



Low Country Deacons Alliance Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 12

Member National Baptist Deacons Convention of America, Inc. and its Auxiliaries

Laity at Work

Low Country Deacons Alliance

December 2012

Series on **BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES:** **Salvation by Grace Through Faith Alone**

Baptist Distinctives Series

Salvation
By
Grace
Through
Faith
Alone

Baptist number in the millions worldwide but most people don't know much about Baptist beliefs except most people know Baptist only use immersion for baptism. Even some Baptists are not familiar with **Baptist Distinctives** (beliefs, doctrines, and practices). The Low Country Deacons Alliance Education and Training committee are using the **B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S** acrostic as an outline to look at **Baptist Distinctives**. Baptists may not order their distinctives the same but all would include those below as being primary to their Baptist identity. We acknowledge that other Christians share some of the same beliefs and practices as Baptist.

Deacons should be knowledgeable of Baptist Distinctives (beliefs, doctrine and practices) and able explain or answer questions about Baptist Beliefs. The intent of this series is to help Deacons be biblically and doctrinally sound about **Baptist Distinctives**.

It should be noted the **B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S** acrostic is not the official definition of the Baptist distinctive; it is simply a handy memory device. The Baptist Distinctives helps us in understanding the doctrine of the Baptist church. However the acrostic does not have a place for a "C" to cover **Congregational governance**. This month our **Baptist Distinctives Series** covers **Salvation by Grace Through Faith Alone**.

Every individual Christian has the liberty to believe, right or wrong, as his or her own conscience dictates. While we seek to persuade men to choose the right, a person must not be forced to into compliance, realizing that it is not always the larger group who holds the truth when, in fact, our heritage as Baptists has demonstrated the worth of every individual believer.

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. ~ Romans 14:12 **Salvation by Grace Through Faith Alone.**

- B - Biblical Authority**
- A - Autonomy of the Local Church**
- P - Priesthood of the Believers**
- T - Two Ordinances of the Church**
- I - Individual Soul Liberty (Soul Competency)**
- S - Salvation by Grace Through Faith Alone**
- T - Two Officers of the Church**
- S - Separation of Church and State**



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Message from Chairman Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins



As we prepare for our yearend Holiday Banquet, reflection on the past eleven (11) months weighs heavy on my mind. Shuffling through various music selections that might be used during the banquet dinner moment, I came across a CD Mt Moriah's mass choir recorded. One tune "***Do You Know What Time It Is***" reminded me of a story I once read some years back titled "*Monuments*" It

reads:

"Not far from a certain local town in Kansas stands a strange group of gravestones. A resident farmer and self-made man chose to have them erected. He began as a lowly hired hand and by sheer determination and frugality he managed to amass a considerable fortune in his lifetime. In the process, however, the farmer did not make many friends. Nor was he close to his wife's family, since they thought she had married beneath her dignity. Embittered, he vowed never to leave his in-laws a thin dime.

When his wife died, the farmer erected an elaborate statue in her memory. He hired a sculptor to design a monument that showed both her and him at opposite ends of a love seat. He was so pleased with the results that he commissioned another statue--- this time of himself, kneeling at her grave, placing a wreath on it. That impressed him so greatly that he planned a third monument, this time of his wife kneeling at his future grave site, depositing a wreath. He had the sculptor add a pair of wings on her back, since she was no longer alive, giving her the appearance of an angel. One idea led to another until he'd spent no less than a quarter million dollars on the monuments to himself and his wife.

Whenever someone from the town would suggest he might be interested in a community project (a hospital, a park and swimming pool for the children, a municipal building, etc.), the old miser would frown, set his jaw and shout back, "What's this town ever done for me? I don't owe this town nothing!"

After using up all his resources on stone statues and selfish pursuits, the farmer died at ninety-two, a grim-faced resident of the poorhouse. But the monuments ... it's strange Each one is slowly sinking into the Kansas soil, fast victims of time, vandalism, and neglect. Monuments of spite. Sad reminders of a self-centered, unsympathetic life. There is a certain poetic justice in the fact that within a few years, they will all be gone.

