

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

**2008 Oratorical Contest Theme
“THE HEAVENLY VISION AND
THE MORALS OF THE CHURCH”
Proverbs 6:16-19; Micah 6:8
Ephesians 5:16-21**



**During the 103rd Annual Session
Of the National Baptist Congress
In
Louisville, Kentucky**

Dr. Eva C. Wanton, Chairperson
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RULES FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP ORATORICAL CONTEST

2008 Oratorical Contest Theme “THE HEAVENLY VISION AND THE MORALS OF THE CHURCH”

Proverbs 6:16-19; Micah 6:8

Ephesians 5: 16-21

The contest will be held during the National Congress Annual Session, June 18, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky. 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, 2008.
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. Papers must be prepared in triplicate. Submit one original and two copies to: The Oratorical Commission's Office, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 224 N. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301, Attention: Dr. Eva C. Wanton by Friday, May 2, 2008 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 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).
2. The most outstanding finalists three (3) 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.
3. 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.

***For Oratorical Commission use only**

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 June 6, 2008 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 BAPTIST 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

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

Address: _____

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

Telephone (____) _____ **E-mail** _____

Pastor: _____

Church _____

State Congress President: _____

State Convention: President: _____

State Youth Director: _____

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 2008? _____