

MEN ARE IMPORTANT

by Robert D. Cochran

Observations of societies are intriguing. The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History once portrayed American society by the Foucault Pendulum which swung there for years. The great bob swung back and forth. Over hours patient eyes sensed that the bob was not swinging true. It seemingly shifted in direction. In actuality, the environment (earth) shifted as we whirled together in space. So, is it often in our society.

Men always had their place in society—on whatever continent or whatever culture--often an undeserved authority due to the environment. That space was one of honor and also one of strength. Men always had their place in provision for the family, in childrearing and in education of younger generations. God's Revelation brought many men to see that any undeserved authority granted by society was challenged by God's demonstration of how honor and strength should be used, that demonstration was Jesus Christ. Such correction was needed; in many cases it is needed still. God's demonstration of the use of honor and strength is the true "bob."

Our society whirls about in social space, just as the earth whirls in the universe. Seemingly, the "bob" of manly honor and strength is no longer headed in the proper direction. Many question now the historic values of manhood, some seeking to abandon them altogether, while others question whether such antiquated values are still needed in our contemporary world. Men though, men of honor and strength, still are needed to protect and to provide for any in society who are weak and to prepare the next generations to live and to thrive. Our society is always shifting; so the learning edge for many men today is to become equal partners in the future (Ephesians 5:21ff) rather than to remain overlords of the past.

Let us celebrate the best qualities of manhood and look to raise these in our lives together—whether at work, at church or at home.

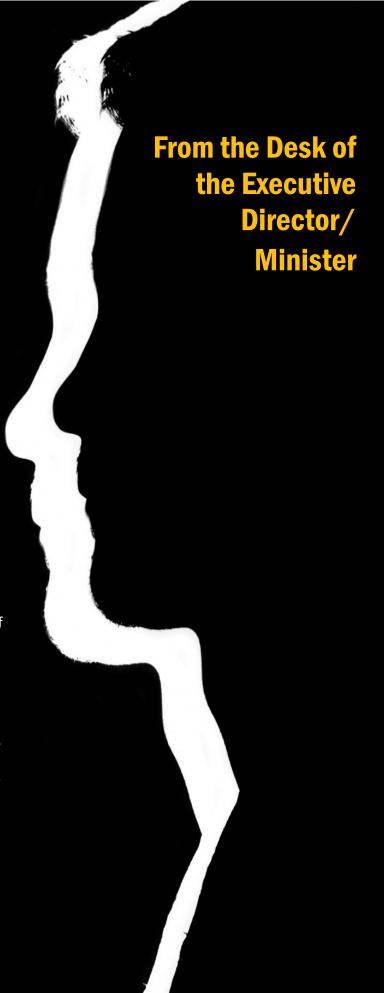


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1628 16th Street NW Washington, DC 20009

202.265.1526 (office)

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Montgomery County Pastors Luncheon VBS and Teacher Training

JBCC Meals for Kids

Burmese Cultural Day

District of Columbia Baptist Convention

Office of Empowering Congregations

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

TRAINING



SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018 9AM - 12PM

MONTGOMERY HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH 9727 GEORGIA AVE., SILVER SPRING, MD

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.DCBAPTIST.ORG

April 4, 1968. Fifty years ago, a dreamer died. His "I have a dream" speech remains one of the most memorable to Americans. His life and its witness are unforgettable. Engaging faith and civil disobedience, he turned the world's understanding of church upside down. Putting his body on the line, he became a martyr for a cause of freedom from the social construct of race, from socioeconomic and political exploitation and oppression, from the militarism of daily life and living.

His words challenged racism as usual, the normalization of hatred and communal terrorism. A Baptist minister, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. is a part of the prophetic tradition of the Church, joining the likes of Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Malachi and so many others. A dream challenged in his day is a reality we hope to see in ours. We need more like him— not consultants or experts but dreamers.

Today, we sit down together across cultures and time, sharing sacred space in the spirit of unity. Rev. King's dream is being fulfilled in us right now. His vision is in our sights.

And if you are not satisfied with the results thus far, if you feel that we have done enough, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. writes in Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?

"A final victory is an accumulation of many short-term encounters. To lightly dismiss a success because it does not usher in a complete order of justice is to fail to comprehend the process of full victory. It underestimates the value of confrontation and dissolves the confidence born of partial victory by which new efforts are powered."

