

To our Convention President, Dr. Julius Scruggs
To our Vice-President-at-Large, Dr. Jerry Young and the entire cabinet
To our presider for the hour:

It is an honor to share this report of the Congress of Christian Education efforts on behalf of our

Congress President: Dr. George Waddles, Sr.

Annual Session

The 109th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education was held in Dallas, TX this past June. We had an exciting week of instruction, with just over 14,000 delegates in class. Dean Elliott Cuff and his staff crafted a 397-course curriculum, including courses offered at the 12:00 hour. States with the highest number of registered delegates were: Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. States with the most organizations or churches registered were: Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Bro. Maurice Lauher and his staff successfully processed 10,503 pre-registrations, 698 of which were completed online.

The Children's and Youth Rallies continue to be a highlight of the Annual Congress Session. This past year was an exceptionally moving and spirit-filled display of God at work in the hearts and minds of our young people. The iRock Young Adult Explosion is continuing to grow, with 127 young adults registered this year. This past session, the iRock Young Adults presented *iGLOW: I Glorify the Lord over all the World* – and shared worship expressions through dance, mime, song and drama.

We praise God that He has blessed us with some of the brightest youth and young adults in this nation. And while they are committed to spiritual excellence, we also encourage them to give excellence in education as they matriculate in high school and college. Regional Scholarships were presented during the Annual Session. Recipients of these awards were: **Nathan Morgan** -Midwest Region, **Janetta L. Hill** – Northeast Region, **Marquise K. Camp** – Far West Region, **Jennifer Kelly Gray** – Southwest Region **and Lucinda Howard** – Dr. Julius R. Scruggs Scholarship.

This past year's oratorical contest was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, in the Dallas Convention Center, Arena. There were 17 contestants representing: Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. This year for the first time in the history of the Oratorical contest, one of the judges was the 2012- 1st Place Oratorical Winner, Mr. Ber Thaddaeus M.P. Bailey, from Oklahoma, who is currently enrolled to complete his senior year at Oklahoma State University.

The 3rd place winner was Mr. Evan Wilson Hayes, of North Carolina, attending North Carolina Central University, majoring in Mass Communication/Broadcasting. Our 2nd place winner was Miss Lorian Carmae Harkey, attending Creighton University and majoring in Psychology. Our 1st place winner was Ms. Yunique' Murphy, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, attending Grambling State University, majoring in Drafting and Design Engineering. We would like to thank the Regional Congress Vice-Presidents and State Congress Presidents that support this effort and provide the funding for the monetary awards. In addition to those awards, the Oratorical commission received 5 Hewlett Packard touch-screen tablets, from Office Depot as a result of our partnership with Office Depot and the Dream Maker's Scholarship Program.

This partnership has been a great success, by not only providing additional resources to support the Oratorical Contest awards, but general delegation support for our Annual Session. This year, Office Depot provided 15,000 Congress Delegate bags, a Free Onsite Copy Center, the aforementioned Hewlett Packard Tablets and Keurig coffee samples accompanied with discounted pricing for Keurig Coffee Systems.

During our Annual Session, we presented the newest partnership with the National Baptist Congress. In April 2014, the CEO and Executives from Cabela's and our National Congress President, Dr. Waddles met to discuss ways to partner together. Through this partnership, the National Baptist Congress and Cabela's will sponsor Camp Cabela: camps that will expose the youth of our constituency

to outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, angling, etc. These will be one-day camps, sponsored and underwritten by Cabela's, in appropriate locations, where youth can learn and families can be exposed to Cabela's products.

Additionally, Cabela's plans to partner with the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education to further diversify its workforce by recruiting highly qualified workers and college graduates through exposure gained on college campuses and through Annual Session College Fairs. More details are forthcoming in the months ahead, as plans are finalized to kick-off the first of many Camp Cabelas. We look forward to the development of this exciting partnership.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. served as the keynote speaker for the President's Education Banquet. He addressed the importance of education to combat social injustice and rallied the pastors and preachers in attendance together to form a strategic alliance that will mobilize and stand against injustices and inequalities in our communities. There were many pastors and preachers present that met together with Rev. Jackson and made the commitment to ensure equal opportunities for our people.

In previous years, this Congress has honored and recognized Pastors who have served in this Convention and labored for the advancement of this work. This past year's recipient of the Legendary Preacher Award was Dr. William J. Shaw: Pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church and past-president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. In addition to the video presentation, Dr. Shaw was presented with a commemorative plaque and honored for his years of service to this Convention.

Additional highlights for the annual session include: the Health Initiative luncheon, coordinated by Dr. Michael Minor and his committee-with Brian Courtney Wilson as the guest soloist; and the faculty banquet, under the leadership of Dr. Ralph Johnson-with Dr. William J. Shaw was the keynote speaker.

Superintendent's Conference

The National Baptist Congress has continued to support the "Year of the Sunday School" by offering training workshops. The March 21, 2014 "**Super**" **Superintendents Conference** was held in Nashville, Tennessee at the National Baptist World Center. The Sessions started Friday at 8:00 A.M. and concluded about 1:00 P.M. on Saturday with a great send off by President Waddles.

Our theme based on Romans 12:2 was "*Be Transformed: Training Christian Education Leaders and Teachers for the Twenty-First Century.*" Four modules were conducted by some of our top Sunday School Scholars including Dr. Carol Mitchell, Dr. Relda Owens-Matthews, Dr. Tyler Prude, and Dr. Erma Reid. Each module was well attended.

A total of 100 attendees were introduced to fresh and new methods for Sunday school during these changing times. Students were challenged to be Biblically accurate as well as inspirational.

Married Couples Conference

The 9th Annual Married Couples Conference was held in Montgomery, Alabama February 12-14, 2014. Our theme this year was " Marriages That Win: Biblical Principles for Successful Marriages" Philippians 2:1-11.

This Conference was a momentous occasion, hosted by Rev. Walter Ellis and the Pilgrim Rest MBC in the historic civil rights city of Montgomery, Alabama. Marriages in attendance ranged from 3 weeks to 50 years. The state with the most registered delegates was Alabama and the church with the most couples registered was the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida, Dr. Larry Mills, Pastor.

The views on marriage are rapidly changing and quickly moving against the truths in God's Word. Not only is the church faced with a charge to strengthen and fortify marriages, standing against divorce, but we are now faced with the challenge of declaring the truth of God's design and provision for

marriage. We would like to thank Rev. and Mrs. Stan Hilliard for the consistent leadership they provide to this important work.

Our Congress President would like to express his heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Julius Scruggs, our Convention President, for his prayerful and visionary leadership and the entire body of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. By God's grace, He has allowed us to see growth in our Christian Education and edification efforts. And By God's grace, He has MANY great things yet in store for us. The best is still yet to come...

This has been the President's Report of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, presented on behalf of Dr. George W. Waddles, Sr. this 3rd day of September 2014.