

# CARE-SHARE

**MT. TRAVELER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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MT. TRAVELER MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Website [www.mtraveler.org](http://www.mtraveler.org)

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REV. DR. BENJAMIN DATIRI PASTOR



Beloved Church Family:

My warmest greetings to you in Jesus' precious Name. In this spring 2012 issue of the Care-Share Newsletter, I want to remind you that spring is always a time of renewed life. It is in spring too that we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Leader and savior, Jesus Christ and the newness of life we have in Him. Also, it was in spring of 2004 that Mt Traveler's prayers for a spiritual leader was answered and God sent me this way to be your shepherd. At that time the Church asked me what would be my style of leadership. My response then was and it is still that I would be a visionary leader using ancient wisdom. This is the leadership style that our Leader Jesus Christ employed. This indeed is spiritual leadership. So it is appropriate in this spring issue of our Care-Share Newsletter to focus on the topic of spiritual leadership.

#### SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Again what is spiritual leadership? Spiritual leadership is the leadership style that Jesus employed – a visionary leadership using ancient wisdom. It is vision that keeps God in the center of everything and for God's people to have perspective (viewing things from God viewpoint) so as to remain faithful in obeying the word of God and fruitful in serving Him. And sure enough without a vision, they are destroyed as they perish for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6; Proverbs 29:13).

Every form of good leadership obviously involves having a vision. A leader is very observant. He does not just focus on the problems he encounters but seeks ways to resolve them. This is because life in itself is problem-solving. The moment you solve one problem, it appears more of them pop up like mushrooms. A leader has the skills to resolve problems because he has a knowledge-base of truth with perspective, conviction and experience that have develop and enhanced such skills. Leadership that is visionary and uses ancient wisdom is leadership that depends on the leadership of the Holy Spirit and does things the Jesus Way.

Leadership the Jesus Way implies being a shepherd. The term shepherd is Pastor or Bishop. God gives His people (the Church) shepherds (or pastors) after His own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15). Shepherds are knowledgeable, full of understand, and wisdom but humble and unselfish. They are sacrificial in their services. The characteristics of a shepherd are that he guides, leads, cares, feeds and protects the sheep. These same characteristic are valid for a good pastor. Spiritual leadership in the Church begins with a good pastor who emulates the leadership of Jesus Christ the good shepherd. The pastor must make sure he guides, leads, cares, feeds and protects the Church of God. He cannot be greedy, selfish, manipulative, or partial. He cannot take sides whenever there is a problem in the congregation. He must remain neutral. "Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:13-15). He must stay firm on the course of the truth. Spiritual leadership in the church begins with the pastor. He cannot allow individuals to manipulate him through threats or treats because fear and bribes interfere with justice and righteousness. A spiritual leader must be aware of these. The spiritual leader is a shepherd not a hireling. The spiritual leader is hired by God and not the church congregation. No church member has the authority to threaten the pastor to fire him because he/she feels the pastor is not taking their side on any issue. Just like Jesus the good shepherd the pastor must always remain neutral and objective.

The spiritual leader must lead by example following in the footsteps of Jesus. He must be a visionary leader using ancient wisdom. Ancient wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of the Truth of the Word of God. At Mt Traveler God has given us a vision. We must become disciples to have the knowledge of the Truth of the Word of God which will give us perspective. Perspective then will give us conviction to develop character. Character in turn helps to put together knowledge, perspective, and conviction to develop spiritual skills to lead God's people. And so the plan of action for us at Mt Traveler to attain our purpose, vision and mission that God has given as a Church is simply as follows.

First, we must reach out to our community from which we will garner a receptive and responsive crowd. From this receptive and responsive crowd a congregation will emerge. Through teaching the congregation we will develop mature committed Christians who in turn will become dedicated to form the core of the Church. This core of the Church will then launch back into the community to repeat this plan of action. As long as we remain faithful and fruitful, passionate yet compassionate, working in ministries as caring Church to change lives, connect people and create friendship and favor with God and man, then we will be fulfilling our purpose, vision and mission as a church.

In the Church God has order in its leadership. The pastor is the leader of the local body of Christ call the Church. The pastor is also the teacher, but he can delegate this to others. In God's house the order in spiritual leadership is as follows: Pastor, Ministers of the Gospel, the Leadership Team (including Deacons), and Coordinators of various church ministries and then individual members of the Church. The final decision for any issue in the church is the responsibility of the pastor not any individual member of the church. Members' responsibility is to follow the leader as he follows Christ. So as the spiritual leader at Mt Traveler let me conclude with a brief teaching on Easter. In spring we celebrate Easter. Easter is not about Easter eggs and bunnies but about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is the commemoration of time that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin to redeem us. Therefore we celebrate Easter because it granted us the opportunity to be reconciled to God and adopted as sons and daughters of God; and join heirs with Jesus Christ; and citizens of heaven. These are reasons that call for celebrations at Easter! Moreover, the resurrection of Jesus Christ sealed our hope of eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). And because Jesus lives, we can face tomorrow since the resurrection gave us victory over sin, death and Satan. Hallelujah!!!

