under our national theme: **"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally: Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship"** based on Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. The Tennessee Young Adult

Ensemble blessed us throughout the program with heartfelt renditions of familiar songs.



Following the scripture reading of Matt.5:44 by Mr. Zack Jones, Mr. Brian Hill opened with a mighty prayer. Min. Joel Moore, Jr. gave a warm welcome, and breakfast was served. In the past, adults from the five regions have offered the prayers, but this year, the young people of Tennessee raised the "fervent prayers of the righteous [that] availeth



much." Mr. Christopher Clark prayed for the National Baptist Inc. overall. Mr. Aaron Torbert appealed to God President, Dr. Jerry Young, and his family. Mrs.

lifted Woman's Auxiliary President Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood in prayer. Mr. offered prayer for our National Young People's Director, Dr. Marian J. Regional Directors, and the Young People's Department overall. Mr. Demetric on behalf of President Barak Obama and his family, and Rev. Terrick Banks petitioned God over national affairs. While each came in his or her own way, there was a common thread of sincere, heartfelt, earnest requests for covering, provision, and direction.



While the physical food was good, the spiritual meal that Mr. Vinson Alexander told us to prepare for in his introduction of the speaker was much more nourishing. Rev. Charles Lomax, Jr., pastor of St. John MBC in Alcoa, TN, took his text from Jeremiah 29:11 and expounded on the theme, with the sub-theme, "Not What I Envisioned." He talked about having planned his life as he grew up but learning when he got to the University of Tennessee for his undergraduate studies that life does not always go as you planned. When he graduated, he was given a copy of the book *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss. He wondered why someone would give him a children's book, but this "child's book blessed me and continues to bless me." Quoting the opening of the book he said, "You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any



direction you choose... Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best, wherever you go, you will top all the rest.----Except when you don't because, sometimes, you won't." Life does not always go as planned.

Rev. Lomax went on to explain that how you envisioned your life was not still looking for a job, battling illness, or going through a divorce. Jeremiah had to take a message to the people of Israel who were conquered, kidnapped, and captured, assuring them that God was still able when life does not advance as you had planned. "Even though you are not where you want to be, learn to make the best of where you are. Hold your head up high." He expounded on three main points from the text:



1. God is cognizant of your condition; He thought about you so much, he woke you up this morning.

2. God is concerned with your contentment; God wants you to have peace; He has "thoughts of peace, and not of evil," so you must praise Him in spite of your circumstances remembering that "all things work together for good to them that love the; Lord."

3. God is committed to your conclusion; God is in control, and He has not brought you this far to leave you.



In her concluding remarks, Director Hockenull referenced NBCUSA, Inc. General Secretary Calvin McKinney's book *From Having Church to Being the Church*, giving the directive, "We've had church; now, let's go out and be the church."

Forum “Christianity Under Crises: Empowering the Remnant”

A panel of young people 18-35 enlightened everyone present with their insights as they responded to the topic about the crises causing many of our churches to be lacking members of Generation Y—the Millennials—and how to reach those who are not in church and empower those who are attending. Millennials were born during the early 1980s through 2000 and seem to have two opposing characteristics. On the one side, they are the Me generation, concerned only about themselves, disconnected except through their electronic devices, and feeling that the church is hypocritical. On the other hand, they are entrepreneurial, intelligent young adults who want to help others and love the Lord, but want the church to be real. While the exodus from the Black Baptist Church is not as bad as for other ethnicities, the trend is moving toward their departure.



Following opening prayer and remarks about the seriousness of this crisis for the future of our churches, president, Western Region Director, Sis. Sonjia Daniels, turned the floor over to Sis. Gilda Gant, Executive Assistant to the Pastor, Youth Director, and Sunday School teacher at Tabernacle of Praise BC, Rev. Derrick Davis, Pastor, who served as the facilitator as the panel answered some prepared questions and listened to comments from and fielded questions from the audience. The panel consisted of Rev. Justin

Crutcher, pastor of True Vine BC, Memphis, and also a 7-year veteran of the Memphis police officer; Rev. Walter L. Gray, Youth Pastor at Tabernacle of Praise BC, Rev. Derrick Davis, Pastor, and Assistant Director of Food Services for 201 Poplar, the Shelby County Jail housing male inmates in downtown Memphis; Sis. Erica Turner, Lane College Admissions Counselor, and Sis. Joniece Phillips, ICU R.N. at Methodist University Hospital and in the Correctional Institute, both members of St. Mark’s B.C., Rev. J.C. Bachus, Pastor; Dr. Yolanda Roberson, teacher at Whitehaven High School, chiropractor, and member of St. Mark’s BC—Whitehaven, Rev. Dr. J.C. Bachus, Pastor; and, Rev. Ashley Alexander.

