



Laitiy at Work

South Carolina Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. Keynote Speaker at Lowcountry Deacons Alliance Gala

By Deaconess Barbara A. Burroughs



Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.
SC House of Representatives
District No. 102

Low Country Deacons Alliance Incorporated 4th Annual Holiday Gala was held Saturday, December 17, 2011 at the Courtyard Marriott, theme: "Paving the Way for Our Youth". Reverend Willis Glover, Pastor of

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church served as Master of Ceremony. The distinguished gentlemen of the Brotherhood of Mt. Pleasant performed melodious songs of praise from days of old. The Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. of the State House of Representatives, SC District No. 102 in Berkeley County who also serves as a Deacon at Day Dawn Missionary Baptist Church in Pineville, SC was the keynote speaker at this festive occasion.

Representative Jefferson spoke on education highlighting two major programs: "The Wise Guys and Reading Soul Mates Programs". These programs are design to empower students to stay in school and to aspire to achieve in life. He informed the audi-

ence that there is a \$2.4 million budget to support students and teachers in 24 schools in Charleston and Berkeley Counties. Each of the schools receive funding that will assist increasing academics, improving school attendance, improving positive behavior, and increasing reading literacy. Representative Jefferson also challenged the audience to remain encouraged in spite of adversities and instill in children to be etter educated because all children can learn.

Deacon Anthony Mitchell, the outgoing Chairman from Eastside Missionary Baptist Church gave his final address and introduced the new Chairman Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins from Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. Deacon Emeritus Hoskins accepted

our vote of confidence to lead the LCDA and pledged to be faithful to the task. The Women's Auxiliary also elected Deaconess Emeritra Doris Hoskins Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church as Chairperson. Deacon Hoskins presented a plaque of Appreciation to Deacon Johnny Fields, Past Chairman Ashley Missionary Baptist Church (2006-2009), Deacon Anthony Mitchell outgoing Chairman (2010-2011) and Deaconess Barbara A. Burroughs outgoing Chairperson of the Women's Auxiliary Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church, having served, since its inception (2005-2011).

Beau Candidates of the Charleston Youth Leadership Council, Beau's Affair "Rites of Passage" Program under the guidance of Elder Levy W. Berry served as ushers for the gala and performed in an outstanding and professional man-

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Our Website Will Be Online Soon

The Lowcountry Deacons Alliance and Its Auxiliaries, Inc. has a web address:

www.deaconsalliance.org

The site is under development and is expected to be online by the February 2012 meeting.

All Lowcountry Deacons Alliance and Its Auxiliaries members need to give their email

addresses to Deacon Matthews so they can receive the newsletters.

Also, please send your church news and announcements to Deacon Matthews so they can be included in the list of events that will be posted on the website calendar. You can contact Deacon Matthews via phone at

442-1319 or via email at mmfs4896@yahoo.com.

Don't hesitate to contact Deacon Matthews if you have suggestions for the website. All information posted on the web must be approved by Deacon Hoskins before it can be posted on the website.■

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Christian Laitiy at Work





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ner. Beau Candidates were Aamon Oree, Wesley Rollins, Madison Speed, Tre' Orr, Os-juan Chisolm-Cox, Robert Mag-wood, Chandler Fletcher and Robert Downey.

Deaconess Barbara McFadden Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church served as Panel Mod-erator and Panel participants were Reverend James Towns, Ive Deloris Livingston Jeffer-son, Brenda Bines Watson and Beau Candidate Robert Mag-wood who responded to ques-tions from the audience relating to the theme "Paving the Way for Our Youth". Door prizes was given to several guests. With Reverend Glover's jovial

personality and wittiness, the evening was filled with lots of smiles and laughter. Reverend Alvin Bonaparte, Sr. Pastor of Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church ended the program with prayer.

The Low Country Deacons Alliance, Inc. and Its Auxiliaries Mission is: To organize sys-tems and services that will remove human conditions brought on by oppression, returning dignity, integrity, re-spect as a people, and per-sonal self-esteem, focusing on: Spiritual comprehension, all levels and degrees of educa-tion, healthy living, prosperity as a people and personally, and the spreading of agape love at home and abroad.

The Alliance meets the 2nd Monday of each month at different churches and we invite you to join us.

Contact Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins (843) 412-5813 or Deacon Charles Traylor (843) 209-1440.■



Rep. Joe Jefferson with Chairman Hoskins

Photos from the Gala



We will be posting more photos on the website if we get them





Protect Your Pastor in 10 Seconds a Week

Written by John Trent, Ph.D.

No one saw it coming. Not the people who thought he looked and sounded "just fine" on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Not the Deacon board or the renovation committee or the Tuesday night visitation team that he always joined.

But, like thousands of churches each year, when the congregation showed up for services that Sunday, there was an assistant pastor in the pulpit. Another pastor had walked away from his calling and church.

It was Brian's problem, right?

Certainly, to a degree he could have done things differently. But it's not what you think. There was no immorality. No huge division in the church. No smoking guns. In fact, Brian's problem is the problem of too many burned out, used-up pastors: he never cried out for help. He hoped help would come, but he never brought up his own inner struggles until leaving seemed the only answer.

When I talked to Brian, he told me that he had walked away because in all the swirling activity of a growing church he felt both alone and unwanted - a failure. It's not that Brian was only seeking the praise of man. But, his leaving was directly related to something that his congregation could have solved in as little as ten seconds a week.