Oh, by the way, very few people attended the farmer's funeral. It is reported that only one person seemed genuinely moved by any sense of personal loss. He was the tombstone salesman.

Before we're too severe with the late farmer, let's take an honest look at the monuments being erected today – some of which are no less revealing, if not quite so obvious. A close

investigation will reveal at least four: FORTUNE, FAME, POWER, AND PLEASURE.

Much the same as the farmers grave stones, these monuments are built in clusters, making them appear formidable ... and acceptable. As the idols in ancient Athens, our society is saturated with them.

FORTUNE. How neatly it fits our times! Its inscription at the base is bold: "Get rich." The statuesque figures in the monument are impressive: a hardworking young executive; a clever, diligent businessman unwilling to admit to the greed behind his long hours and relentless drive.

FAME. Another monument tailor-made for Century Twenty One. It reads "Be famous." All its figures are bowing in worship to the popularity cult, eagerly anticipating the day when their desire to be known, seen, quoted, applauded, and exalted will be satisfied. Young and old surround the scene.

POWER. Etched in the flesh of this human edifice are the words: "Take control." These figures are capitalizing on every opportunity to seize the reins of authority and race to the top ... regardless. "Look out for number one!"

PLEASURE. The fourth monument is perhaps the most familiar of all. Its message, echoed countless times in the media, is straightforward: "Indulge yourself." If it looks good, enjoy it! If it tastes good, drink it! If it feels good, do it! Like the line out of the Academy Award winning song "You Light Up My Life" that says: It can't be wrong – If it feels so right ...

Conspicuous by its absence is the forgotten philosophy of Jesus Christ. He's the One who taught the truth about being eternally rich through giving rather than getting. About serving others rather than leaving footprints on their backs in the race for the farthest star. About surrendering rights rather than clamoring for more control. About limiting your liberty out of love and saying no when the flesh pleads for yes. You know --- the whole package wrapped up in one simple statement ...

... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

No elaborate set of statues. No sculptures done in marble --- not even an epitaph for the world to read. And when He died, few cared because few understood. They were too busy building their own monuments. We still are."

WE WISH EACH OF YOU A VERY SPECIAL "LOOKING FORWARD" NEW SEASONAL GREETING■



The Low Country Deacons Alliance & Its Auxiliaries

Member National Baptist Deacons Convention of America, Inc. & Its Auxiliaries

6th Annual Holiday Banquet

Tickets are \$25.00 per person

THEME: "Changing the Method Not the Message"

1 CORINTHIANS 9:20-23

6 PM December 15, 2012

At

**Mt Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Family Life Center
7396 Rivers Avenue; North Charleston, SC 29406**



Keynote Speaker:

**The Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III
Pastor
Charity Missionary Baptist Church
North Charleston, SC**



There Will Be A Silent Auction During The Banquet With Some Great Items for Personal Use or Last Minute Gifts

We are a 501 C3 non-profit organization and funds raised will go toward our Scholarship Program

Inspirational music and vocals will be provided by Sister Tide Williams

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS CONTACT:

DEACONESS DONNA FIELDS (843) 552-7520 or DEACONESS DORIS HOSKINS (843) 412-5813



2012 Mid-Winter Session—Register on line at www.bemsc.org/

Dear Pastors and Moderators:

Greetings in the Precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Praises be unto you.

This is to remind you that the Annual Welcome Program and One Day Session of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina will convene **January 8-9, 2013 at Boyd Hill Baptist Church, 315 Glenn Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730**. The Reverend J. Thomas Barber is the host pastor. All sessions will be held at the church.

