

National Baptist Laymen's Movement
89th Annual Laymen's Session

National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc.
132nd Annual Session
Atlanta, GA
September 3 – 7, 2012

REPORT

Monday, September 3, 2012

The Laymen Wives & Women Supporters Ministry held their annual planning meeting for the Annual Prayer Breakfast and other projects at the GWCC at 5:00 p.m.

President Harold Simmons held his annual Pre-Convention meeting with the officers and ministry leaders at 5:00 p.m. at the GWCC: The agenda for the meeting was:

- Prayer & Praise Period
- Greetings by Deacon James Deen, president of the Georgia laymen
- Programming For The Week
- Meeting locations and logistics
- Education Ministry - Seminars
- Evangelistic Efforts for the week
- Registrations & Discipleship Ministry
- Fellowship & Social Ministry
- Finance Committee

Tuesday, Morning September 4, 2012

The 22nd Annual Melinda J. Cade Laymen Wives & Women Supporters Prayer Breakfast was held at 7:00 a.m. at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. The theme was, "*Biblical Women in Solidarity with the Savior*".

This breakfast was dedicated in the honor and memory of the late founder and General Chairwoman Melinda J. Cade who passed away in October 2011. Two of her children, Steven and Jyana King who traveled to Atlanta and attended the breakfast to receive recognition, acknowledgements and tributes of their mother's great service and work to the prayer breakfast, the Laymen Wives & Women Supporters Ministry and the National Baptist Laymen's Movement.

After a year of the general chairwoman position being vacant due to the death of Melinda J. Cade, the committee named Sister Eve Ridgeway, MI as the new general chairwoman.

Sister Frances Joyner, New Jersey was the keynote speaker. Her topic was "*Getting Close to the Savior*".

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The program included:

Worship Leaders	Brother Gene and Sister Linda Turner, TX
Opening Scripture	Brother A. L. and Sister Mary Folmar, AL
Greetings	Sister Ruth Dunn, GA
Greetings	Sister Virginia Cuff, Wife of Dr. Elliot Cuff
Prayer of Praise, Thanksgiving & Grace	Brother Edward and Sister Cecilia Mayberry, KS
Remarks	President Harold Simmons, KS
Announcements	Sister Sylvia A. Brown, NJ
Presentations	Sisters Doris Simmons
Selections	Worship and Praise Singers
Introduction of Speaker	Brother Quinton Joyner, Jr., NJ
Solo	Sister Sandra Jones, MO
Speaker	Mrs. Frances Joyner, NJ
Circles of Prayer	
Closing Prayer	Brother Joe and Sister Thelma Miller, MD

Tuesday, Afternoon September 4, 2012

The Official Opening of the laymen's 89th Annual Session convened at 1:30 p.m. in GWCC Hall B Room 406.

Following the Praise and Worship period, the Fellowship and Social Ministry and the President's Advisory Council gave their report.

The laymen's special guest was Cheryl L. Batts and her team from the P.H.O.E.B.E. Publishers who wrote a book about the story of John L. Webb, the first laymen's president who served from 1923 to 1946. The book is titled, "*The Winds of Change, John Lee Webb, The Man & His Legacy*". This will be a great resource and history book for the National Baptist Laymen as we continue to honor our first president. The laymen's Awards & Recognition Banquet is named after Webb and the highest honor a layman can receive, the John L. Webb Award, Layman of the Year is named after him.

The men's singing group from Birmingham, AL, Men of Praise, rendered the music during the laymen's session and prior to the keynote opening message.

Rev. Walter Solomon, Sr., pastor of the Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of Birmingham, AL delivered the morning message. The title of his message was, "*Handling Life's Heavy Load*". Psalm 88:1-3.

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Following the message the Laymen's Education Ministry conducted their annual Study Institute at 3:45 p.m. The seminars were:

- Becoming a Productive Man – Ernest Tinsley
- Deacons Ministry – Luther Lewis
- Prison Ministry – Emerson Turner
- The Man Project – Rev. Rogers Jackson
- Christian Women: Confidence under Construction – Joice Tinsley
- Teaching Boys to Become Christian Men – Antonio Christian
- How to Begin an Adopt-A-School Ministry – Charles Ewing and Robert Pope

The National Laymen Street Evangelistic team went witnessing to work and prepare for the week's witnessing activities.

Wednesday, Morning September 5, 2012

The morning session opened at 8:00 a.m. with a Prayer and Praise Service.

Reports were given by the Worship; Education and Adopt-A-School ministries.

Following the reports, the keynote speaker was Rev. E. C. Wilson, pastor of the Griggs Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Dallas, TX delivered the morning message. His title was "*Solidarity with the Savior, Through Rejoicing*", I Peter 1:6.

Following the message, the body was dismissed to Study Period No. 2

Wednesday, Afternoon September 5, 2012

The laymen afternoon session called for President Harold Simmons to deliver his 12th Annual Address.

Prayer and Praise Service opened the afternoon session.

The 2012 – 2013 recommendations by President Simmons were read and adopted

Recommended Ministries

1. Congress Class Instructors Syllabus in one booklet (Christian/Woods)
2. Red Cross Certification for members of the laymen's ministry.(McGriggs)
3. Discipleship (Reclamation Ministry - Assistant Vice-Presidents)
4. National Laymen Personal Profile Sheet
5. Theme Development Ministry (Emerson Turner)
6. Young Adult Ministry (Grant Lewis)
7. Care & Communication Ministry
8. Evangelism Ministry class in the Community (Washington, Jefferson)
9. NBLM Cruise Reporter (A.J. Byrd, Katie Patterson)
10. Foreign Mission Chairman
11. Working Manual (Thad Jones)
12. Laymen At-A-Glance (Budget)
13. Laymen Wives & Women Supporters Ministry assist in all ministries
(Doris Simmons/Sandy Jones)
14. Build up the usher's involvement in our sessions.