The questions are provided in hopes that Young People’s Directors will hold similar panels in the home states and/or churches.

1. Do you feel that the church has a place for you to use your gifts and talents for the up building of the Kingdom? If yes, how so. If no, what hinders your progress in the church?
2. How important is it that you make a personal investment in your faith when your parents no longer mandate your having to go to church.
3. In the Baptist Church, what is the role of youth and young adults?
4. How do we make church a firsthand faith experience for our youth and young adults?
5. Why do seasoned saints seem to be judgmental or hypocritical?
6. How committed is the church to the salvation of its youth and young adults? Can the church say I am my brother’s keeper?
7. Has our church service transformed from an inclusive service to one that is now exclusive



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Volunteer State Welcomes the NBCUSA YPD

Having already had a taste of what the Young People’s Departments of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention and the Tennessee Regular Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, delegates anticipated a spirit-filled, exciting Welcome Program and were not disappointed. Sis. Georgia Torrance introduced the program, and Rev. Justin Crutcher guided us through the showcase of the exceptional gifts and talents of their young people.



Following scripture and prayer by Bro. Jactavious Caldwell, the Praise and Worship, executing Psalm 117, was interpreted by the Liturgical and Mime Ministry. In a unique manner, the TN BM&E Convention Puppet Ministry made all assembled feel especially welcome, ending with the truth of “The Blood Still Works.” The Tennessee Combined Choir reminded each of us, “You Should Be a Witness.”

In her spoken word



presentation, Sis. Margaret “Butta MD” Deloach paid poignantly expressed feelings of loss overcome by hope in Christ. The praise dance that followed to “I Know I’ve Been Changed” was a tribute to “beautiful Black women,” and images of the past, the early 1800s when women wore scarves as maids and into the 1920s and later when their hand fans were the only means of “air conditioning”.



The finale, “We Declare War” was a statement that the enemy, Satan, cannot have our children. In her remarks, Director Hockenhull spoke of her own childhood , having “one pair of socks and underwear, which I washed every night so that I would always be clean” and not being raised in the church. She said that a friend invited her to church, and she sat in the back of the church instead of up front with her friend and her mother. When she heard the Word of God preached, “it was as if the preacher was talking directly to me. That’s when I understood that I was a sinner and



that I needed Jesus. I don’t know how I got to the front of the church, but I turned my life over to Jesus Christ that day.” She emphasized that we must continue to preach the Word of God because it still draws, and it is the only way to keep our young people out of the hands of Satan. Rev. Crutcher covered our children in prayer.





In addition to the Mid-Winter Board meeting, Director Hockenull traveled throughout the country in order to attend all five Regional Youth Conferences. She commended the new Regional Directors on having very well-executed, spiritually uplifting, enjoyable Youth Conferences, even though they had very little time to plan.

In reflections on the theme, “Envisioning the Future Exceptionally,” she stated, “Yes, our young people are our future, but they are also our today. We must nurture them and teach them.” To follow the mandate of Christ to make disciples, “We must know Christ as well as make him known to others.” Let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you, for He does all things well.

Keep in mind what my mentor in the National Red Circle Department, Ms. Ora Smtih of Colorado: “If you want your children to follow in your footsteps, be careful where you place your feet.”

Contributor, Sis. Stacy Webb-Cooper

Christianity in Crises Panel (Cont'd from p.3)

(denominations)? 8. During your college years, was the church involved in your transition to life away from your spiritual foundation?

Several of the panelists talked about their experiences in going off to college, not going to church while there, and not receiving information from their home churches; therefore, they did not feel connected, and if they returned to their home city, sought out churches other than those in which they grew up. Others did find another church home in the college location because the church made its presence known on the campus, coming to pick students up for services. Dr. Yolanda said that she went to several different churches, one of which turned out to be a cult, before finding a church home. She remains thankful to Sis. Jerry Buster who sent care packages, including a CD, on a regular basis. The panelists said that receiving a CD of the pastor's sermon, a card or note—and a little something for a fast food meal—goes a long way of making them feel connected.

