

## **Chaplains Professional Development Institute – 2009**

The Office of the Ecclesiastical Endorser will, along with the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, host the 2009 Chaplains Professional Development Institute, June 22-26 in Detroit, Michigan.

It is important for all chaplains planning to attend the 2009 conference to begin now making housing arrangements.

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### **The 2009 Chaplains Institute**

The 2009 Chaplains Institute will feature three areas instruction and professional update.

**Denominational Update:** Dr. Charles F. Thomas, Ecclesiastical Endorser Dr. Thomas will brief all chaplains on current policies, challenges, and areas of concern for National Baptist Chaplains. The Endorser will give a summary of his ministry to chaplains though the past year, his concerns for chaplains and their families, and his role in facilitating the ministry of chaplains throughout the National Baptist Convention.

**Seminar #1: Suicide Ministry** (Chaplain Alice Tamre, Hospital Chaplain). This seminar will look at the current phenomena of suicide in the USA, with emphasis on the role of institutional ministry through such agencies as the Veterans Administration, military chaplains, jail & prison ministry chaplains, and communities. Information taught through this seminar will also be valuable to chaplains who are also serving as pastors or staff ministers in local churches.

**Seminar #2: Human Sexuality and Church Ministry** (with special emphasis on the military “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy; Chaplain (COL) Michael Wilson, Hospital Chaplain, Army Reserve Chaplain.) This seminar will look at the current controversy of gay and lesbian lifestyles. The seminar will allow the participants to look at current church practices, their acceptance or rejection of the gay/lesbian role in the church, with emphasis on leadership, marriage, and the implications for this alternate lifestyle for chaplaincy ministry.

Chaplain Wilson will lead the seminar to look at denominational views, the role of Baptist Chaplains and Ministers, and theological questions concerning this lifestyle.

**Chaplains Luncheon:** The Office of the Ecclesiastical Endorser will, again, host a family luncheon for the chaplains and their families at a local area church. This time of food and fellowship will provide an informal setting for chaplains and their families to get to know each other and to build both personal and professional relationships.

**For more information** concerning the 2009 Chaplains Institute, you are welcome to contact the Institute Director, Dr. Floyd E. Lacey, Sr. (Chaplain (COL) US Army Retired (flacey@prodigy.net) or the Ecclesiastical Endorser, Dr. Charles F. Thomas (Charles Thomas <cthomas3787@aol.com.>).