

Laity at Work

Lowcountry Deacons' Alliance & Its Auxiliaries

Are You a Prayer Warrior or a Prayer Wimp?

By Victor M. Parachin

General George S. Patton was a prayer warrior. During the Battle of the Bulge, inclement weather was hindering the efforts of the Third Army to counter a Nazi attack in Belgium. Patton called on Chaplain George Metcalf to write a prayer for fair weather that Patton later sent out to all members of the Third Army. Hundreds of prayers went up for favorable weather, and the effects were dramatic and immediate: On Dec. 23, the heavy fog had lifted, and Allied aircraft were successfully pushing back the Nazi advance.

Patton's faith propelled him to count on God for large results, and he expressed that through his prayer life. Many of us, however, are not such prayer warriors--we are prayer wimps! Prayer wimps are those whose faith is timid, hesitant, ambivalent and fainthearted. Apparently, there were prayer wimps in the earliest Christian communities. Paralyzed by their own fears and insecurities, they were afraid to ask God for their deepest needs. The apostle James lamented, "The reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it (James 4:2)."

Jesus expected his followers to be prayer warriors like Himself: "I assure you, if you have faith and don't doubt,

you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May God lift you up and throw you into the sea,' and it will happen. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer (Matthew 21:21-22)." Here are some guidelines for becoming a prayer warrior:

Use Scripture to boost your prayer confidence.

If you want to become a prayer warrior, saturate yourself with the words and examples of prayer warriors found in the Bible. Consider these texts (NLT):

Moses in Exodus 15:2-3: "The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my victory ... The Lord is a warrior."

David in Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength, my shield from every danger. I trust in him with all my heart. He helps me."

The three Hebrew captives in Daniel 3:17: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty."

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Lowcountry Deacons Alliance Officers Installed



The Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III pastor of Charity MBC performed the swearing-in-ceremony for the 2012 Lowcountry Deacons Alliance & Its Auxiliaries Officers. . .Continued on Page 5

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Message from The Chairman

Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins

As I review daily news articles, various reports, studies and hear over the air waves, it is very clear that the greatest divide for our youth in this nation is not health, education nor wealth it's the oppression brought on by loss of hope and the fading of ones dreams. It is the continuing bombardment of expressions that tend to destroy an individual's self esteem, leading to rebellion.

Our vision for the Low Country Deacons Alliance, INC. & Its Auxiliaries (Alliance) as we pursue its mission is to enlist use of every weapon God has given us in carrying out His great Commission. We are to be reminded of 2Corinthians 10:3-4 "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds".

It is my belief that the leaders who have been attracted to work with the Alliance are uniquely chosen and uniquely gifted to carry out our mission. With this in mind I welcome Sister Jeanette White who has come on-board as the Youth Advisor.

I encourage you to let your churches and communities know through our partnership with the SC Benefit Bank the Alliance can help members apply for SNAP (Food Stamps), College Financial Aid, and file their State & Federal Taxes free of charges. Go online to www.thebenefitbank.org/southcarolina or contact me for more information.

If you haven't don't so already don't forget to register for ths Mt. Moriah MBC Spiritual Leaders, Deacons and Deaconess Workshop March 9t-10. Call 572-4146 for more information or to register.

Let us continue to build on the progress that has been achieved over the past 8 years. I know that we can and will step up to the challenge to day and each day God gives us.■



Billions of dollars in public funds go untouched each year because applying for state

and federal benefits such as Food Stamps, Medicaid or Student Financial Aid is confusing, intimidating, time consuming, or embarrassing. Additional billions in tax credits are also left unclaimed due to lack of knowledge. The Benefit Bank removes these obstacles - bringing people closer to stability and closer to self-sufficiency.

Our partnership with The Benefit Bank is making it possible for the Lowcountry Deacons Alliance to help residents have access to much needed work supports and tax credits.

Federal and State Income Tax Filing - Fast, Easy & FREE.

For more information or to have one of our trained counselors assist your members contact us at (843) 412-5813 or info@deaconsalliance.org■

SC HELP Foreclosure Prevention Program Now Available



SC Housing Corp. has made its foreclosure prevention program available statewide. The South Carolina Homeownership and Employment Lending Program (**SC HELP**) will use almost \$300 million in federal funds to help responsible but struggling homeowners in the state.