His dream does not simply continue as a hope in our hearts or even a vision for the future. Instead, King's dream provokes us to not close our eyes but to open our hearts to what is possible and what can be if only we choose to see. And somebody's got to do it. Somebody's got to dream:

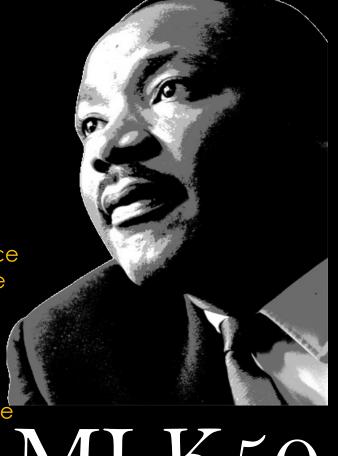
With the world and all its ways Leaders and people misbehave Somebody's got to be in a daze Somebody's got to dream.

With the world and all its violence Screaming, shouting, fighting the silence Somebody's got to provide guidance Somebody's got to dream.

With the world and its pride
Pretending, lying, trying to hide
Somebody's got to go to the other side
Somebody's got to dream.

With the world and its plans
Oppressing, distressing people and land
Somebody's got to call on the Upper
Hand
Somebody's got to dream.

With the world and its deaths
Killing until barely the soul is left
Somebody's got to give the future breath
Somebody's got to dream.



MILK50
By Starlette Thomas



Before Christ returned to the Father from his earthly ministry, he commanded his disciples to witness to people of all nations to include those in the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). India, with over 1.2 billion people (second largest to China) practicing various styles of worship to over one million different gods, certainly qualifies as the "uttermost parts of the earth." With the financial support of my church (Pilgrim Baptist Church) and the DC Baptist Convention (DCBC), I was blessed with a first-time opportunity to be a part of the 2018 mission trip to India.

During our 12-day assignment (Feb 25 – Mar 8), we visited the South-Central region of India traveling through Hyderabad and various remote villages. During this once in a lifetime experience, I witnessed firsthand the power in the name of Jesus Christ. I saw men, women, and children that did not speak English demonstrate a deep thirst to know more about Christ. Although the portion of the country we visited could certainly be described as pagan, I marveled at how our love for Christ illuminated in their darkness.

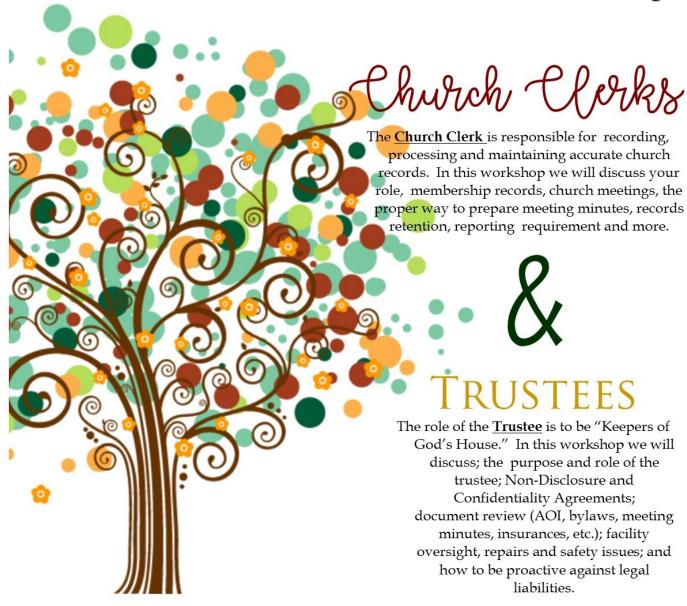
Beginning with our initial flight from Dulles to Doha, Qatar, the mention of Jesus Christ drew curiosity even from the flight crew. As we traveled throughout various villages to

include Koulas and Sirisilla, every mention of Jesus Christ resulted in our being witnesses to open confessions of India's people wanting to receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. This mission trip by far outweighed anything I experienced to date. Our daily morning devotions, prayers, and preaching of the gospel prepared us in every way for the culture, food, and language barriers.

Having experienced first hand the transformational power of Jesus Christ even in a country as distant as India, I am even more convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. The theme for this 2018 Mission Trip, "Getting to Know the Dispenser of India's Destiny" based on Acts 17:26 was even more convincing to note that God himself is working through India's national anthem to reveal himself as their salvation. I thank God for my part in helping to shed light. I can still hear the sounds from the young people in India as they recited the words to a song taught during our various worship experiences, "if Jesus is my dispenser, then heaven is my destiny." God bless and keep Calvary Commission India and Rivers of Joy Bible Fellowship Church.



