Greetings, in the name of Jesus Christ, our great Lord and Savior. I give thanks to God, for He is great, and He is greatly to be praised. All honor and glory belongs to Him!

Many Georgians attended the June 21-23, 2017 National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in St. Louis, Missouri. The Congress theme for studying the Word of God was *Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as we Equip Disciples for Christ.* Although our national themes have centered on the concept of Discipleship with emphasis on “making” (in 2015) and “growing” (in 2016) disciples for Christ. The operative word in this year’s theme is “equip.” Webster’s Dictionary defines equip as, “to furnish or provide with whatever is needed for use or for any undertaking.” This definition leads to the need for a deeper understanding of what the church can do to equip, prepare, provide or furnish members to be followers and students of Jesus Christ. How can this goal be accomplished? The answer to this probing question comes from the Scripture passages of II Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 4:12-13; Galatians 5:22-23; and John 16:13. As Christian educators, we must also emphasize the passage of II Timothy 2:15 and the underlying principle of workmanship for the Lord. Moreover, I whole-heartedly agree with Dr. Carol Mitchell, 2017 Theme Book Coordinator for the National Baptist Congress, in her supplication that we strive to move church members from the “theoretical realm of discipleship to the practical.” This process begins with a study of the Word of God and continues with truly “living” Its principles and precepts daily.

As Deans, we must continue to support our Pastors and teachers who form the front-line providers for equipping disciples for Christ. Teachers are also in the life-saving business of conveying the Word of God to those who may not be anchored in the precepts that God has provided for us. Therefore, as Deans, it remains our duty to ensure that each instructor in the Christian Leadership School is nothing less than fully equipped to deliver the Word of God with clarity and enthusiasm. Additionally, each teacher should be well-versed in the Baptist doctrine, and able to clearly expound on its present-day applications to discipleship. We must also stress that our doctrine comes directly from the Word of God through the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, teachers must help individuals recognize that God’s Word gives us our marching orders—“to take up your cross and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). In closing, I recognize that the work you do with Christian Leadership Schools will lead to the greater good of growing disciples for Christ. I wish to thank you for “Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as we Equip Disciples for Christ!”
Pastor Quentin J. Morris, Sr., is a native of Talladega, Alabama and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris. He acquired both his elementary and high school education in the Talladega County public school system. He furthered his education at Alabama State University and subsequently entered the United States Army where he spent six years.

Pastor Morris has a Masters of Divinity from Amridge University in Montgomery, Alabama. He also has a Bachelor’s degree in Ministry and a minor in Counseling Psychology from Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Georgia. He is presently enrolled in the Ministry Doctoral Program at South College in Savannah. He has taught life Science and Special Education in the Glynn and Liberty County School Systems in Georgia. He has served as the Moderator of the Ludowici District of the Tattnall Missionary Baptist Association and is a certified teacher and Dean for the National Baptist Convention, Inc. He is also an active member of the Beta Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Pastor Morris has served as pastor of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of Manassas, Georgia, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Ludowici and First African Baptist Church, St. Simons Island, Georgia. In March of 2012, Pastor Morris accepted the call to be the sixth Pastor of Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church, Savannah, GA where they believe that, “Family is first and God is EVERYTHING!” Since this time, members have recommitted themselves back to God and to the church and the membership has increased rapidly.

Pastor Morris has a zeal for God and is a willing servant for the Lord. He is sold out to a life of preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus’ return! He is a family man that values any time spent with his family. He and his wife, Monina, of 17 years, have four beautiful children: DaQuendra Jackiel, Quiana Yvonne, Quentin Jermaine, Jr. and Malachi Myles.

“What is Christian Discipleship?”

A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christ like. This process requires believers to respond to the Holy Spirit’s prompting to examine their thoughts, words and actions and compare them with the Word of God. This requires that we be in the Word daily—studying it, praying over it, and obeying it. In addition, we should always be ready to give testimony of the reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15) and to disciple others to walk in His way. According to Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

1. Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34-38).
2. Following Jesus’ teachings (John 8:31-32).
3. Fruitfulness (John 15:5-8)
5. Evangelism - Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18-20.)
Highlights of the 2017 National Baptist Congress of Christian Education President’s Address

Rev. Dr. James H. Cokley, President of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education rendered an inspirational annual address to more than 30,000 delegates from across America in the beautiful city of St. Louis Missouri on June 22, 2017. President Cokley is pastor of the Cherry Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Conway, SC. Dr. Cokley presided at the 112th Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress with precision and grace, as he espoused the theme of Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as We Equip Disciples for Christ! He expressed his excitement and gratefulness for the many delegates who sacrificed to attend the week of training. He also noted that this year was the third time in five years that the Congress was held in St. Louis because of the hospitality and accommodations that they offer.