Let me repeat that: Brian's

feelings of loneliness, being unwanted and not measuring up could have been solved, and a good man would have remained in the ministry, if his congregation had taken ten seconds a week to do something.

What's this "ten second" cure-all? That's how long it would have taken people in his church to live out the message of two verses in Scripture, both verses carrying the same word: "Good."

- Proverbs 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 15:30 "Bright eyes gladden the heart; Good news puts fat on the bones."

Let me connect the dots between these two Proverbs and then give you a specific example of a "ten-second cure."

First, it's clear from Scripture that those in ministry are worthy of "honor" in the biblical sense of the worth. 1 Timothy 5:17 tells us, "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching." In Greek, this word, "honor" literally means, "to be heavy, weighty." In Old Testament times it was used of gold that was both heavy, and very valuable. Can you see now the connection with your pastor?

"Do not withhold good from those whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." We're to

treat pastors with honor - like they're "heavyweights" in our eyes. In fact, doubly so. And, like our first Proverb challenges, the time to express that honor is right now, not at their retirement party or "sometime." It's "now." This Sunday when you see him.

But how? How can you "doubly honor" your pastor and in the process, be a tremendous blessing and protective element in his life? In ten seconds, you can live out that second Proverb when you see your Pastor this Sunday. "Bright eyes gladden the heart. Good news puts fat on the bones." A sound heart and "fat" on the bones. Both are images of healthy functioning. And what does it take to provide this spiritual and emotional vitamin pill? "Bright eyes" and "good news."

Now watch this. Here comes a chance in ten seconds to increase the emotional health of your pastor. It's this Sunday morning, you catch him in the hallway rushing out of a Sunday school class where he's made an announcement and on his way to the second service.

"Hey Pastor _____!" Look at him with a smile and purposefully "widen your eyes" like you're really glad to see him. As you touch his arm, you say, "I've got to tell you this. "You are so good at (pick the strength you've seen in his life; preaching, people, blessing your own family, balancing so many plates, listening, etc.) that I wanted you to know I love you

and am praying for you and your family.

That's ten seconds flat (If you say it slow). No long speech. No expensive card. Nothing but genuine praise and encouragement for someone God deems worthy of "double honor." ■

Note from the editor: A special thanks to Dr. Trent for allowing us to reprint his poignant, informative, and inspirational message I found it a blessing and I hope you do too.

Message from Dr. Trent . . .

Hi, John,

I'd be honored to have you use the article -- but please make sure that you email me both the article you're using (the Protect your Pastor one) and your newsletter if you would for our files. (Or mail them if you're doing a snail mail instead of an email newsletter. Thanks for the kind words and take a look at The Blessing Challenge at www.TheBlessing.com for your church's family -- and deacons! Lord bless and Happy New Year! JT

John Trent, Ph.D.

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SAVE the DATE

March 9-10, 2012

**Mt. Moriah M.B.C.
Spiritual Leaders &
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Christian Laity at Work



Monday February 13, 2012
at
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8 Tips for Ministry to Widows

Written by Richard E. Dodge



Can you change a light bulb? Can you mow a lawn? Can you give someone a listening ear? If you can answer yes to these questions, then you are ready to minister to one of the unseen groups in your church: widows.

Deacons often are assigned several families if their church uses the Deacon Family Ministry Plan, a well-know process of assuring that all families in the church receive ministry, particularly in times of special need. But widows may need a little extra ministry. Women whose husbands have passed away represent a growing percentage of many churches today, and therefore represent a significant ministry need in every church. Here are some special ways to address the needs of widows.

1. Assign not only a deacon and wife but also enlist a younger couple to develop a personal friendship with each widow to maintain social contact with these persons. Too often the greatest needs widows face are emotional in nature. They often face isolation and separation from friends. This often is especially important the first year after losing a spouse. The widow should be contacted at least once a month by both couples.

2. Suggest to the deacon body that cards be sent to each widow on special dates by a deacon other than the assigned deacon.

3. Be sure that the widow is not alone on the evening of the anniversary of the death of her spouse.

4. Remind teachers of widows' Sunday School classes that the class should develop regular fellowship activities that help these ladies remain connected to the rest of the church family.

5. Create a support network of widows who can help women facing or going through the grief of losing a

spouse during the first year following the death of a spouse. Help these ladies meet weekly or monthly so they can talk about their feelings and needs.

6. Create a committee of men who can handle minor needs around the home for widows. Address things from leaky bathroom plumbing to gutters to leaves in the fall and other things that people in your church can do for these ladies. If necessary, create a deacon fund that could be an emergency repair fund for widows who have unexpected major repair expenses. This could be an anonymous kind of resource when needed.

7. Some older women cannot drive. They would need help getting groceries or getting to doctors' appointments. Create a transportation network involving others in the church who can help widows with transportation needs.

8. Help widows find ways to use their skills and talents in ministry opportunities in and through the church. Give them a sense of purpose by helping them meet needs.

Ministry is at the heart of the work God has placed in the hands of deacons. Touching lives and meetings needs can be accomplished better when deacons are trained and equipped with tools that can help them accomplish their tasks. Deacon Magazine is a ready resource of equipping tools to help your deacons meet the growing needs of widows and others in your church family. ■

Note from editor:

Richard E. Dodge is a deacon at Una Baptist Church, Nashville, and is Internet Producer for LifeWay Church Resources, Nashville, TN. We thank Deacon Dodge and LifeWay for sharing this article and allowing us to reprint it.