SPECIAL NOTE: On Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 3:00p.m., the First Annual Pastor's and Minister's Institute of the Convention will be held in the sanctuary of Boyd Hill Baptist Church of Rock Hill. This Institute is designed to address issues of ministry and the personal spiritual and professional development of pastors and ministers. Dr. Marion Newton of Sumter, South Carolina is the coordinator. You are welcome to learn and fellowship.

The Welcome Night Service will be held on Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. The speaker for this service will be Dr. Tallis J. Chapman, pastor of the Galilee Mission-

ary Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan. Our speaker for the One Day Session will be Reverend Joseph Caldwell, pastor of Cross Road Baptist Church in Greenwood, South Carolina and moderator of the Little River Baptist Association in Hodges, South Carolina.

Churches are requested to comply and register in accordance with church membership. The Departments of the Convention are requested to register with the Convention annually.

URGENT: Pastors, churches and departments are asked to report \$100.00 for the Convention's Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is designed to assist ministers and pastors of the member churches of the Convention who are pursuing further theological and biblical education from an accredited institution.

We are looking forward to seeing you on January 8 & 9, 2013 for this informative and inspirational meeting. I am asking that you please come prepared to stay both days. Pray for a productive and spiritual meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Benjamin D. Snoddy
President



Mid-Winter Session Golf Outing

Hosted by:
Sandy River Baptist Association
Upper Division
Rev. Thomas Barber Moderator
Tuesday, January 8, 2013
11:00 AM
Shotgun Start!!!

At
Waterford Golf Club
1900 Clubhouse Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

\$65 Per Person Entry Fee
(\$240 per team if you pre-register)
4 man Captain's Choice
Rain or Shine - Non Refundable

Deadline for Entering
December 31, 2012

Includes: Cart, Greens Fee & Range Balls
Box Lunch will be served



For more information Contact:

Rev. Anthony Johnson
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
5376 McConnells Highway
McConnells, SC 29726
(803) 684-9302

Rev. Thomas Barber
Boyd Hill Baptist Church
315 Glenn Street
Rock Hill, SC 29732
(803) 327-2422

Rev. Dr. Frank Blue
Great Joy Baptist Church
3383 Chester Highway
McConnells, SC 29726
(704) 641-5002

Go to www.bemsc.org for more information and to register

November Meeting 2012 Highlights

At the November 12th meeting there were discussions about the Crab Crack fundraiser which was deemed a success. Those who worked on the event were applauded for a job well done. **The Rev Nelson Rivers, III**, pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church was announced as speaker for the **December 15th Banquet**. The 2013 Budget of \$14,700.00 was approved. The chair gave some brief comments on his 6 state recruiting trip for the national body. He will report more on the trip at a later time. **Vice Chair Deacon Sammie Burroughs** was applauded for the success of the Oyster Roast under his leadership. **Deaconess McFadden** will take over as secretary for **Deacon Bryant** as his travel plans prevent him from performing his duty as secretary. More details on these and other agenda items will be reflected in the official minutes of the meeting. ■



Join The Low Country Deacons Alliance

The Low Country Deacons Alliance, Inc. and Its Auxiliaries is a tax-exempt charitable organization in accordance with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service codes. **Membership fee is \$5.00 annually.**



You may join us as an individual Missionary Baptist Deacon or as part of an organized body of Deacons. We encourage you to become involved and participate with the Low Country Deacons Alliance to bring about ongoing fellowship among Low Country Deacons and to partake in education, missionary work and youth programs.

Download the membership application form online at www.deaconsalliance.org and mail to us with your annual fee or email info@deaconsalliance.org for an application.

Mail Applications to:

Low Country Deacons Alliance
PO BOX 41172
Charleston, SC 29423-1172



Salvation by Grace Through Faith Alone from Page 1

Salvation By Grace Through Faith Alone

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:

it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Casual conversations, movies, television shows, comic cartoons all indicate that the popular concept of salvation seems to be this: When a person dies, God weighs the good deeds and the bad. If the good outweighs the bad, the person gets into heaven. If the bad outweighs the good, the person goes to hell. (Sometimes hell is not even in the picture.) In other words, human effort and work pave the road to either heaven or hell.

