

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.
CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
A Christ Centered Congress

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr.
Congress President
Organized 1880

Dr. William J. Shaw
Convention President
Incorporated 1915

National Congress Oratorical Commission Announces

RULES FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP ORATORICAL CONTEST

2009 Oratorical Contest Theme
“THE HEAVENLY VISION AND THE
MISSION OF THE CHURCH”

Matthew 28:16-20
Mark 16:15-16
Luke 24:44-49
John 20:21
Acts 1:1-4; 8-9

The contest will be held during the National Congress Annual Session, June 24, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. The contest will be supervised and directed by the Oratorical Commission.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. The contestants must be currently enrolled in his/her senior year and graduate before September, 2009.
2. Contestants are expected to prepare their own paper. Papers must be typewritten and doubled-spaced with a maximum of eight hundred (800) words and a minimum of six hundred (600) words.
3. Five copies of the oration must be submitted. Submit one original and four copies to: The Oratorical Commission's Office, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 224 N. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32304, Attention: Dr. Eva C. Wanton by Monday, May 4, 2009 along with the Data Sheet. **NO FAXES PLEASE.**
4. There will be no sermonettes. Any contestant using this style of oration will be disqualified.
5. There will be no introduction reference to protocol by the Contestant. He/she will stand, state the topic and begin his/her oration.
6. State Directors must familiarize Contestants with rules. Upon violation of any rules, Contestant(s) will be disqualified.
7. Dress Code: Men-Suit coats with ties; Ladies-Dress or suit with hosiery.

STATE CONGRESS:

1. Each State Congress, through a process of elimination, will select the top contestant and send his/her paper to the Oratorical Commission's office. The young authors will be notified and asked to appear

2. at the National Congress as finalists. The Commission's office will only accept papers from the State Congress Presidents or State Youth Directors (not from individuals or churches).
3. The three (3) most outstanding finalists will be winners of the undergraduate scholarships being offered by the National Congress of Christian Education. First place award: \$5,000.00; Second place award: \$1,000.00; Third place award: \$700.00.
4. The local church or State Congress will sponsor its finalist to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

JUDGES:

1. The Judges will be selected prior to the Congress.
2. The oration will be judged on the quality of the composition, subject matter, content, originality, delivery, vocal control, enunciation, pronunciation, stage decorum (body language, gestures) and mastery of material. The Contestant will not be permitted to read any part of the oration. To read any part or all of it, or to use notes of any kind, will disqualify the Contestant.
3. The decision of the Judges will be final.
4. There will be no explanation of Judges' decision.
5. All orations will remain the property of the Oratorical Commission.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A letter confirming acceptance of the Contestant as a participant in the National Oratorical Contest will be sent to the State President or State Youth Director no later than May 25, 2009 stating the time and location of the contest to be held.

All contestants must arrive no later than one hour prior to the starting time of the contest.

VALUE OF CONTEST

We believe the Oratorical Contest is a valuable Christian Education tool for the youth of our nation. The contest creates intellectual thinkers, positive expressions, and enhances self-esteem.

**NATIONAL BAPIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.
DATA SHEET FOR ORATORICAL CONTEST**

MAIL TO: Dr. Eva C. Wanton, Chairperson
National Congress Oratorical Commission
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
224 N. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 222-8440

DATA SHEET FOR ORATORICAL CONTEST

***Contestant No.** _____ **Name:** _____

Contestant's Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Contestant's Telephone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Church: _____ (____) _____

Pastor: _____

State Congress President: _____ **Telephone Number (____) _____**

State Convention President: _____ **Telephone Number (____) _____**

State Youth Director: _____ **Telephone Number (____) _____**

Parents/Guardian: _____

College/University You Plan To Attend: _____

Major: _____ **Minor:** _____

Place of Local Contest: _____ **Date:** _____

State President/Youth Director

Is the Contestant a senior in High School? _____

Will the Contestant graduate from High School before September 2009? _____

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE VERIFIED FOR ACCURACY BY THE STATE PRESIDENT OR STATE YOUTH DIRECTOR

**For Oratorical Commission use only*

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During the 104th Annual Session
of the National Baptist Congress
In
Detroit, Michigan

Dr. Eva C. Wanton, Chairperson
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