2018 Church Clerk and Trustee Workshops



SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018 - 10:00AM - 12:00PM

D.C. Baptist Convention 1628 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009

-REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.DCBAPTIST.ORG









OAM FEEDS RESIDENTS IN SOUTHEAST By Glor

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, the members of the Older Adult Ministries team journeyed to the Johenning Center in Southeast DC to provide lunch for the residents in that community. Being the first group to serve lunch since the renovations took place at the Center, gave us the opportunity to see all of the wonderful improvements and to speculate about all of the ways the Center could be used to produce income. We were pleased to have that honor.

The atmosphere in DC on Saturday was filled with excitement as over 800,000 youth from around the country converged on Capitol Hill for the march for their lives. As some of us tried to navigate our way to the Johenning Center, Lorraine Smith, our OAM food Guru, was already at the Center unloading her car to begin preparing the food that would be lunch for our guests.

While some of the team prepared lunch of hot dogs with chili and onions, beans, chips, deviled eggs, Easter candy, cookies and drinks, Grace Knox joined some of the youth distributing flyers to persons on the street and to the apartment buildings inviting them to come in to eat. We served between 35-40 people at the Center and took 30 meals to the residents at the Dupont Park Adventist Apartments, which is a facility for older adults. At the request of some our guests, we even prepared food for them to take home. This was certainly confirmation that the food was good. Everyone served was very polite and respectful as our team served them with love and joy.

While the food was being prepared, the children in attendance were encouraged to decorate boiled eggs which had been brought for them to take home.

We are appreciative of the support of Rev. O. Jermaine Bego of Center Point Church, Rev. Andre Towner of DCBC and the members of the Older Adult Ministries Team for making this day a success.

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HYATTSVILLE, MD 20781



EMPOWERMENT SUNDAY!

the plans of the LORD

JEREMIAH 29:11

"IN THE BEGINNING...
GOD"

Dr. Teresa Stewart

"WORTH FIGHTING FOR"

Pastor Dennis Prince "HIS KINGDOM AGENDA"

Elder Mark Brown

"YOUR DESTINY"

Apostle Caretha Crawford

"NONE BUT THE RIGHTEOUS"

Pastor Larry Vaughn

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018 9AM - 3PM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

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Anna Johenning Baptist Community Center

THE Submitted by Kelvin Lassiter- Baptist Men's Ministry District of Columbia Baptist Convention TRADITION OF TROUMNE BOYS TO MEN



rowing up on Southern Ave in the early 1970's presented a set of unique perspectives. On one side of the street is the state of Maryland. The area was made up of lower/ middle class Americans. On the other side

of Southern Ave is Southeast Washington, DC, one of the toughest places to survive in America. Interesting enough, there was one common denominator that always brought people together; a better quality of life.

My introduction to Southeast Washington came by way of relatives. A large part of their early years were spent residing at Atlantic Street and Bellevue Street. One block away, the Anna Johenning Baptist Community Center was a staple in the community. They had a reputation in the community of changing lives, especially those who resided in Linda Pollin and Valley Green housing projects. Two men in particular, Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis were neighborhood men that decided to pour into young boys to groom them to become Men. They also were two men that gave me an early introduction to Jesus Christ on a more personal level.

Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis would use their team building skills from their jobs and share with us on camping trips sponsored by the Anna Johenning Baptist Center. This group became known as the "Royal Ambassadors". It was similar to the Boy Scouts teaching survival skills such as fishing, cooking, and team bonding with a Christ like approach. The first time I was away from home on my own was with about 9 other boys from this neighborhood. I cried like a baby! Spoiled Mama's boy! Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis quickly addressed that. They explained to me in mild terms that you can learn how to be a man from other men and it would take being away from home to do that. I'm thankful to them to this day for not sparing the rod. I had no idea how much of an important role these Men would play in my life. It did not take long to find out.

The Anna Johenning Baptist Community Centerwas also my first introduction to organized team sports. Playing sports in the neighborhood was fun, however, something was still missing; teamwork. I knew a little something about that from my time with the Royal Ambassadors. Even the sports where competition is on an individual basis (Golf, Boxing, Tennis), coaches are needed to experience a level of success. To win a championship on any level, teambuilding and teamwork is necessary.