The Bible’s portrayal of salvation is entirely different. The Bible clearly teaches that all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and that the penal-

ty for sin is eternal death. However, God by his grace has provided a way for sin to be forgiven, hell avoided and heaven gained. That way is faith in his Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23).

Salvation, according to the Bible, is solely by grace and faith, not by human effort or works (Ephesians 2:8-9). While not denying the value of good works, throughout our history Baptists have proclaimed the truth that salvation is only by grace through faith.

Grace/Faith Alone for Salvation

Baptists believe that the Bible teaches that all human beings have chosen to sin, that is, to disobey God. The consequence of sin is eternal death. Persons are not capable of saving themselves from this plight. God, out of love for humankind, has provided salvation (John 3:16).

God’s gift of salvation is available through faith in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. By his life and by his death on the cross, Jesus offers a way from eternal death to eternal life. That way is an expression of God’s grace. The way can be walked only by faith (Romans 5:1-2).

Although the Bible uses different word pictures to describe how Jesus provides salvation for lost humani-

ty, in each case the message is clear: Salvation is available only through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Some denominations have included such things as baptism, church membership, good works or sacraments as necessary for salvation. Baptists have insisted that salvation comes only by faith in God’s grace gift of Jesus.

Salvation Is Both Free and Costly

While Baptists insist that salvation is free, a gift from God, they also proclaim its cost. Salvation cost God the death of his only begotten Son. Salvation cost Jesus the humiliation, suffering and death by crucifixion on a cross for our sins. Sharing the message of salvation through the centuries has cost a multitude of faithful witnesses torture, imprisonment and death. Salvation also costs the person who responds by faith to God’s grace gift; it costs that person his or her old way of life, a death to self (Matthew 16:24-25).

Therefore, salvation ought never be considered lightly. To speak of salvation flippantly is to deny its vast significance. Baptists believe that the eternal destiny of all persons depends on their faith response to God’s grace gift of Jesus. Therefore, Baptists are noted for passionate evangelistic and missionary efforts.

Salvation Is a Process of Grace through Faith

Practically all Baptist statements of belief emphasize that the Bible reveals that salvation includes “regeneration” (some statements use “justification”), “sanctification” and “glorification.” Some Baptists express it this way: We have been saved from the punishment of sin (regeneration), we are being saved from the power of sin (sanctification), and we will be saved from the presence of sin (glorification). Or as others phrase it: We have been saved; we are being saved; we will be saved.

However the truth is expressed, the emphasis remains on grace and faith. God’s grace enables a person not only to begin the Christian journey but also to complete it. The way of salvation is walked by faith (Galatians 2:16-20).

The process of salvation results in changed lives, not only for the hereafter, but also for the here and now. Good works do not result in salvation, but salvation is to result in good works (Ephesians 2:10).

True Faith Cannot Be Forced

Baptists insist that effort should never be made to try to force a person to believe in Jesus for salvation. In fact, Baptists believe that true faith cannot be coerced. Faith

Salvation by Grace Through Faith Alone Continued from Page 6

to be genuine must be voluntary.

Baptists note that Jesus never compelled anyone to follow him. Jesus' ministry indicates that persons have competency to choose to believe in him or to reject him. Although Jesus clearly laid out the consequences of belief and unbelief, he never used any sort of force when he urged persons to follow him. Furthermore, Jesus' disciples always presented faith as a voluntary response to the gospel.

Therefore, Baptists have insisted that persons should never be coerced into professing faith in Jesus. As George W. Truett observed, "Persecution may make men hypocrites, but it will not make them Christians." Baptists have consistently advocated freedom of choice—that is, religious freedom.