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Following the adoption of the recommendations, special guests who came to support President Simmons expressed greetings. They were:

Dr. Robert Baynham, Immediate Past President of the Missionary Baptist Convention of Kansas
Dr. Carrington Pinder, pastor, St. Mark Native Baptist Church, Nassau, Bahamas
Brother James McHenry, president of the National Ushers
Dr. Jimmy L. Brown, president of the Missionary Baptist Convention of Missouri
Dr. George Waddles, Sr., president, National Congress

Dr. Elliott Cuff, dean of the National Congress introduced president Simmons.

President Simmons delivered his 12th Annual Address. His theme was, "*Biblical Men in Solidarity with the Savior, Watching and Warning Through the Word*". Ezekiel 33:7 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Thursday, September 6, 2012

The morning session opened at 8:00 a.m. with a Prayer & Praise Service.

The Mission Ministry, Wives and Women Supporters Ministry and Prison Ministry gave their reports.

Following the reports, the annual **Memorial Period** was observed acknowledging workers and love ones who have passed away since the last annual session. The program was comprised of the following memorials offered:

Our Beloved Spouses – Leno Blue, MO
Our Cherished Parents – Donald Norwood, CA
Selection – Sandra Jones, MO
Our Dear Relatives – John Whitehead, IL
Our Faithful Workers – Bill Campbell, TX
Memorial Prayer – Douglas Davis III

A Special Tribute period was observed for those of the National Laymen family who had passed away since last September. There were six national workers who passed away. A memorial candle was lit for each one prior to their tribute. They were:

1. Augustus Dobbins, Columbus, OH, National Classification Committee member, tribute by Wallace Wyatt, OH, former Ohio state laymen president.
2. John McCormick, Las Vegas, NV, National Evangelistic team member, tribute by Delester Jefferson, MO, Chairman of Evangelism.
3. Shelia White, Kansas City, KS, National Evangelistic team member and wife of former National Laymen chairman of Evangelism Rev. Dr. Alfred White and pastor of the Community Missionary Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS, tribute by Lynn McKinnis, Wives & Women Supporters committee member.

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4. Pamela Patterson, Fort Worth, TX, National Classification Committee member, tribute by Jerry Williams, IN, National Laymen Treasurer.
5. Melinda J. Cade, Kansas City, KS, General Chairwoman, Laymen Wives & Women Supporters Prayer Breakfast and widow of former National Laymen president Walter Cade, Jr., tribute by Alcion Ambler, KS, 1991 and first Prayer Breakfast speaker.
6. Jerry Gash, Los Angeles, CA, the sixth National Laymen president, 1995 – 2000, tribute by Roosevelt Gilkey, president of the laymen of the California Western State Convention.

At the conclusion of the Memorial Period, the delegates were dismissed to attend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs' 3rd annual address.

At 6:00 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, the annual King contest was held.

The 2011 – 2012 king, Darryl Koon, New Jersey, delivered his address. It was titled, "*Are We Fishing or Wetting the Line?*" John 21:3, 5-6.

The top three places were: 1st – Tommie Taylor, GA
2nd – Kennedy Hutchins, NJ
3rd – Ozell Hickerson, AL

Tommie Taylor, GA, will serve as the 2012 – 2013 king.

At 7:45 p.m. the annual John L. Webb Awards and Recognition Banquet was held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Dr. Leroy Adams, pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church of Omaha, NE was the keynote speaker. The title of his message was, "*True Expression of Affectionate Worship*", Matt. 15:1-9. During the banquet, the layman of the year award was presented to Bennie Surratt of Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Friday, September 7, 2012

The morning session opened with a Prayer and Praise Service.

The General Secretary and Evangelistic ministries gave their annual reports.

The keynote speaker was I. V. Reeves, WA who is the Coordinator of our training program of teachers for junior laymen. The title of his message was, "*God Needs Praying Men*". I Tim. 2:8

Study Period No. 3 was at 9:30 a.m.

The laymen reconvened at 11:00 a.m. for our closing session. Rev. Keith Thomas, pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Champaign, IL delivered the closing message for the session. The title to his message was, "*God is Able*". Jude 24

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This week the laymen evangelism activities included:

- Prison ministry services on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, Ga.
- Prison ministry service on Thursday at the Georgia Department of Correction Facility
- Prison ministry service on Friday at the West Central Integrated Treatment Facility.

The West Central Integrated Treatment Facility, a women's facility had a need for bar soap. Through the laymen's Acts of Kindness ministry that supplies personal care items to shelters, senior citizen's homes and prisons where the convention is convening, donated more than 2,000 bars of soap. An appeal went out across the country for Dial bar soap. Soap was donated by pastors, churches, individuals, district and state auxiliaries. The laymen from the state of Mississippi donated 504 bars of soap.

- Nightly canvassing and witnessing was done at two housing complexes. at the Avalon Park, 2798 Peek Road in Northwest Atlanta and the Heritage Station housing complex, 765 McDaniel St. SW in Atlanta.
- Street Evangelistic services were held at the two housing complexes listed above at 3:00 p.m. Candidates won to Christ and who are willing to come downtown will be baptized tonight during the Baptism & Communion Service. Sixteen persons came to the convention center to be baptized.
- Our Senior Citizen Ministry witnessed and minister at the Heritage Station Senior Citizen Home.

The laymen's Kelvin Mitchell, OK, gave leadership to the deacons serving communion during the Baptism & Communion Service.

Willie Luvert, Recording Secretary

Thad Jones, General Secretary

Harold Simmons, President