Continued from page 12

Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis discovered in order to have a group of boys play softball who weren't used to working together, they had to introduce the first skill necessary; being mentally/physically tough. They immediately saw the raw talent on the field however; it was not enough to build a championship level contender, not just in sports, but in life. These Men were interested in building future Men who would contribute to society.

The first two weeks of practice before the season opener were grueling. Wind sprints, pushups and jumping jacks became the norm while barking out the scripture Philippians 4:13; I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me. This scripture eliminated the thought of quitting. Looking back, it was a thing of beauty to see boys leave their individual agendas to bond as brothers.

The season did not start out as talent level indicated. We lost our first five games, but never lost hope. We went on to win our next 11 games finishing the season with 11 wins and 5 losses but missing the postseason. Our early failures taught us a valuable life lesson; sheer talent alone won't be enough to experience success in life. You have to work hard and realize you can achieve more together than being apart. This shaped the course going into the off season.

Our coaches returned for the next season as well as the team from the previous year. We had unfinished business in sports and in life to take care of. Very few of us on the team came from a two parent home. The coaches were married with families of their own so they understood the importance of being role models. We understood the sacrifices they were making for us and we didn't want to disappoint them. From the very beginning, the season was deemed championship or bust. Our faith had grown because of these men. We were bigger, stronger, and faster. We were running the race and fighting the good fight. Good grades and obedience in school paid off.

We won our first 7 games of the season before tasting defeat. Our average margin of victory was eight runs. The team felt too good and thought we could win it all, even after experiencing a loss. Those feelings came to pass as we won our next six games before losing visited our door step again. Now we were humbled. The division was already wrapped up and the title was our destiny. We could taste it! We upped our intensity during the post season with an average margin of victory of 11 runs during three playoff games. Championship game well, let's just say, it wasn't close. Final score 37 -2, that's not a typo! It was never about how good we were or the margin of victory. It was always about respect, dedication, and hard work.

As I entered manhood, I took those valuable lessons learned from my days growing up on Southern Ave.

Unfortunately, I would make some life altering decisions that changed the course of direction for a while. Alcohol and drug abuse would hinder my growth off and on for 22 years. My mother also died from cancer in my arms. My first marriage would end in divorce after three years. Losing several jobs also would shatter any remaining confidence I had left, but I remembered things in life are only temporary and nothing lasts forever.

Continued from page 13

Another mentor would enter my life at 38 years old. Reverend JC Melvin of Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Northwest Washington, DC answered the call to rescue men from a life of eternal damnation, just as Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis did years before. Reverend Melvin reminded me about the importance of living with Christ. He also suggested and recommended daily study and meditation in his word. After looking in the mirror and seeing a reflection I did not like, things changed. In one year, I went from living in a Men's shelter, to a full time job, to a rooming house, and getting married having a family of my own. I also dedicated my life to Men who need someone to care, just like Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis did for us in my early years.

My father recently passed away so I now look to my Pastor and other Godly men to guide me and keep me Christ centered. What will you do in your time of trouble? I encourage you to keep Joshua 1:9 in mind; "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

I know longer have to guess what it means to be a "Royal Ambassador" thanks to Mr. Barrow and Mr. Lewis. The community is forever grateful to have a bridge builder like Anna Johenning Baptist Center.

Kelvin Lassiter is a member of the Baptist Men's Ministry of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. He currently serves as a Deacon at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Washington, DC where Reverend Louis B. Jones II serves a Pastor.



Student Ministries Leader

Pathways Baptist Church is an exciting multicultural congregation located in Gaithersburg, MD, recently named "the most diverse city in the USA." We are searching for our next fulltime Student Ministries leader, whose primary focus will be junior and senior high, along with opportunities with local college students. We are flexible on the combination of college degree or seminary education alongside a track record of work with young people. To apply, or for more info on the position and the church, please access the instructions under the PathwaysBC.org website "About" tab.

<u>Accountant</u>

City Gate has a part-time position available immediately for Account-ant/Bookkeeper for 10-12 hours per week with flexible hours. Candidates should have a Bachelor's degree in accounting, excellent organizational skills and attention to detail, preferably experience with nonprofit accounting, QuickBooks Online, and thorough understanding of GAAP, accruals, prepaids, allocations, and proficiency in all aspects of general ledger (including Financial statement preparation, Month ...end close, Reconciliations, Payroll, Accounts receivable and payable). Send resumes to lynn.bergfalk@city-gate.org.