Each panelist spoke about the importance of planting the seeds, providing a foundation for youth, so that they are covered when they leave home and are bombarded with different faiths and practices as well as all the negatives that society has to offer. Being involved in the church as they were growing up—not being allowed to be spectators but being required to be participators regard- less of whether they wanted to or not—made a major difference in whether they remained in church or returned if they strayed away. Put your young people in different roles in the church so that they can find out what fits them—their gifts, talents, and abilities. These activities should not be limited to singing in the choir or ushering, but everything in the church, including counting the money. They need to be prepared to take over when the older members can no longer continue or die. One young man from the audience took exception to being forced to participate and to having to submit to authority. He stated that he sings in the choir but gets bored during rehearsal and turns to his electronic device so he won't be so bored. When his choir director took his device, he took it back stating that she had no right to take his property. Several solutions were given, including his need to understand that he must submit to those who have authority over him. It was suggested that he use his device to tweet out the words to the songs he's learning, or post on Facebook or Instagram what he's learning about the Lord through the songs or Bible study. Rev. Dr. Bruce Kitchens, a pastor from Colorado Springs, CO, added some perspective when he stated, “We must embrace the technology and put it to positive use to the glory of the Lord.” He gave several examples of blending the traditional and the new, bridging the generations at his church, and there was general agreement that there needs to be more dialogue and acceptance by both the older generation and the Millennials.

One panelist put it in perspective when he said, “We were raised by Baby Boomers and Busters; they busted up the traditional values. At that time, the focus was on ending segregation. Now, it is the Millennials turn to make changes.”

Annual Director's Luncheon

The focus of the Director's Luncheon is Home and Foreign Mission. Our preside, Midwest Director Queen Crawford, reminded everyone present that the National Baptist Convention started as a missionary convention. In giving the Occasion, Sis. Roseland Jackson reminded us that the Convention supports twelve mission stations, including schools and churches, and specifically, the Willie S. Layten Memorial Hospital and our missionaries. This year, a portion of the sacrificial offerings were donated to support the Convention's foreign mission work. The other portion was donated to support our Home Mission project: Seek the Old Path Shelter, which has been helping homeless women and children for more than 20 years. We were particularly thankful to receive a \$100 donation from the YPD of the State of Louisiana and a \$600 donation from the Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows of Flint, MI.



Favored with selections from the Tennessee Young Adult Ensemble, it felt more like church than a hotel ballroom, especially after Pastor Evan Collins of the Easter Star Baptist Church in Memphis did as Rev. Lee Ewing said in his introduction that the third-generation preacher would do, lift the name of the most High God.

Taking his text from Exodus 33:7-11, Pastor Collins preached "Time in the Tabernacle." He stated, "As I look at "the Joshua generation, I have some concerns about how things will go after our Moses' leave the scene." He walked through the scripture pointing out that when Moses went to the tent or tabernacle of meeting, He met with God. Everyone came to the doors of their tents to watch Moses. "Some people are comfortable living off the relationship that God has with someone else. Moses had to stand in the gap, but Jesus has come, so now we can each go to God for ourselves." They watched because they knew God spoke to Moses. "Too many people come to church to talk to God, but they don't want God to talk to them because he will require them to move out of their comfort zones and do His will.

When Moses left the tent of meeting, Joshua remained. Moses made sure that he carried Joshua with him everywhere he went, and "We need to develop a relationship with our young people and carry them with us." As much as Joshua needed Moses, he knew that he needed God much more. We must make sure we introduce our young people to God. Joshua knew he would need God when Moses was gone. "Our Moses must help our young people to come to church, but only God can keep you, so you must spend time in the tabernacle and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.



Thank you Tennessee YPD Directors for showing us how teamwork, working together as a Baptist denomination, results in hosting us in an exceptionally joyful celebration.

In Memoriam - "Precious Memories"

Sister Edith Coleman
5th National YPD Director

Sister Joyce Marie Davis
Lucy Campbell Workshop

Bro. Gary Morris

Brother of Sis. Stacey Benn
Youth Rally Director, Congress



The Woman's Auxiliary, including the YPD, Worshipped with St. Stephen Baptist Church, Rev. James Adams, Pastor, on Sunday, September 6th. Fashion Share was held there on Monday, September 7th.

