



FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CONVENTION
OF GEORGIA, INC.



Issue
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Dr. I. E. Mack, President

The SHIP

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HERE WE GROW!: The FMBCG Ministry Planning Meeting *by Hester Fults*

“Let the church say, Amen!” This familiar morsel of agreement continues to resound in Georgia Baptist churches even as the fire of the new Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia continues to ignite new interest and commitment to its ranks. Knowing that FMBCG President I. Edwin Mack, my Pastor Mack, has a mind continually pregnant with exciting unction from the Holy Spirit and the willingness to act upon it, we Unionville Missionary Baptist Church disciples always anxiously await his disclosure of what we will do next. Since that awesome Inaugural Conference, which convened in Albany this past November, members from across the state have been waiting as well. On April 14, 2018, we all received a delightful Spiritual boost that renewed our assurance that much had been accomplished by the Leadership Team since that time, and the Convention was still about the business of educating, including and elevating the saints. FMBCG, Inc. was definitely “on the grow!”

The venue had shifted from Albany’s Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where FMBCG Vice President Daniel Simmons is pastor, to UMBC in Macon, President Mack’s domain. Members from various areas of Georgia had traveled to this Ministries Planning Meeting endeavoring to broaden their awareness of their goals and purposes within the

Convention. At the meeting, Dr. Mack shared with all that new Georgia churches and pastors have been consistently uniting with FMBCG since the initial Conference, and he also revealed other exciting ways in which the Convention was expanding. Furthermore, the state had been divided into geographical sections, designated as our 12 Missionary Regions, and officers were being appointed to oversee and coordinate development within each, as they implement the Convention’s mission of “Fulfilling Needs by Equipping the Saints and Evangelizing the Sinners.”

Mission and Goal Statements received at the meeting were proof positive that Dr. Mack is a true believer in the virtue of “writing the vision to make it plain” for all, a most important necessity for an organization “to grow, not swell.” This revealing image is one of his pearls of wisdom I heard referenced and repeated by participants throughout the day. Dr. Mack holds that too much growth too fast without proper preparation is an indication of malfunction, just as swelling or an unnaturally increasing part of the human body is a symptom of an unhealthy, hopefully temporary, disorder. Physical growth should occur gradually, as the body prepares itself through proper nourishment and appropriate activity to permanently support the growth it will achieve. In the same manner, he explained, the Convention must have a

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Setting the stage >>>

An Honorable Discharge

By Adrienne Price

After 38 years of powerful preaching and pastoring at New Springfield Baptist Church of East Point, Georgia, Rev. Dr. Robert F. Broughton, a Charter Member of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, INC., announced his pastoral retirement in February of this year.

To honor Rev. Broughton and leading Lady Lois Broughton and to commemorate this momentous occasion, the New Springfield Church Family planned a month long celebration, which commenced during Worship on Sunday, July 8, 2018 with Bishop Dreyfus Smith



Rev. Dr. Robert and Mrs. Lois Broughton

and the Wings of Faith World-Wide Ministries. Bishop Smith was the first of many Pastors and Preachers who stopped by New Springfield to offer expressions of adoration, appreciation and anticipation of the life and legacy that is Rev. Broughton. With each new guest came a new testimony of how

his ministry has served to motivate, cultivate and stimulate the ministry of so many others.

When speaking of Rev. Broughton, President Mack likened him to a good soldier for "...a good soldier believes in the cause and if he believes in the cause, he will endure hardship, remain steadfast and committed to it and he will always remember the Commander In Chief." Rev. Broughton does indeed believe in the cause! He has spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ for decades and endured the hardship of pastoring imperfect people in service to a perfect God, *THE* Commander in Chief. And in the profound words of Dr. Mack, "And for this, Rev. Broughton deserves an honorable discharge." Well done, Rev. Broughton, well done!

HERE WE GROW

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firm foundation of spiritual direction and corporate groundwork to be capable of obtaining and successfully maintain its future growth. This gathering of ministries was a major step in that direction.

Although I was recovering from surgery and not in the best of health at the time, I felt it was very important that I attend this meeting designed to give greater interpretation and guidance for subsidiary groups within the Convention. During the session, five such groups met with their leaders in different areas of the I. Edwin Mack Worship and Fellowship Center and on our main campus, to receive further clarity of their missions and to define their membership and financial goals. The Disaster and Rapid Response, Laymen, Ushers, Women and Deaconess Ministries were given mission statements specifically geared to their roles in relation to President Mack's vision for FMBCG. It was evident that these spiritually sound affirmations could direct our efforts in serving the church and the community just as God intended. Despite my inconvenience, attending the Ministries Planning Meeting was well worth the effort.