City Gate is a nonprofit which provides out-of-school-time programs to help economically disadvantaged students in D.C. close the achievement gap. It has worked for years with some of our DCBC churches, and has its administrative office at Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church at Tenley Circle in Northwest DC.

View all employment opportunities at www.dcbaptist.org



Village Baptist Church, a dynamic and diverse congregation in Bowie, Maryland, is seeking a full-time pastor. Our previous pastor, Rev. Dr. Bruce Salmon, recently retired after 33 years of outstanding service at Village.

Professional Qualifications

- Ordained Baptist minister with at least 3-5 years preaching experience
- Graduate theological degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school
 - Devout personal faith in Christ in the Baptist tradition

Knowledge, Skills, and Character

- Comprehensive knowledge of the Bible
 - Strong religious conviction
 - Ability to show impartiality
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing
- Ability to show compassion for struggles and concerns of others
 - Ability to relate to a wide diversity of congregants

Please see the detailed position description at http://villagebaptistbowie.org/pastor position.html . We encourage anyone who might be interested to visit the Village Web site, http://villagebaptistbowie.org, to learn more about the church. A profile of Village can be found at http://villagebaptistbowie.org/Village-profile.html

Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience and training. Benefits may include housing allowance, health insurance, retirement, auto allowance, travel allowance, and book allowance.

Village is an equal opportunity employer. All applications received before April 15, 2018, will be considered. The position will, however, remain open until filled.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume, including a statement of Christian belief, to pastorsearch@villagebaptistbowie.org Emerging Mission
Partnership
with the
Myanmar Baptist
Convention

by Robert D. Cochran

The D.C. Baptist Convention became, in 2014, "an International Missional Network." D. C. Baptist had worked with various groups of immigrants to Washington over the past one hundred years: the Chinese, the Italian, the Korean, the Vietnamese, the Central American and the African. The DCBC had a Haiti Work Group functioning before 2014, meeting needs in Haiti after the devastating earthquake some years earlier. Two years ago, students began working with the Baptist Campus Ministry at American University began expressing the Gospel in Central Africa.

Now, the DCBC is expanding this effort by partnering with the Myanmar Baptist Convention (located in the land once known as Burma). Doing so, we are picking up ministry efforts begun long ago by Rev. A. Judson and supported by Rev. L. Rice, a long-time DC Baptist. The partnership intends to focus initially on education in four areas: Agriculture, the English Language, Practical Theology and Social Work among the Chin, the Kachin and the Karen Baptists of Myanmar. Members of DCBC churches, both men and women, who work in these areas can seize opportunities for ministry and mission in these efforts. The Proposed Partnership was distributed to those attending the 2017 Annual Gathering for their comments and, as revised, approved by the Board of Directors at its February 16 meeting held at Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church. The proposal is now before the Executive Committee of the Myanmar Baptist Convention for their action in June.

Within the DCBC the Burma Work Group continues to prepare to help the Baptists in Myanmar.

On Saturday, April 28, 2018 the group will host a "Burmese Cultural Celebration," seeking to prepare D.C. Baptists to engage in this mission work. The group also plans a teaching trip in either October of 2018 or February of 2019. Funds are being gathered to assist in the expenses of that trip.





American University Report

The month of February has been very rich in terms of pastoral activities and community engagement. We held two community outreach activities with a focus on Peace and conflict resolution. The meeting on February 22 was led by Ms. Violet Eska from the Embassy of Malawi who came to speak at Kay Spiritual Life Center. She spoke on the theme of Economic Empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was attended by people from outside the campus as well.

The meeting on February 24 was attended by more than 30 people. The focus was on Peace and Conflict Resolution. Attendees came from different organizations and churches.

On Sunday 25, we had our monthly service that was attended by more than 40 people. The service was led by Rev. Carmen Knight and was attended by more than 20 people of her congregation including her praise team.

We provided pastoral counseling to more than four students.

Submitted by Adrien N.Ngudiankama, MPhil.,Ph.D.

Gallaudet University Report

Parables of Love

The Lord said to me, "Go, and show your love to our wife again, though she is loved by another and is adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the scared raisin cakes."

Hosea 3:1 (NIV)

We had a good month. The students continued to keep their daily routine with the school, work and activities. We also had two events we conducted: A Friend's Day and Valentine Party.