SC HELP is intended to assist *responsible* borrowers – those borrowers who are facing possible foreclosure due to circumstances beyond their control, i.e. unemployment, death of a spouse, catastrophic medical expenses and/or divorce. SC HELP is NOT intended to serve borrowers who are facing foreclosure due to poor credit or overall mismanagement of their personal budget.

Additional information, background and resources are now posted on SC State Housing's website, www.sha.state.sc.us as well as www.SCMortgageHelp.com, and will be updated frequently.■



Message from The Women's Auxiliary

Deaconess Emerita Doris Hoskins



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The head of my life and the head of this great organization.

As we start this new year we are expecting great things, old challenges as well as new challenges. Our women's auxiliary is made up of strong spiritual leaders who are ready willing and able to use their individual and combined strength to meet each challenge we face.

It is my challenge to each of us to recognize our individual talents and be willing to step up to share our talents, those known and those we possess that we are yet to discover. God has set our path and has provided in us the ability to meet these challenges. So we pray that God will give us the guidance to go forth to the success he has in store for us as we go forth to tackle what ever he allows us to do with the vision and dreams He has given us, for we have great works to perform in His honor, for His glory and He will receive the praise.

We thank all of you for your past support and look forward to your continuing support of the works of the Lowcountry Deacons Alliance Inc & Its Auxiliaries. We remain united in our unyielding commitment of support for achieving the mission of the Alliance. May God continue to bless each of you.

I want to thank all the sisters who came out and worked to make our Crab Crack and Oyster Roast a success. I saw our motto, "Teamwork Generates Harmony" come to fruition as we all chipped in and worked together. Thank you.

Respectfully

*Deaconess Emerita, Doris H. Hoskins,
Chairperson, Women's Auxiliary
Lowcountry Deacons Alliance, Inc. & Its Auxiliaries*



**You are Invited to the
Lowcountry Deacons Women's Auxiliary Annual
Hat & Fashion Show**

4 PM Saturday March 17, 2012 at

**Felix C. Davis Community Center
4800 Park Place East
North Charleston (Park Circle)**



Are You A Prayer Warrior or a Prayer Wimp from Page 1

Jesus in Mark 9:23: "Anything is possible if a person believes."

Paul in Ephesians 3:20: "Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope."

Pray for the impossible.

Prayer warriors don't hesitate to pray for the impossible. They take seriously these words from Jesus: "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." No matter how grim the circumstances, move ahead and pray for the impossible.

Robert W. Zinnecker of Rexford, N.Y., writes about a time when he felt frightened and alone. He was sitting in a garden area outside the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. "I had just agreed to have my second major surgery in three weeks for a rare form of cancer," he recalls. The prospects were dubious. Mayo had only handled 25 cases like his in its history and none had survived.

Throughout his illness, Zinnecker's faith had remained strong, but now he felt abandoned by God. Returning to his motel room, he found an envelope that was mailed to him. It was from a work colleague and contained a card with a small pewter pin replica of a tiny child in the palm of a giant hand. The accompanying Scripture was from Isaiah 49:15-16: "I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on my hand."

As Zinnecker read that verse and held the little pewter pin, he felt a warm glow of assurance that God had not forgotten him. He prayed for the "impossible," a successful surgical outcome. "The next day, after I was four hours in surgery, the surgeon told my wife, 'There is no trace of the cancer.' Now, 15 years later, I continue to rejoice in the warmth of that assurance of God's love. I am in His hands," Zinnecker says.

Pray in simple, concrete language.

Minister and author, Norman Vincent Peale, said the most effective way to open spiritual circuits and receive prayer power is by speaking to God in simple, concrete language. "Do not use exaggerated, formal speech ... This does not diminish respect for Him, but serves to make the relationship more natural. Talk to God about everything that is on your mind and in your heart."

Praying in simple, concrete language was what Jesus instructed us to do when he taught people the Lord's Prayer. That prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13, is only 57 words long in the original Greek and 52 words in English. Also, most of the words in that prayer consist of one syllable, which by today's standards means that the written form of the Lord's Prayer is on a second- or third-grade level. The lesson: Use simple, concrete language when speaking with God. Express yourself clearly and concisely.

Offer bold prayers.

When praying, think about this insight from writer William Arthur Ward: "God wants us to be victors, not victims; to grow, not grovel; to soar, not sink; to overcome, not to be overwhelmed." Offer bold prayers that reflect a large faith and a large hope.