Along with other FMBCG's female disciples, I am a part of the Women's Ministry, over which Sis. Lois C. Broughton presides. However, that day I met with the Deaconess Ministry, whose leaders are Coordinator Deaconess Eugenia Bolton and Assistant Coordinator Deaconess Doris Hughes, two very personable ladies, extremely knowledgeable of the Convention's concerns and expectations. Their kindness and wisdom complemented each other as they discussed our Mission and Goal Statements with enthusiasm and pride. Even the somewhat daunting task of having a group of women decide which colors they all should wear was made easier by the leaders' intriguing discussion of colors and their significance from a biblical perspective. A sizeable number of deaconesses, deacons' wives, and deacons' widows were reminded of the importance of living Christ-centered lives daily and working together as we reach out to the unsaved, encouraging them to become saints of God as well. Finally, to further engender unity among our statewide sisterhood and at the same time work toward our financial goals, the Deaconess Ministry is planning a gala for August and a retreat in 2019. This ministry, just as the others, has many commitments and obligations ahead. With God's help and the guidance of our dedicated Leadership Team, we believe we

can and will achieve them and help this Convention make a difference.

The terms "fellowship" and "family" go hand in hand. Subsequently, the mutual camaraderie that ministry members experienced during our time together had begun to feel more like family by the time our five focal groups reassembled. Family members gain strength from each other and achieve so much more than a single person could alone. In the same manner, ministry members found valuable common ground in voicing our ideas and uncertainties and then having them directly addressed by authoritative individuals within FMBCG. This approach was certainly a healthier alternative than creating inaccurate conclusions on our own or worse, accepting those of others even less informed than we ourselves! The knowledge and direction gained from the Ministries Planning Meeting will surely be an important part of our Convention's firm foundation as President Mack leads us on to "what we will do next." Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, INC. continues to experience phenomenal growth in membership, identity, direction and the ability to meet the needs of Georgia churches and communities. The name says it all.



Ministers Conference 2018: *Reassessing Ministry for a Greater Impact*

By Dr. Henry C. Ficklin

On May 30 & 31, 2018, the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. demonstrated that ministers conferences in Georgia can be conducted on a high international level. The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. presented its First Ministers Conference in unique and extraordinary style in Macon, Georgia at the beautiful and newly

renovated Unionville Baptist Church where President Dr. I. E. Mack serves as Pastor. The objective of the conference was to facilitate discussions, engage in conversations, and discover proven ways that can be used within the local church to effectively carry out the mandate of the Great Commission in today's world.

Two of the world's most sought after lecturers and workshop leaders were the featured presenters, namely, Dr. E. Dewey Smith and Dr. Craig Oliver. Both men are at the top of their class for speaking and preaching at conferences all over the world and they both presented at the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. (FMBCG) first annual ministers conference. This conference turned out to be an exceptional engagement of spiritually unpacking of the scripture and discerning what is normally obscured to a level of rejoicing for believers. Either one of these great men of God would have made the conference a big success, but to have them both at one conference made this First Ministers Conference for the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. a tremendous success.

Day one with Rev. B. L. Richardson of Albany, Georgia presiding, more than a hundred and forty registered participants had an intense dialogue with President Dr. I. E. Mack and Vice President Dr. Daniel Simmons, which was followed by the opening sermon with the dynamic preaching of Rev. Christopher Wimberly of the Hunter Hill First Missionary Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia. Following the spirit filled message, the first session titled, *"Reassessing Our Preaching - Sermon*

Planning, Preparation and Presentation" was presented by Dr. Craig Oliver. It was an amazing presentation suited for any conference of ministers anywhere in the world.

After a wonderful luncheon provided by the first class catering service of Murphy's Catering of Macon contracted by the Unionville Church and served on the campus, Pastor Lorenzo Heard of Albany, Georgia presented yet another powerful session on *"Reassessing Evangelism - Evangelism that Works."* His presentation was followed by Dr. Fonda Thompson's *"Equipped to Serve"* session. All who shared in the unique and unusual presentations were refreshed and inspired for greater service.

