



The Congress Annual Report 2013

The 108th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress was held in St. Louis, Missouri, from June 17 – 21, 2013. It was an exciting time of worship, fellowship and instruction as delegates from across the country gathered together to give Excellent Praise to our most excellent Savior.

Registration

The registration office processed early registrations from February to June 12, 2013. This year, 9,858 delegates pre-registered for the Congress Annual Session. 705 of those registrations were completed online. Onsite registration activities began on Friday, June 14 and continued each day until the close of the session.

The total number of persons registered, including delegates, faculty and staff, for the 108th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education was 13,322. The total number of organizations was 1,930.

Since the close of Congress, seven churches have submitted paid registrations. Five did so to support the work of the Congress and two to meet the requirement for faculty members. Additionally, we have received many inquiries about the 2014 Session to be held in Dallas, Texas. The states with the highest delegates and churches were: Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan, Tennessee and Illinois.



Program

The Congress Session began with an exciting opening worship service on Sunday, June 16th at 7:00 p.m. and Rev. Zachary Lee was the Preacher for the hour. Churches from the States of Missouri and Illinois provided uplifting music. Monday evening, the Congress Musical featured churches from across the State of Missouri and Ms. Dottie Peoples. Other speakers and preachers for the week included: Rev. Michael Ross, Sr., Dr. H. B. Charles, Jr., Dr. Ralph West, Dr. Damone Johnson, Rev. Greg Oliver and Rev. Reggie Bachus.

Oratorical Contest

The Oratorical Contest was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, in the Ferrara Theatre in the Americas Convention Center. The theme was “**A solid witness for a solid Savior**”- *Joshua 24:27*

There were 15 contestants – 11 females and 4 males-from the following states, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan (Saginaw and Detroit), Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas, and Utah. There were approximately 600 persons in attendance, 5 judges and 2 individuals responsible for the tallying of the scores. In addition to the monetary awards again this year 3 lap top computers were donated through the efforts of Sister Linda Y. Martin, of the state of New Jersey.

The THIRD place winner receiving \$1,000 and a lap top is Joel G. Moore, Jr. of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc., he is a member of the New Bethel Baptist Church-Germantown, Rev. Donald Ester, Pastor. Joel will be attending the Christian Brothers University, majoring in Political Science.

The SECOND place winner receiving \$1,500 and a lap top: is Rondall Murray, of the MB&E of Michigan State Convention. He is a member of the Second Canaan MBC and will be attending the Central Michigan University, majoring in Accounting.

The FIRST place winner, receiving \$5,000 and a lap top is Ms. Joei Robertson, of the Intermountain General Baptist Convention, Inc. of Utah. She is a member of the Calvary Baptist Church, where Dr. France A. Davis is the Pastor. Joei will be attending Colorado State University, majoring in Animal Science.

Parade of States

President George W. Waddles, Sr. initiated the “**Parade of States**” in June 2011 to showcase State Congresses from around the nation. The momentum and energy that each state brings has galvanized the delegates and invigorated those who attend this pep rally. The Third Annual “**Parade of States**” was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at The Dome in St. Louis, MO.

The following State Congresses were represented in this year’s parade: Alabama, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Wyoming and Utah.

With 27 State Congresses participating, this year’s parade was the largest one to date. Plans have begun for the 2014 “Parade of States” and it promises to be even larger than this year’s parade.

Following the parade, the highlight of the day was the opportunity to honor a living legend in our convention in the person of Dr. A. Louis Patterson of Houston, Texas. The guest preacher was Dr. Ralph D. West, also from Houston, Texas.

iRock Young Adult Explosion

This year the Young Adults, under the leadership of Rev. Nathanael Waddles and Sis. Yvonne Pitts, introduced the new "iROCK Cafe". The "iROCK Cafe" provided the young adults with the unique opportunity to express themselves while sharing their gifts and talents. The young adults shared in spoken word, song, poetry and mime. They were supervised and led in thought provoking topics by Rev. Janae Pitts.

We experienced the power and presence of God as we shared in a true Young Adult Explosion. The program opened with a collaboration between the iROCK Mimers, led by Bro. James Hayes, and the iROCK Praise Team led by Bro. Jelani Jones. The Word of God was powerfully proclaimed by Rev. Reggie Bachus, Pastor of Mt. Ollie B.C. of Brooklyn, NY. Rev. Bacchus expounded on the theme "Solidarity with the Savior through His Works". Many young adults rededicated and recommitted their lives as they were reminded that God can and will "Break Every Chain". Included in the program were praise dancers under the leadership of Sis. Traci Holliway-Wiggins. The iROCK Choir was conducted by Bro. Darnell DeBoes. Technical and logistic support was given by Bro . Caleb Washington and Sis. Kisha Daniels.