A prayer warrior who offered bold prayers was Archibald Campbell Tait, an Archbishop of Canterbury in the 19th century. Between March 11 and April 8, 1856, Tait and his wife lost five of their six daughters to scarlet fever. At the height of his enormous grief, the archbishop offered this bold prayer of gratitude for God's blessings in his life:

"O God, you have dealt very mysteriously with us. We have been passing through deep waters ... You have reclaimed the lent jewels. Yet, O Lord, shall I not thank you now? I will thank you not only for the children you have left to us, but for those you have reclaimed. I thank you for the blessing of the last 10 years, and for all the sweet memories of these lives. ... I thank you for the full assurance that each has gone to the arms of the Good Shepherd, whom each loved according to the capacity of her years. I thank you for the bright hopes of a happy reunion, when we shall meet to part no more."

Have great expectations.

Some people are prayer worriers, not prayer warriors. They do pray but they are filled with worry and self-doubt. This spiritual condition results in weakened, ineffective prayers.

The apostle James addressed this very issue: "When you ask Him (God) be sure that you really expect Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord ... They waver back and forth in everything they do (James 1:6-8)."

When approaching God with your needs, be strong and positive. Believe with all your mind and heart that God can and will respond to you. Pray big. Believe big. Think big. Cultivate a strong, positive, vibrant faith. ■

(Quoted text taken from New Living Translation [NLT])

Editor's note: 02/18/2012 - "Hi John: You may reprint. Thank you for contacting me. Blessings on you and your ministry." Victor P - Special thanks to author Victor M. Parachin for giving the Lowcountry Deacons Alliance, Inc. & Its Auxiliaries permission to reprint this article. Victor M. Parachin is an ordained minister and freelance journalist. He is the author of several books, including *Daily Strength for Daily Needs: One Year of Biblical Inspirations* and *The Lord Is My Shepherd: A Psalm for the Grieving*. This article is taken from *The Deacon*,



The Lowcountry Deacons Alliance, Inc. & Its Auxiliary Officers & Committee Chairpersons installed . . .

The Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III, Pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church during the February 13, 2012 regular meeting.

Deaconess Pat Mayes, Chairperson Mt. Moriah Deaconess Ministry made a presentation of \$500.00 to the Lowcountry Deacons Alliance & Its Auxiliaries Scholarship fund in memory of Deaconess Andrea Glover Matthews who ascended to be with The Lord last year.

2012 Officers

Deacon Emeritus Daniel Hoskins
Chairman
Deacon Sammy Burroughs
Vice Chairman
Deacon Emeritus George Bryant
Secretary
Deacon Willie Stewart, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Deacon Levy W. Berry
Treasurer
Deacon Marshall McFadden
Financial Secretary
Winston Mack
National Field Worker Advisor

Officers of the Women's Auxiliary

Deaconess Emerita Doris Hoskins
Chairperson
Deaconess Donna Fields
Vice Chairperson
Deaconess Shirley Berry
Secretary
Deaconess Barbara McFadden
Treasurer
Deaconess Barbara Burroughs
Chaplin
Jeanette White
Youth Auxiliary Advisor

Executive Committee Members

Deaconess Barbara Burroughs
Deacon Sammy Burroughs
Deacon Johnny L. Fields
Deacon John Matthews, Jr.
Deacon Anthony Mitchell
Deaconess Gwendell Murray
Deacon Willie Stewart, Jr.
Deacon Charles Traylor
Deacon Melvin Whack
Deacon Odis Williams



Health Committee

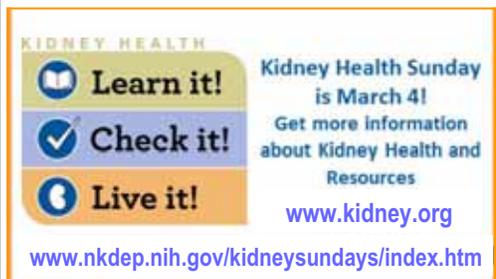
Increasingly, people are turning to places of worship to get accurate, useful information about issues that uniquely affect African Americans. The Lowcountry Deacons Alliance & Its Auxiliaries Health Committee aspires to improve the health of member congregations and Lowcountry communities. The Health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

