



Photo by Donna Rogers

The choir, led by Willie Mason, sings during the Christmas Day service at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

Message

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wrong stuff," he said. "You should be grateful that God saved your sin-sick soul." He said members of the congregation should be grateful for what they have,

what they don't have (such as illness) and what didn't happen (such as an accident).

The people should be grateful for Jesus, Scovens said.

"Don't complain! Lift Jesus up!" he said.

Lesson

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(verses 4-5). We praise God in verses 6-7 for His creative power of speech. God spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. We praise Him also for His manipulation of the waters on the earth, noting again His sovereignty over all His creation. The psalmist continues by saying let all the earth fear and stand in awe of God. Powerful and mighty, "He speaks and it's done, His commands stand

fast" (verses 8-9). UMI Annual Commentary 2016-2017.

For Consideration: Think about all the things you are thankful for God doing in your life. Contemplate those things you still desire of Him. Now, where is your "new" praise?

Life's Application: Praising God as our Creator is essential for our spiritual health, just as nutrition is essential for our physical health. (Brian D.

Todd). Praising God can be a relief of everyday cares of the world, an uplifting of downtrodden spirits and in some cases a healing for our souls...simply because we recognize and express in our praise who God is...not only to us but to the entire world. Praising God meets needs for us that we don't always know we have. Yet without fail...after the praise, our spirits are lifted and we feel strengthened and victorious "for praise is comely for the upright" (verse 33:1).



It became standing room only for the Ministers' Conference for Bishop Todd Fulton's farewell address.

Conference

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Cleveland Avenue is helping to feed scores of individuals. Also he was involved in the Conference's work with getting fines eliminated so thousands of individuals were able to clear their driving records and obtain their drivers license once again. He said that work means a great deal to him.

He went on to say that he is pleased by the release of Calvin Michael Smith

and the concessions that will be made for him. He also wanted to say he was excited for the new attorney general, Josh Stein, and new governor, Roy Cooper and eagerly anticipates the great things they have in store for the state of North Carolina.

Fulton says the highlight of his time as president of the conference came when they were able to provide \$11,000 in scholarship money for local high school seniors. He says he looks forward to the new leadership of the

conference under Dr. Lamont Williams.

When asked how he would like to see the conference progress in the future, Fulton said, "I would love to see more female pastors involved and definitely want to embrace younger pastors as well. But we must also not forget the wisdom of our senior pastors like Dr. [John] Mendez and Dr. [Carlton] Eversley because it's their wisdom that has gotten me and our cabinet to this point."

Williams

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but I was certainly just caught in the moment of what I felt was going to be true actually coming true."

Williams said before the results were announced, he remembered an encounter he had with Mayor Allen Joines earlier this year where they were discussing the mayoral elections and Joines said "never underestimate your opponent." Williams said he knew that one wrong word or gesture could mean the difference between winning and losing.

Williams said that just four years ago, there were many pastors who were walking away from the conference but credits Bishop Todd Fulton with resurrecting the MCWSV.

"To see all of what he [Fulton] has done is amazing," said Williams. "I felt like people were applauding Fulton because they knew this conference has made some major strides under him and I felt like they were saying to me the mandate is on me to not let it fall but to take it higher."

When asked his thoughts on Williams as

the new president of the conference, Fulton said, "I think Dr. Williams will continue to flow in the vein of the conduit that the conference has already laid. He will be a great president to move us forward with forward thinking and being very action-oriented."

Williams said he wants to take the model that Fulton has built and expand upon that. Each of the three vice presidents will lead a different committee and form their own individual staffs to achieve the necessary goals of that committee.

The committees under Fulton are Ministry of Education, Ministry of Food Justice, Ministry of Social Justice, Ministry of Health and Wellness and Ministry of Economics.

One of the goals that Williams wishes to accomplish while in office is to double the amount of pastors in the conference before he "passes the mantle off" to the next president. He also plans on choosing two communities twice a year to hold a Community Day. During the Community Day, he wants to bring in resources for the community they otherwise may not have access to.

Along with the Community Day, Williams plans to organize a trip to Cuba once a year with local leaders, pastors and organizations for a revival. He has previously visited the country and has formed a strong bond with some in the religious community there.

Bringing in more young people and female pastors to the conference is paramount for Williams. He says his spirit of inclusion is very important to him.

"It is a benchmark to the leadership that I wanted to have a woman in the cabinet," Williams continued. "It was a necessary requirement for me so I was glad that it all played out that way. That speaks to the leadership style that I will be imploring."

Williams closed by saying he wants the signature of his time as president to be the minority male mentoring program named the Triad Mentoring Coalition.

"If you believe in the work then I want you to join the struggle of changing the narrative of our young men of color," Williams said of those who wish to help young men of color.



Photos provided by ESR

Ola Ashford, Success Coach, Marian N. on behalf of her husband Ali A., and William Hawkins, Success Coach, are shown.

Community adopts ESR families for Christmas

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Experiment in Self-Reliance hosted a Christmas Giveaway on Dec. 12 and on into Christmas. In partnership with St. Leo's Catholic Church, Jerry Romans, and Winston-Salem State University, more than 30 families in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County area were adopted for Christmas and were provided with toys and necessities, and a Christmas meal.

St. Leo's, WSSU, and Mr. Romans, ESR's board chair, contacted ESR, wanting to give families in need the opportunity to enjoy Christmas. ESR case managers then contacted the families and arranged for pickup. Gifts ranged from bikes, to clothes and turkeys.

Clients and families were thankful to be able to provide a Christmas meal for their families, and give their children toys to open. With the average cost of a Christmas meal being over \$50, community members were eager to help clients alleviate that cost.

"It is a blessing to me and my family because my dad has always been my backbone, but he passed away three years ago, so it is just me and my kids and my mom." Said Aultrice, a Self-Sufficiency client. "This is actually a blessing because I just started a job, and it is only seasonal."

Marian, who picked up the donation for her hus-

band Ali who is a client of ESR, was all smiles. "This donation means so much to me, and I would like to thank everybody who helped me. I am very thankful, and God bless you! Me and my family are very happy."

Ambriana, a Self-Sufficiency client, and her husband, were grateful for the unexpected donation they received. "This is the first year we have had a full Christmas in four years. We really didn't plan on a Christmas." The client's husband, who received a bike, can now travel back and forth to work.

"For us to be given all of this, it means the world to us."

ESR would like to give a special thanks to St. Leo's Catholic Church, WSSU, and Mr. Romans for their generous donations and for providing hope to families this holiday season.

Experiment in Self-Reliance is a non-profit Community Action Agency that focuses on empowering people with low-moderate income to become self-reliant. Programs help provide housing, teach clients to save, budget, and improve credit scores, provide assistance for education, and help clients build assets like homeownership, as well as free tax preparation. All clients must be working. For more information on ESR's services, visit their website at www.eisr.org or call 336-722-9400.

GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS



Upcoming

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WITH REVEREND DR. NATHAN EDWARD SCOVENS, SR.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY, DEC. 25TH - 10:00AM

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS
SATURDAY, DEC. 31ST - 6:00PM

NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY, JAN. 1ST - 10:00AM