Children's and Youth Rallies

Each year, the bar is raised as our children and youth demonstrate excellence in worship through music, drama and dance presentations. Our Children's and Youth Rallies and Institutes continue to instruct the children and youth of our Convention and engage them in vital training that prepares and equips them for being leaders in our church. On the last day of our Annual Session, Dr. Cheryl Bird, Rev. Daniel Garrett, Dr. Nettie Walker-Wood, Ms. Stacie Benn and Rev. Zollie Webb lead our youth in dynamic worship experiences. Additionally, we honored Rev. Zollie Webb for serving in this ministry for the past 30 years.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We are pleased to recognize that, under the leadership of Dr. Pansy King and Ms. Roslyn Harvey, Oratorical Contest Coordinators, nearly \$40,000 in scholarships have been given to National Baptist youth in one year. We are also pleased to announce that all previous scholarships awarded by the previous administration have been paid in full under current Congress leadership. We are thankful to State Congress Presidents who donated funds from their State toward this endeavor.

STATE CONGRESS	CONGRESS PRESIDENT
Alabama Baptist State Congress	Dr. Foster Woodrick
Arkansas Baptist Congress	Dr. Shadrach Porcia
B M & E State Congress of Texas	Dr. M. F. Brewster
Oklahoma Baptist State Congress	Rev. Donald Dumas
East Mississippi State Congress	Dr. A. D. Lewis
General Baptist of New Jersey	Mrs. Leatha G. Williams
Texas Educational Baptist Congress	Rev. James Webb
Baptist State & Education Congress of Michigan	Mr. Wallace Mills
Missionary Baptist State Congress of Missouri	Dr. Relda Matthews-Owens
General Baptist Congress of Georgia	Rev. Thurman Tillman
United Baptist Congress of Maryland	Dr. Ruby Cofield

Personal Pledges:

Dr. M. F. Brewster	Dr. Ruby Cofield	Dr. Foster C. Woodrick
Mrs. Mary V. Camp	Rev. Donald Dumas	Rev. Sam Roberson
Rev. Jimmy Bryant	Rev. Bernard Taylor	Rev. James Webb
Dr. Merilyn Session	Rev. W. R. Stevens	Rev. Michael O. Minor
Dr. Jessie B. Bilberry, Jr.	Mrs. Lena Dean Bond	Rev. Jimmie P. Myers, Jr.

If your State Congress did not donate to this worthy cause, please know that you are most welcome to make your contribution at this time. It is not too late! We encourage each State Congress President (Members of the Board of Directors) to make your individual donation.

THE CONGRESS DEAN'S

We give praise to the God who has brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light. The 108th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education was opened on Tuesday, June 18th by Dr. George W. Waddles, President and ended Friday, June 21st. This is the Dean's Report for this session.

Registration

A total of 13,322 delegates registered for classes during the 108th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Approximately 311 delegates of the total registered, however, did not take a class.

This is the third consecutive year that the Congress has offered a 12:00 noon class for delegates as well as allow delegates to sign up for two classes for the week instead of one. Approximately 600 delegates registered for two classes this year with positive feedback toward offering more than one class to the delegates per year. The total registration by class start time is as follows: a) 8:00 a.m. - 3,694; b) 10:00 a.m. - 4,778; c) 12:00 p.m. - 597; d) 1:00 p.m. - 1,275.



Graduates

During the week of study, 272 Congress delegates completed the requirements for graduation in 18 areas and were awarded Certificates of Completion at the Commencement Service on Friday afternoon. This represents a 16% increase in total graduates versus a year ago. 84 candidates are within the COPP Program and 188 candidates are from the Congress Programs. Certificates were awarded in the following areas:

- Advanced Leadership Development—5
- Biblical Studies—3
- Division of Theology—1
- Christian Education Administration Workshop—8
- Church Leadership Development—1
- Church Secretaries/Clerks—15
- Family Ministry—1
- Foreign Mission Workshop—2
- Jernigan Theological Studies Seminar—6
- Lucie E. Campbell Workshop on Church Music—22
- Minister's Seminar—9
- Minister's Wives Seminar—5
- Organizing and Maintaining a Church Library/Media Center—3

Recognition Award #1—21
Recognition Award #2—7
Recognition Award #3—1
Seminar for Deans and Presidents—20
Sign Language/Ministry to the Deaf—1
Superintendent's Clinic—20
William J. Shaw Master Teacher Series—30
Youth Work—10

COPP GRADUATES BREAKDOWN BY PHASES:

Phase 1—25	Specialization—2
Phase 2—11	PATC *-9
Phase 3—5	
Phase 4—39	

(*PATC = Pastors Alternative Teacher Certification)

THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION REPORT:

Youth Registered - 840
Youth Institute - 601
Youth Rally— 1,014

THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION REPORT:

Children's Institute—340
Children's Workers—189
Children's Labs (classes) - 81
Children's Rally—556

Young Adult Division

Young Adults Registered—127

Curriculum Update

A critical and seminal review of the current curriculum continues. Those courses that have consistently experienced a declining enrollment have been recovered to the Dean's Office for re-tooling or purged. A concerted effort continues to better align the stand-alone and pre-requisite courses – particularly during the first and second placement phases.