Grace/Faith and God's Sovereignty/ Humankind's Free Will

While Baptists agree that the Bible teaches that salvation is always and only by grace through faith alone, they have differed on how grace and faith are involved in salvation. For example, not all Baptists have agreed on the relationship of God's sovereignty and humankind's free will.

Some Baptists have stressed God's sovereignty and held that only those whom God in his grace has predestined for salvation will be saved by faith; they contend that this salvation cannot be lost. Other Baptists have stressed humankind's free will and generally held that anyone who responds by faith to God's grace gift of salvation can be saved; some of them believe that this salvation can be lost.

Most Baptists believe that the Bible sets forth both God's sovereignty and humankind's freedom of choice. Although these two truths seem irreconcilable in human wisdom, Baptists generally hold to both and often do so without any effort to reconcile them. As the Baptists who wrote the Articles of Faith for the Union Baptist Association in 1840 stated, "We believe in the doctrine of God's sovereignty, and man's free agency as an accountable being." They also declared, "We believe in the final per-

severance of the saints by grace unto glory."

Thus most Baptists contend that a person has freedom of choice to believe in Christ as his or her Lord and Savior or to reject Christ. They insist that anyone who responds through repentance and faith in Jesus' atoning life, death and resurrection can be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2). With conviction they quote the words of Jesus, "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15). They also believe that once he or she has been truly saved, a person is kept by the power of God; this is often termed the security of the believer (John 10:27-30).

Conclusion

Although not all Baptists agree on the meaning of grace and faith, all Baptists agree that salvation results only from God's grace through faith. Salvation is never viewed as a human achievement but is always seen as a divine gift. Baptists with one voice declare that salvation is not by works but by faith.

Thus Baptists unanimously assert that baptism, church membership, the Lord's Supper and good works, while important, are never necessary for salvation; only grace through faith is sufficient.

"God's purpose of grace runs throughout the Bible. Indeed, the Scriptures teach that this redemptive purpose is from eternity. Before creation an omniscient God knew that man would sin and would need to be saved. However, God's foreknowledge of the event did not cause it. It came through the exercise of man's free will." —Herschel H. Hobbs, Baptist pastor and theologian. (Quote from *The Baptist Faith and Message*, rev. ed., p. 55)■

The Low Country Deacons Alliance, Inc. and It's Auxiliaries gives special thanks to the Production Team of Dr. William M. Pinson, Jr. & Doris Ann Tinker for producing the information and allowing us to share it with our members and friends.

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This information on this websites is intended to provide resources for further study on Baptists-doctrine, polity, heritage ministries, organization.

However, it is not intended as an official statement of belief or endorsement in any way of the listed resources.

The article was reprinted from the Baptist Distinctives website (www.baptistdistinctives.org).■

Health Committee

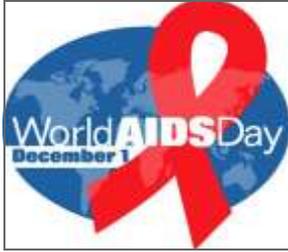


Increasingly, people are turning to places of worship to get accurate, useful information about issues that uniquely affect African Americans. The Low Country Deacons Alliance, Inc., & Its Auxiliaries Health Committee aspires to improve the health of member congregations and Low Country communities. The Health Committee will endeavor to educate and provide activities necessary to create a healthier community.



Deaconess Gwendell Murray - Health Committee Chairperson

World Aids Day 2012



Observed worldwide on December 1st since 1998, World AIDS Day unites people from around the world to raise awareness of the global AIDS response and join, in solidarity, the millions of people living with and affected by HIV. "Getting to Zero" is the theme of World AIDS Day, echoing the UNAIDS vision of achieving "zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths." This theme will be used until 2015.

On World AIDS Day – and all year round – we're asking you to Act Aware. Acting aware means finding out the facts about HIV and using this knowledge to protect yourself and others from HIV infection. You can Act Aware by visiting [HIVaware \(http://www.hivaware.org.uk/act-aware/support-campaign.php\)](http://www.hivaware.org.uk/act-aware/support-campaign.php) — a fun, interactive website providing the information everyone should know about HIV.

everyone should know about HIV.