As usual, we had good worship service each Sunday. The second Sunday we had a Friday's day. This purpose was to enable the students to bring their prospected friends to the worship service. The pastor had the opportunity to share the love of God. Then we watched the video about the father and his one and only son. When the father faced his difficult decision to make. he chose the people in the train over his son. He saved many, though he lost his son. It is the parable of love as God gave his only son to the world and died for many. Afterwards we had a lunch along with hot soup, bread and desserts. We had the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus with the prospected students and invited them to the Valentine's party.

We had the Valentine party. Good group attended. We provided the pizza, drinks and desserts. They had the good fellowship and played some games. We also had to share the heart of God.

The rest of the month we continued to take the discipleship sessions and Bible study. We also had the worship services. Working with International students continues as they take the discipleship session. We had impressed the students that God loves us, though we are not perfect. His love still stands! We are grateful and thankful for his awesome love. .

Evangelism:

February would be probably best time for "heart"; this gives us the opportunity to share with people we have come to contact about God's heart for them. But at this time, it was a little different. After Billy Graham's passing, the students asked about him because they discovered that he was a well known evangelist over the world. They were curious about him. This generation does not know him that well.

Naturally we had talked a bit about him, but we made down to the point that he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. It also was an opportunity to share deeply with the students.

We made a lot of seeds and poured the water in. Now we lift God's hand as he will make them to grow. Even though, the students were through the midterm examinations week so they had a lot of study and assignments. So we will plan to continue for more weeks before the Easter Service.

The Easter planning is underway.

Submitted by: LeeAnn Carrera





In recognition of National Religious Freedom Day on January 16, I served as a panelist for the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute's discussion titled: "Faith and Freedom in a Fractured America." The event acknowledged how our current cultural moment has heightened the urgency to understand, advocate for and defend the first of America's First Amendment freedoms: free exercise and non-establishment of religion. In a time when our liberties are being threatened by polarized perspectives and exclusionary politics, we are reminded daily that our country has no freedom at all unless we have freedom for all.

The other panelists and I explored the intersection of difficult issues around faith and freedom in today's fractured democracy. Feedback from audience members revealed that our conversations had helped illuminate these issues from a broad spectrum of religious and ideological perspectives. Of particular note was the lifting up of the role Baptist Minister John Leland played in convincing the government to enshrine the concept of religious liberty in the Bill of Rights. We also highlighted the Church's role in the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s as an example of how faith communities could help reform governments while maintaining their independence from the state.

KNIGHT STUDIO
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CENTER
NEWSEUM INSTITUTE
RELIGIOUS AM CENTER
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM C

The panel was moderated by Jennifer Hawks, Associate General Counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. The panelists were:

- * Sarah Levin, Senior Legislative Representative, Secular Coalition for America
- * Aesha Mehta, Associate Director of Programs, Hindu American Foundation
- * Imam Mohamed Magid, Executive Imam, AD-AMS Center
- * Jacqueline Pata, Executive Director, National Congress of American Indians
- Andre Towner, Minister to Engage Communities, DC Baptist Convention

On February 16, at the invitation of the DC Public School System, I participated in a Professional Develop Day by helping social studies teachers prepare for their upcoming World Religions module. I facilitated a one hour "Christianity 101" session that focused on Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the contributions of the Apostle Paul. Throughout this dynamic session the teachers where able to connect major events in the life of the Church to other historical events in ways that will help their students developed a holistic view of our interconnected world. This work was prompted by my membership in the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC), which DCBC helped create in 1978. The IFC brings together eleven historic faith communities to promote dialogue, understanding and a sense of community and to work cooperatively for justice throughout the DC region.

Submitted by Andre Towner

Project Restoration

Project Restoration repairs homes of senior adults with limited or decreasing physical ability and/or income. Organizations such as the DC Baptist Foundation, American Baptist Churches USA, and the Edes Home Foundation have graciously purchased materials while local congregations and outside organizations such as Mission Serve have supplied volunteers to conduct the work at no charge to the homeowners.

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HISTORY

Rass

DCBC offers its member churches and persons wanting to learn about Baptist History. Topics include the Baptist Faith and Message, Baptist leaders, confessions, controversies and reformers. The doctrines of biblical inspiration and religious authority are seen in historical perspective. Students will create a visual project and a booklet on Baptist beliefs and practices.

Saturday

May 5, 12, 19, 2018 9AM - 12PM

\$150.00 per person

1628 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009

Register online at www.dcbaptist.org