President Cokley shared many uplifting Scriptures, including Ephesians 4:11-12, as well as practical applications of ways that the Congress can equip the church to make disciples. He also challenged the delegates to go beyond the theoretical boundaries of the Word of God, but to take back what we have learned and share it with those in our local churches. The following are key points taken from Dr. Cokley’s address:

- We must deal with social media as a church because some things on Facebook make it difficult for us to witness.
- We must deal with homosexuality and lesbianism, but give them God’s perspective. We must teach them that God hates the sin but loves the sinner.
- Let the Congress of Christian Education be the focal point for equipping the church. Allow the Congress to train your members.
- We must learn to be one Convention and move forward for the sake of Jesus Christ. The Congress wants to help you with your training so you can win souls for Jesus Christ.
- Paul wants us to see ourselves as transformed, mature saints of the Master. The three ways in which the Bible uses equipping are physically, having a mental perspective, and assimilation through the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Cokley ended his address by thanking everyone for their attendance, and to make plans now to attend the 2018 National Congress of Christian Education which will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGIANS ON THE MOVE…

National Baptist COPP Diploma of Christian Education
- Karen Clark of Augusta, GA and Amos Williams, Jr. of Acworth, GA

Pastor’s Alternative for Teacher Certification
- Rev. Steven Ramey of Albany, GA and Rev. Gloria Golphin-Vaner of Americus, GA
- Rev. Isaac H. Owens of Cordele, GA and Rev. Titus Roberson of LaGrange, GA
- Rev. Darien D. McCray of Metter, GA and Rev. Toney Fraley of Milledgeville, GA
- Rev. Silas Jackson of Sylvester, GA and Rev. Deidre Norvet of Columbus, GA
- Rev. Peggy Harris of Thomson, GA

Master Teacher Certification from the National Congress of Christian Education
- Dr. Roberta J. Hatcher of Augusta, GA and Helen B. Brown of Hephzibah, GA

The role of the State Director of Christian Education is diverse and its aim is to enhance the state’s Christian Education Program.
The director is one of the links between the state and the Division of Christian Education Accreditation and Credentials (DCEAC) under the NBC, USA, Inc., leadership programs. The director is responsible to the State Convention and has involvement in Christian activities held under the auspices of the Convention. Therefore, the director is a servant of the Convention and its constituency, and will assist, as needed, throughout the state. The director of Christian Education works in the interests of the State Body, District Associations Leaders, volunteer workers, certified Deans of Christian Education, the Regional Coordinator, and the DCEAC and the NBC, USA, Inc.

COPP: Certificate of Progress Program Changes (Reminders for Students)

- Those enrolled in COPP after September 1, 2016 must adhere to 2016 Procedures.
- Elective Courses are no longer required under the new CLS Procedures.
- Phases should be completed in sequential order.
- Upon completion of Phases 1, 2, and 3, students will receive a certificate.
- COPP Diploma will be issued upon completion of Phase 4

Coming Events for Deans

July 17-21, 2017
55th Annual Congress of Christian Education
GMBC of GA
Dublin High School at Dublin, GA
Thursday, July 20th at 4:15 pm
Dean’s Meeting –.

Christian Leadership Schools

July 25 - July 28, 2017
GMBC 5th District CLS
Antioch North Missionary Baptist Church
540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
Dr. Albertine Marshall, Dean

August 4, 2017 - August 5, 2017
New Grady CLS
New Grady Association Building
204 Church Street S.W.
Cairo, GA 39828
Rev. Veon Williams, Dean

August 23, 2017 - December 20, 2017
Nazareth Baptist Church CLS
526 Radcliff Drive
Columbus, GA 31906
Rev. Brandon R. Isome, Dean

October 2-5, 2017 - November 6-9, 2017
11th Annual Thankful CLS
Thankful Missionary Baptist Church
820 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Savannah, GA 31415
Dr. Evelyn Dandy, Dean

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:1-12 (NIV)

“Unclaimed” Course Cards Available for Pick-Up in Dublin, GA, in the Registrar’s Office

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” II Timothy 2:15

Check the GMBC Website for other notices regarding training opportunities and information for Georgia Deans and Instructors - http://gmbcofgeorgia.org/

Dr. Roberta J. Hatcher
State Director of Christian Education for GMBC of GA
g.hatcher3030@comcast.net

Grow up in Christ through Christian Education

Check the GMBC Website for CLS locations and dates in Georgia!