HIV/AIDS in South Carolina

In South Carolina, almost 15,000 of your neighbors — including about 200 children and teens — are living with HIV infection or AIDS.

Throughout the United States, more than 1 million residents are living with HIV or AIDS, and nearly one-fifth do not know they have it. Each year, more than 56,000 new cases are diagnosed. An estimated 600,000 U.S. citizens have already died from the virus.*

Worldwide, more than 60 million people, including millions of children, have been infected since the early 1980s. As many as 25 million people have died from AIDS.**

* U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

** Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS

Many people who have HIV find it hard to tell other people they have the virus. Some have had to deal with rejection from friends, family or colleagues and have even experienced verbal or physical abuse.

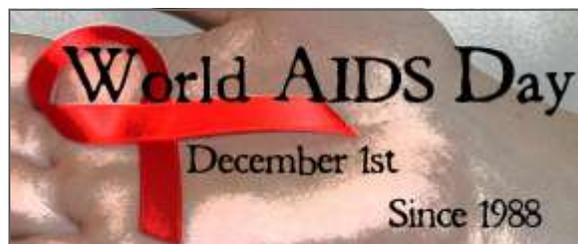
There is still a great deal of ignorance about how HIV is transmitted, a lack of understanding of what it's like to live with HIV, and unfair assumptions and judgments made about people who get HIV. The stigma keeps many people from getting tested and treated.

We know that regularly testing people most at risk for HIV — and then providing antiretroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS patients — dramatically reduces the number of new infections. Without treatment or education, people will continue to transmit the virus to their partners.

By acting aware, you become part of the solution!

For more information or to have free testing at your church contact:

**Marchelle Eichelberger-Brown, RN, BSN
SCDHEC Region 7 HIV Program Manager
Tel: 843.729.3366**



**LIVE LIFE.
GET EDUCATED.
DO YOUR PART.**

Another Baptist Distinctive is Saved and Baptized Church Membership

Local church membership is restricted to individuals who give a believable testimony of personal faith in Christ and have publicly identified themselves with Him in believer's baptism. When the members of a local church are believers, a oneness in Christ exists, and the members can endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

A SAVED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Being able to provide an account of one's salvation is essential to become a member of a Baptist church. There are still some churches who stipulate that such a testimony be verbal and public. However, most Baptist churches are comfortable with an individual telling of the moment when they were born-again to one of their pastors, a deacon, or a "personal worker" during an invitation (usually at the conclusion of the sermon when individuals are invited to come to the front where a designated person will read appropriate Scriptures and pray with you). Having provided a testimony of salvation, the next step is to be baptized (see below) to become a church member.

Should a believer already hold membership in another Baptist church, it may be transferred by letter. Using this approach, the receiving church sends a request for a transfer of letter to the previous church. Most Baptist churches, regardless of whatever differences they may share regarding the finer aspects of doctrine, will honor the transfer of letter. The only time they may not do so is if the requesting member has been a serious problem in the church where they had been previously attending. In fact, this method of receiving members benefits local churches who may not be aware that the person requesting membership has been an issue.

Conversely, there are Baptists who are proud of the fact that they have an unbroken chain of letters from one church to another as they have moved to various communities or sensed the leading of God to bring whatever they can contribute to another church where they are needed.

Another method of receiving members is by statement. There are those circumstances where a believer had been a member of a church that is no longer in existence or it has been a very long time since being a church member. Since churches do not always hold names on their membership roles for indefinite periods of time, there may be no record of someone having been a member. Since Baptists do not baptize a person more than one time, accepting a believer by statement is a normal and accepted practice. Those who request membership using this method will have to share more of their salvation testimony and baptism by immersion but, in view of this way of joining the church, sharing such information would only be reasonable.