Six years ago, we implemented the William J. Shaw Master Teacher Program. This 4-year program includes courses designed to focus on an in-depth understanding of (a) instructional theory; (b) learning styles of various age groups; and (c) effective communication skills for the classroom. It also provides teachers with Bible study methods for effective teaching from doctrinally-sound biblical principles to include methodologies that will help teachers translate concepts and ideas to applications. One chief aim: teaching for results where personal transformations are realized through using up-to-date teaching methodologies, strategies, and technology.

The annual analysis of this program reveals that students enrolled in this course of study continued to meet the course prerequisites that included: Introduction to the Bible, Intro to the Old Testament, Intro to the New Testament, Baptist Doctrine, and Creative Ways of Teaching. Courses in this series include: 2301 – Introduction to Master Teacher Certification; 2302 – Bible Study Methods for Master Teachers; 2303 – Teaching for Application and Transformation; and 2304 – Technology Training for Master Teachers.

In the Congress, as a viable nurturing alternative, classes for youth and children are offered at the same time for the traditional Youth and Children's Rallies for those children and you who do not attend the rallies. The curricula option remains a strong component of our youth and children's ministry. Nonetheless, there was a noticeable surge of enthusiasm and increased fervency among the last 3 year's participants.

Theme Books

Theme Books were distributed to each Department on Tuesday for distribution to delegates attending courses offered by the Congress. This year we introduced a new form and process to insure 100% accountability for the Theme Books. With this new process, the Dean's Office delivered the Theme Books to the Department Administrators, who assigned a designate to assume responsibility for the distribution of those books to the Divisions/Instructors/Classes. With this new process we sold 3,640 Theme Books (100% of the books available for sale). In 2014, the theme book will contain articles written targeting Baptist Christians who are youth, young adults, adults, and senior adults.

Congress 2014

As we begin plans for the 109th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress of Christian, which will meet in Dallas, plans are underway in the following areas:

Curriculum—we will continue to work on improving and revising the curriculum offered during the week of study. This process will include careful evaluation of the attendance records for each course and the possible elimination of courses that are effected by increased technology, lack of student interest and other dependent variables. Additionally, any proposed initiatives adopted by the Board of Directors that impacts the curriculum will be a part of preparing for next year's congress. We will continue to build upon offering 12 noon classes, evaluating the best time to host these classes, insure assemblies are in place and conveniently accessible. We will also build upon the successful launch of allowing delegates to take more than one class or module in one annual session at the national level. For the 2014 Session, forty-two courses will be offered that are new or revised; this will include course on effective use of technology for worship and witnessing.

Textbooks—We continue to review the textbooks used by instructors and make recommendations for updated textbook assignments considered appropriate for each course offered by the Congress. In conjunction with proposed innovative programs, to include any “distance learning” and technology initiative adopted programs, other textbooks will be eliminated. Shortly after the close of the 108th Session, we will reevaluate the current textbook offerings and update the textbook listing. An ongoing evaluation of all course textbooks is taking place and all textbooks will be updated and brought into line to conform to sound (National) Baptist doctrine.

Faculty— A critical review of the data from this year’s evaluations (to include a succinct review of the methodology employed in data collection) coupled with observations, evaluations and recommendations from division and department administrators will be used in a full review of the faculty. The goal of this process is to ensure that the standard of teaching excellence that is in ‘Solidarity with the Savior’ through His Works, is maintained in all teachers. Therefore a “hard assessment” of the faculty will be completed over the next several months to improve the comprehensive excellence of teaching styles, methods and strategies. Faculty appointments will be conducted accordingly to reflect the excellence in effective Christian teaching and nurture.

Super Superintendent’s Conference

The Superintendant’s Conference, under the leadership of Dr. France Davis, Sis. Sylvia Morris and Sis. Helen Alston was held in Nashville, TN. On March 22-23, 2013. 94 delegates registered for this dynamic conference where course topics included: Sunday School teaching and training, Leadership teaming in Sunday School, Sunday School and technology and Sunday School in the 21st Century Church. Plans have already begun for the 2014 conference, to be held again in Nashville, TN on March 21-22.

Additionally, we continue to ensure the success of the Married Couples and Singles Conferences. More details for these conferences will be available in the coming months.