Evening worship for the first day of the conference featured the preaching of Dr. Craig Oliver, Sr. of Elizabeth Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia. His message was packed with helpful information on scripture and promised insight for believers of any age and background, regardless of one's stage in Christian development. His delivery epitomized those early church fathers who made the word of God come to life in the hearts of believers.

Day two of the conference was certainly just as fruitful to attendees as the first, beginning also with an equipoised dialogue with President Mack and Vice President Simmons, the initial session on this day was conducted by featured guest lecturer Dr. E. Dewey Smith and was designated, *"Reassessing Our Ministry - Building A five Star Church."* Just as expected, this young gifted preacher who has been coadjutor to global humanitarian Bishop T. D. Jakes, proved to be a charismatic teacher, visionary, provocative thinker, and workshop leader. Dr. Smith's corroborative biblical

instructions were praiseful and genuine in helping ministers with their efforts to reassess their ministry. The lecture he presented was most invigorating to participants.

The Mid-Day sermon was delivered by Pastor John Herring of Glorious Hope Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia, who is another young remarkable repository of the sacred texts. Pastor Herring's distinct style of sermon delivery distended the morning with haleness of spirit and blessedness as the word of God was extolled for all to be rejuvenated by his eloquence. Again, after lunch, sessions on *Reassessing Our Ministry* were led by Hyacinth Wright - *"Empowering the Church through Technology"*; Dr. Carlton L. May - *"Creating A Multi-Generational & Multi-Cultural Church"*; and Dr. Angela Shumate - *"True Discipleship."* All of these sessions were meaningful, relevant and refreshing to equip ministers as they serve this present age.

The conference concluded with the very able presentation by Dr. Dewey Smith which opened eyes and elevated both the spirit and the intellect concerning God's creative genius in the Book of Genesis. He once again exhibited his knowledge of the deep meanings within the word of God showing that his walk with the Master has enriched his understanding of heavenly essence. His message was novel, lifting and impressive. He surely closed out the conference in world class style. Adding to his dynamic finish for the gathering of ministers to reassess for greater impact, Dr. Smith was accompanied by BET's Sunday Best winner, the exceptional St. Louis-born vocalist Amber Bullock, who prepared the audience for a powerful experience of God's word with several of her winning gospel songs.

President Mack remarked that this conference was truly *"One of A Kind,"* and conference coordinator, Pastor Theodus Drake, Jr., commented on the excellent work that went into the planning of the FMBCG First Annual Ministers Conference, encouraging all attendees to spend time in conversations, discussions, networking, learning and reassessing the work that ministers do for the Kingdom so that all may have a *"Greater Impact."*

IT'S THE GOSPEL: Sneak Peek into the Conference Line-up

Whereas convention goers will join together in pursuit of biblical knowledge and understanding during the educational sessions, there is nothing better than bringing the body of Christ together for the authentic fellowship and worship experience found in glorious gospel music and powerful, prophetic preaching! Last year, the FMBCG, Inc. Inaugural Conference Musical 2017 brought you the one and only Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson and Bishop J. D. Means along with the preach word from none other than Dr. Walter L. Glover, Jr. of Greater Zion Hill (Macon, GA) and Pastor Lorenzo Heard of Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church (Albany, GA). The Second Annual Conference Musical 2018 promises to be even better!

Featured guests for the FMBCG Conference Musical 2018 include *The Wardlaw Brothers, Kamela Breeding and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Praise Team!* **All live and all free!** But it doesn't stop there!

Coming to Exalt the Savior and Empower the Saints on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 is **Rev. Dexter Jordan of Center Hill Baptist Church (Macon, GA)**, who will provide the Opening Sermon, and **Rev. Christopher Wimberly of Hunter Hill First Missionary Baptist Church (Atlanta, GA)** who is the preacher for the evening. The pinnacle of this year's conference includes **President Dr. I. E. Mack's (Unionville Missionary Baptist Church, Macon, GA) Annual Address, "The President Speaks,"** followed by a Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. **Outreach Project**, whereby the ministries of the convention actively meet to fulfill the needs of the residents of Albany, GA – *The Good Life City* in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Come fellowship with us at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 901 S. Westover Blvd., Albany, GA, on November 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS IT!

Copies of all sermons and sessions from the Inaugural Ministers Conference 2018 can be obtained from the Media Center of:

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final thoughts...

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~ A Special Edition of **The SHIP**

Featuring

The Rapid Response & Disaster Ministry