Deaconess Gwendell Murray - Health Committee Chairperson

March is National Kidney Month

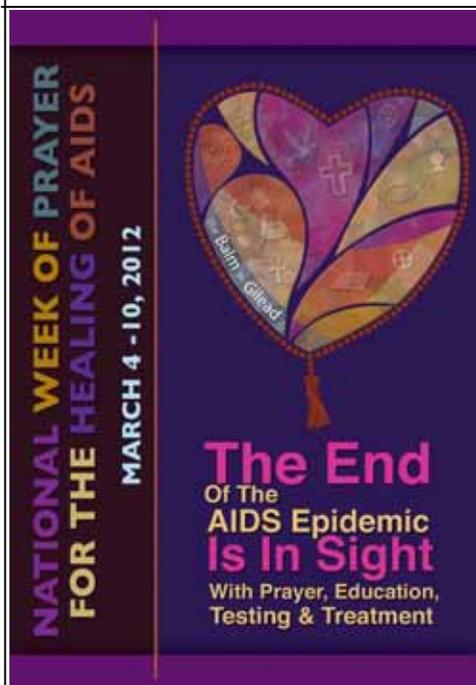
Due to high rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, African Americans have an increased risk of developing kidney failure and requiring dialysis treatments or a kidney transplant to sustain life. African Americans need to be aware of these risk factors and visit their doctor or clinic regularly to check their blood sugar, blood pressure, urine protein and kidney function.

Kidney Health Sunday is a national faith day to raise



awareness and charitable giving, within churches for kidney disease. The Lowcountry Deacons Alliance encour-

ages our member churches and their health ministries to conduct kidney disease awareness and education activities on **Kidney Health Sunday**. ■



*The purpose of **The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS** is to bring national attention to the AIDS epidemic in the United*

States and the extraordinary role faith communities can and are playing in AIDS prevention, education, service and advocacy.

March 27, 2012 is . . .



Compared to the general population, African Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes:

- 3.7 million, or 14.7 percent of all African Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes.
- African Americans are 1.8 times more likely to have diabetes as non Hispanic whites.
- 25 percent of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes.
- 1 in 4 African American women over 55 years of age has diabetes.

American Diabetes Association Alert Day® is a one-day "wake-up call" asking the American public to take the Diabetes Risk Test to find out if they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. **Held on the fourth Tuesday of every March, the next Alert Day will be held on March 27, 2012.**

The Diabetes Risk Test asks users to answer simple questions about weight, age, family history and other potential risk factors for prediabetes or type 2 diabetes. Preventative tips are provided for everyone who takes the test, including encouraging those at high risk to talk with their health care provider.

Although Alert Day is a one-day event, the Diabetes Risk Test is available year-round.

Help spread the word about Alert Day within your church and community. Go to www.diabetes.org to download Diabetes Alert Day promotional materials for you to download.

Control what you can. You can't do anything about aging, but you can become more active and eat healthier. ■

Lowcountry Deacons Alliance & Its Auxiliary Crab Crack and Oyster Roast Saturday February 18, 2012





**Lowcountry Deacons
Alliance & Its Auxiliaries, Inc.**

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Charleston, SC 29423-1172

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E-mail: hoskinsd@tds.net



Christian Laity at Work



Monday March 12, 2012
at
EI Shaddai Missionary Baptist Church
4708 Durant Ave.
N. Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 744-1011

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& Its Auxiliaries, Inc.*

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Deacon Emeritus George Bryant
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Deacon John Matthews
Trainer & Newsletter Editor
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Calendar of Upcoming Events & Activities

March 9-10, 2012

**Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church Spiritual Leaders,
Deacons & Deaconess Workshop.**

Call 843-572-4126 to register or for more information.

March 12

EI Shaddai Missionary Baptist Church
4708 Durant Ave.
N. Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 744-1011

March 23-24, 2012

**2012 Mid Term National Baptist Deacons Convention of
America INC & Its Auxiliaries**

Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk
100 Constance Rd
Suffolk VA 23434

Reservations: 757-925-1300 (Rates: \$89.00 plus taxes)

Phone: (877) 612-4253 for more information or E-mail:

info@nationalbaptistdeaconsconvention.com

Get Registration Form & more information online:

www.nationalbaptistdeaconsconvention.com

April 9

Mt Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
7396 Rivers Ave.
N. Charleston, SC 29406
(843) 412-5813

July 16-20, 2012

**2012 Annual Session National Baptist Deacons Convention
of America INC & Its Auxiliaries**

Hosted by the great state of Virginia
Norfolk Marriott Waterside
235 East Main Street

\$115.00 per night plus taxes call Reservations: 800-874-0264

Phone: (877) 612-4253 or E-mail:

info@nationalbaptistdeaconsconvention.com for more information

Get Registration Form & more information online:

www.nationalbaptistdeaconsconvention.com

Teamwork Generates Harmony"