The bottom line is that those who are granted membership in a Baptist church must provide a clear testimony of their having been born-again/saved.

"...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." ~ Acts 2:47b

A BAPTIZED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Trusting in Jesus as your personal Saviour will give one

the assurance of Heaven as your home. However, it is being immersed in water as a testimony to the church when it has gathered that qualifies a believer for membership.

Baptists do not confuse water baptism with salvation by faith. Being born-again is purely a spiritual matter. Baptizing someone in water cannot save a lost soul from Hell. However, it does provide a beautiful symbolic picture of death (going under the water), burial (being under the water), and resurrection (coming out of the water). When a believer is immersed (from the Greek word "baptidzo" that was transliterated into English as "baptism"), he/she is testifying to the church that salvation by faith has already taken place and now membership in the church is being granted. It is also considered to be a Biblical command and not an option for a Christian.

Baptists do not sprinkle infants. Accepting that ignorance of the knowledge of sin protects infants and small children until they come to understand their own sin guilt, they are not yet accountable. Therefore, they cannot comprehend salvation by faith, let alone being baptized into the membership of a local church. The misconception that babies need to be sprinkled into some kind of invisible universal body to protect them should they die before reaching the age of accountability is not to be found in the Scriptures.

Some Baptist churches still use a nearby lake or river to baptize. Most employ large walk-in tanks that are incorporated into their church auditoriums. Those to be baptized are instructed beforehand as to the purpose and meaning of baptism. Changing rooms are provided in close proximity to the baptistry. The pastor is authorized to perform the baptisms for the congregation. Usually, there is no set date for when baptisms are to occur. Since baptism is not necessary for salvation, the church may wait until several believers are ready to be baptized and then plan a service to include this ordinance.

Baptists love to see new believers come up out of the water. Don't be surprised if there is loud applause or at least a chorus of amens.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." ~ Act 2:41■



The National Baptist Deacons Convention of America Inc. and Its Auxiliaries

Deacon Robert Ransom, President Parent Body

79 Years of Christian Service "Changing the Method, not the Message"

1 Corinthians 9:20-23
July 22-26, 2013

The National Baptist Deacons Convention of America, Inc. and Its Auxiliaries began on July 26, 1934, when members of local Deacons organizations from Washington, DC, Richmond, Virginia and Hilltop, Maryland met to initiate a closer relationship of Baptist Deacons.

The original purposes included:

1. Learning how to assist Pastors better in advancing general interests of churches;
2. Bringing a closer relationship between Deacons and members of our churches;
3. Discussing and studying principles and duties applying to Deacons;
4. And, performing home and foreign mission work.

What We Do

The Convention offers a vast array of positive programs that revolve around the organization's original purposes of worship, education, fellowship and missionary work. Skilled and dedicated personnel lead all programs. Just a few of the Conventions programs are:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Christian Leadership Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Bible Study • Prayer and Worship Services | <p>3. Dynamic Youth Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Workshops • Scholarship Competitions and Awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lott Carey Foreign Mission • National Regional and Local Charities |
| <p>2. Women's Auxiliary Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussions • Health Ministry • Prayer Breakfast • Missionary Work | <p>4. James and Priscilla Ross Mission
and Education Board's Annual
Awards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAACP • United Negro College Fund | <p>5. Two Annual Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Weekend in March Executive Board Meeting and Annual Youth Day • Monday after the 3rd Sunday in July Annual Week long Session |

Join Us:

You may join us as an individual Missionary Baptist Deacon or as part of an organized body of Deacons. We encourage you to become involved at the local level to perpetuate ongoing fellowship among Deacons and to promote programs in education, missionary work and youth programs. Local groups are advised to form a Women's Auxiliary to include Deaconesses and other Christian Women. Usually, a minimum of three Ministries or Boards of Deacons from nearby Churches is sufficient to form a local unit.

Deacons, Christian Women and youths as well as Pastors and Ministers are welcome to register for all Convention functions.