Finally, continue to pray for our Church members that we will walk in the victory that Christ has won for us. Be in prayers regularly one for another that our Church will continue to have a strong, healthy and well balanced growth with genuine love; passion for the kingdom of God; and compassion towards mankind as we, at Mt Traveler, ride this wave of ministering the Jesus way. Pray for the bereaved, the sick and shut-in and all the various needs of our membership, especially those going through various temptations and crisis in life. Pray for my good health and also that God through the Holy Spirit would lead me in His paths to be the kind of shepherd He desires. I love you and I am praying for you too. Remain blessed. HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOU IN ADVANCE!!!

In His service,  
Rev. B. C. Datiri, PhD  
Pastor

## ANNIVERSARY 2012!!!



Sunday, February 12, 2011 – 2:30 PM  
The 8th Appreciation for:  
Pastor and Sister Datiri  
With Rev. Lindsey Tolbert  
And New Popular Spring Baptist Church  
as our guest  
Colors for the occasion will be  
black/purple/silver.

## THINK AND THEN THANK



There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.' One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend. He asked her, 'Now that you can ...see the world, w.....ill you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him. Her boyfriend left her in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear; for before they were yours, they were mine.' This is how the human brain often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations. Today before you say an unkind word -Think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about the taste of your food -Think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion. Today before you complain about life - Think of someone who went too early to heaven. Before you complain about your children - Think of someone who desires children but they're barren. Before you argue about your dirty house someone didn't clean or sweep - Think of the people who are living in the streets. Before whining about the distance you drive Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job. But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another - Remember that not one of us is without sin and we all answer to one MAKER. And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face :) and thank God you're alive!!!

From: Simi Datiri

## Evangelism and Outreach Ministry



Truly as we start this New Year, we here at Mt Traveler are bringing on a very strong note. Maybe it's because of the way we ended 2011. In December of 2011 we had a Winter Christmas Food Drive for the Food Bank of East Alabama, as we collected over 60 pounds of canned foods and many other various nonperishable items for local families struggling with starvation.

During the Food Drive we were made aware of another local family in Opelika who were having a food emergency and we were able to quickly gather a Christmas Turkey Box. The box included all the items for a good Christmas Dinner including a turkey.

Then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the New Year we were made aware of another local family in need after a devastating house fire. We were able to again quickly gather over two-hundred clothing items for the family of four including 1 bedroom suit, 2 bed comforters, a caller ID phone and a \$25.00 financial donation.

As we continue the year, my prayer is that we would continue to be an outreaching church compassionately ministering and loving others. Our next great ministry event will be on Saturday March 31 as we partner with TheWay2Serve Ministry for their "My Jerusalem" community service day. Please plan to participate that entire day by signing up with me.

There are various ways to serve on that day, by doing house repair work, sitting and talking to homeowners as the repair work is done, praying over the success of the event, helping at community block parties and financially giving to the ministry. Let us continue our great united effort this New Year! Thanks to all of you for your gifts prayer and support of the Evangelism and Outreach Ministry. A special thanks to the Matron's Ministry for their cooperation and support!

Evangelist Richard Donavon Jacobs

## To Leave or To Cleave



In the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Book of Ruth we find Naomi asking her daughters in law to make a decision, a choice that we all must make, whether to Leave or to Cleave.

Naomi asked her daughters in law to decide for their selves whether they would Leave or Cleave to her. Naomi told them both to leave her and to return back to their families but they both agreed to stay with her - at first. (Ruth 1:10) Naomi then, a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, presented them with the situation, that she had no more sons, that they would be husbandless, that they would have to leave their home country and family, and that the Hand of the Lord was against her. (Ruth 1:11-13) Upon hearing this Orpah (Stubborn and Proudful) made her decision.

Ruth 1:14B says, *"And Orpah kissed her mother in law"*

(Literally translated as: **And Orpah kissed her mother in law goodbye**)

Despite Naomi's agony at the current time, Orpah choose to leave her after she had said, surely that she would return with Naomi in vs. 10. With Naomi the only one left in her family and about to travel back home alone, Orpah choose to leave her. Maybe the thought of returning to her family, in a land where there was no famine, or the thought of having another husband or escaping the wrath of God caused her to leave Naomi. But Ruth 1:14C says, *"But Ruth Clave unto her"*.

