

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. George W. Waddles, Congress President
From: Roslyn L. Harvey, Oratorical Coordinator
CC: Dr. Doretha P. Johnson, General Secretary
Date: 9/24/2014
Re: 2014 Oratorical Contest Report

Good afternoon,

To Dr. Waddles, our National Baptist Congress President, Dr. Doretha Johnson, General Secretary, Dean Elliott Cuff, Dr. Foster, Congress Treasurer and all officers and staff of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

The following report is being submitted on behalf of the Oratorical Contest, which was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, in the Dallas Convention Center, Arena, in Dallas, TX

There were 17 contestants that qualified to participate- 13 females and 4 males-from the following states: Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan (BM &E and the Wolverine State Conventions), Missouri, Mississippi,(East MS State, New Educational State of MS, and the General Missionary Baptist State Conventions) Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. We praise God for each State Convention and Congress Presidents that supports this endeavor. This year for the first time in the history of the Oratorical contest, one of the judges was the 2012- 1st Place Oratorical Winner, Mr. Ber Thaddaeus M.P. Bailey, from Oklahoma, who is currently enrolled to complete his senior year at the Oklahoma State University. In addition to serving as a judge, Ber Thaddaeus availed himself to present the 2014 winner at the Children's/Youth Rally on Friday.

Over the past 5 years we have averaged approximately 600 persons in attendance, used 4-5 judges consistently (2014 judges- Dr. Robert C. Scott, Dr. Vernon Walton, Dr. Joseph Turner, and Ber Thaddaeus Baily.) and have had 3-4 individuals responsible for the tallying of the scores. Based on this process the results have been calculated expeditiously and this year was no

exception. In addition to the monetary awards the Oratorical commission received 5 Hewlett Packard touch screen tablets, from Office Depot. I would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Waddles and Lisa Cook for their work with the Dream Maker's Scholarship program. This year we were honored to have Miss Amber Daughtry, of Los Angeles provide us with two violin selections. She is a member of the Congress Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Clarence Jones

Now for the 2014 Oratorical winners:

5th place winner, Miss Kiana McFadden of Waynesboro, Mississippi received a Hewlett Packard (HP) touch screen tablet

4th place winner, Mr. Joshua William Harrison Yarbrough, of Lindale, Texas received a Hewlett Packard touch screen tablet

3rd place winner, is Mr. Evan Wilson Haynes of Raleigh, North Carolina, who received \$1000 and a HP tablet. He is a member of the First Baptist Church-Raleigh, pastored by Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and they are members of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Evan will be attending North Carolina Central University, majoring in Mass Communication/Broadcasting.

2nd place winner is Miss Loriana Carmae Harkey of Bellevue, Nebraska, who received \$1500 and a HP tablet. She is a member of the Salem Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus, and they are members of the New Era National Baptist State Convention of Nebraska, Inc. Loriana will be attending Creighton University, majoring in Psychology.

Our 1st place winner is Ms. Yunique' Murphy, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who received \$5000 and a HP tablet. She is a member of First Baptist- Green Pastures, pastored by Rev. Raymond Wandick and they are members of the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention. Yunique' will be attending Grambling State University, majoring in Drafting and Design Engineering.

Again this year, we believe that our mission is to provide a positive experience for the youth of our Congress in the opportunity to compete and our goal is to support them as they prepare to attend institutions of higher learning.

Each year, I continue to solicit the support of the Regional Vice Presidents, State Convention and Congress Presidents, as we encourage your constituents to participate in helping us reach a goal of increasing participation annually by at least 20%; and again we are grateful to God, for our young Christians, their parents and each church, district association and state convention that

provides support.. Keep in mind; we are responsible for assuring that our youth are ready, not only monetarily but spiritually, to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We must be reminded as in the late 19th century, a Brigade of Shielded soldiers call the Shielded Cavalry began a reconnaissance mission to liberate the life of J. August, one of their own who had always believed in himself. During the course of that reconnaissance the mission began to stumble and what was intended to be a mission of days became a mission of weeks. The soldier waiting for the Calvary one day arose with a great revelation that would change the trajectory of his life- “The Cavalry isn’t coming, and if I plan to escape the throes of my condemned experience, then I must rise from the ashes of my despair and take liberation into my own hands”. To each of you, the “Calvary is not Coming”, we have to liberate our children and give them a myriad of positive expectations.

As in the past, Dean Elliott Cuff, has given us the **theme for 2015** which will be:

"Making Disciples for Christ"

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” Matthew 16:24-26 NKJV

Thank you for your time, and the opportunity to serve,

Roslyn L. Harvey

Oratorical Coordinator