The Convention is a tax-exempt charitable organization in accordance with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service codes.

For more information please contact:
Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins
Director National Field Workers Ministry
E-mail: hoskinsd@tds.net
Phone: 843-567-6300
Mobile: 843-412-5813

LCDA Youth Committee encourages entries to the 2013 Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest



LCDA Youth Committee encourages entries to the 2013 Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest, sponsored by the Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee (BJC). Entries are now being accepted by the BJC. Grand prize is \$2,000 and a trip for two to Washington, D.C.; second prize is \$1000; and third prize is \$250.

The contest is open to all high school juniors and seniors in the graduating classes of 2013 and 2014. No requirements or restrictions involve a student's grade-point average, faith or extracurricular activities.

To enter, eligible students must write an essay of 800-1,200 words in response to the following: The United States of America was religiously diverse at its founding. Its population included numerous Protestant groups, small Catholic and Jewish populations, those who practiced traditional Native American religions as well as those who practiced African religions. The United States has become even more religiously diverse, yet Christianity has remained the majority faith tradition since the country's beginnings. Today, some Americans assert that the country was founded as a "Christian nation" while others contend that statement is a myth. **Using the Constitution and writings of the Founders, research and evaluate the claim that the United States was founded as a "Christian nation." Include a discussion of the current implications for religious freedom for all people in a democratic country in which the majority rules in elections and ballot initiatives.**

SUBMISSION & DUE DATE:

The essay, student registration form and essay adviser form all must be mailed together to the following address by **March 1, 2013**:

**Baptist Joint Committee Essay Contest
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

Entries and registration forms must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2013. No email or fax entries will be accepted.

* Grand prize trip includes actual airfare costs to D.C. up to a predetermined amount and one night of lodging for the contest winner and one accompanying parent/guardian to present the winning essay at the BJC board meeting.



Low Country Deacons Alliance, Inc.,
& Its Auxiliaries
PO BOX 41172
Charleston, SC 29423-1172

Phone: 843-412-5813
E-mail: hoskinsd@tds.net
www.deaconsalliance.org

Contacts for
Low Country Deacons Alliance,
Inc., & Its Auxiliaries,

Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins
Chairman, Parent Body
(843) 412-5813

Deaconess Emerita Doris H. Hoskins
Chairperson Women's Auxiliary
(843) 567-6300

Jeanette White
Youth Auxiliary Advisor
843-377-3843

Deaconess Barbara McFadden
Secretary
(843) 764-4965

Deacon John Matthews
Newsletter Editor
843-442-1319
info@deaconsalliance.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

This Month



Calendar Mark Your Calendars Mark Your

Next Meeting: 7PM December 10, 2012
Noah's Ark Baptist Church
2158 Keever St.
N. Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 367-2748

The Low Country Deacons Alliance, Inc. & Its Auxiliaries
6th Annual Holiday Banquet
Theme: "Changing the Method Not the Message" 1 Cor 9:20-23
6:00 pm December 15, 2012
At
Mt Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Family Life Center
7396 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406
(See page 3 for more information and tickets)

January 8 - 9th, 2013 Annual Welcome Program and One Day Session
of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of SC (see page 4)

January 14 - 7 PM Monthly Meeting at:
Charity Missionary Baptist Church
1544 East Montague
N. Charleston, SC 29406
(843) 747-2737

March 22 to 23 2013
NBDC 2013 Mid-Term Session

Norfolk VA
Hilton Norfolk Airport
1500 N Military Highway
Norfolk VA 23502
Register online at: www.nationalbaptistdeaconsconvention.com/registration

July 22-26 2013
NBDC 2013 Annual Session - Cleveland Ohio

Intercontinental Hotel
9801 Carnegie Ave
Cleveland, OH 44106
Register online at: www.nationalbaptistdeaconsconvention.com/registration/

"Teamwork Generates Harmony"