That word Clave, or Cling/Clung, or Cleave is the same word used in Genesis 2:24 where it says, *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. And the two shall become one flesh"*.

To Cleave is to enter into a covenant relationship. This is a relationship similar to a martial relationship. That's why in verse 15, Naomi challenges Ruth to decide for the third and final time, a kind of "speak now or forever hold your peace" moment. Ruth then replies, *"Intreat me not(or don't urge me) to leave you or to return from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and where you lodge and stay I will lodge and stay. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die also, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me and more also, If ought but death part you and me"*. (Ruth 1:16-17) Doesn't that sound like martial vows, "til death do us part"? I will be with you where ever you go, your people will be my people, where you stay I will also. Essentially Ruth

(Friendship) was saying for richer or poorer, through sickness or health, through the good and the bad - I will be with you. Vs. 17 says that *"When Naomi saw that Ruth was steadfastly minded or determined to go with her, she left from speaking to her"*. She knew then that Ruth was not just saying some lifeless vows but was determined, despite the problems, to be faithful and committed to her.

We each must make a choice concerning Jesus, whether to Leave or to Cleave to Him. Sadly, many of us are like Orpah, we say we will Cleave but when the tough times appear or we get to thinking about our old lives we kiss the Lord goodbye and choose to Leave Him. But if we choose to Cleave to Jesus than we must make our vows and no matter what may come we must be faithful, committed, and obedient to Him. We must give him our whole selves, our whole lives; our talents, time, resources and finances. We must refuse to Leave Him and remain a pure bride waiting for the Groom. And just like any Bride that is engaged to be married, there will be a wedding day. Then we will unite with Him to never leave Him again. Then we will enjoy our honeymoon (Heaven) and know Him intimately like we have never known Him before. But this is only if we choose to Cleave to God.

The Prophets and Jesus called the people of God an adulteress people, and generation, harlots and prostitutes because they vowed and engaged their selves to God but cheated, was unfaithful, and separated (Divorced) themselves from Him. We each must choose and our decision and choice will have either a consequence or benefit. If you choose to Cleave consequently you will enjoy Heaven, but if you choose to Leave you will suffer the consequence of eternal damnation in the pits of Hell. This is a decision that we each must make that will shape of lives here in the present and for eternity.

Evangelist Richard Donavon Jacobs

## State News

Southeast District State Convention  
Dr C.P. Noble, President

Saturday January 28th 2012, All Ministries Workshop at Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL  
Southeast District State Convention Layman's Vice President Deacon John H. Lockhart was the instructor for the Laymen and Usher Ministries!

Also Sis Gwendolyn Wilson is the instructor for the 6, 7, and 8 year old children during the S.E.D.S.C. 1st Saturday Congress of Christian Education meetings.

## Puppetry Ministry



Each second Sunday, the puppeteers perform during our morning service. I would like to thank Rev. Datiri, for giving us the opportunity, and to all the puppeteers for doing a good job during their presentation. The Puppetry Ministry is preparing for our Black History Month with a presentation on Sunday, February 11. We also have begun to include more skits in our presentations. I really love working with this ministry and the puppeteers.

## Custodian Ministry

Eva W. Patterson



### My responsibilities: of cleaning the Church are

- Perform floor care tasks, such as sweeping, mopping, and vacuuming as needed
- Collect and dispose of trash as needed
- Sanitize and/or clean rooms and furniture in the Church polish brass fixtures, etc.

I have been cleaning the church for a lot of years and I love to clean.

## **Ebenezer District Calendar 2012**

**February** 4- SEDSC-Christian Education Meeting:-County Line Baptist Church, Brundidge, Al, Rev. Carl Hollis, Pastor 10:00 a.m.  
11 Ebenezer District Annual Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m.  
(Congress of Christian Education)- 10:00 a.m.  
(Women Auxiliary, 10:00 a.m. (Association)  
13-17 Ebenezer District Revival: with Rev. M. A. Moss, Speaker.  
7:00 p.m. nightly

**March** 3 - SEDSC-Christian Education Meeting-First Missionary Baptist Church, Andalusia, Al Rev. Johnny Davis, Pastor 10:00 a.m.  
10 -2nd Sat. Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m.  
10 District Matrons President Meeting 3:00 p.m. Place: TBA  
12-14 District Seminar 7:00 p.m. Guest: TBA  
14 -SEDSC Pastors and Laymen Summit Time and Place: TBA  
15-SEDSC Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Host: Beulah Baptist Church, Montgomery AL Rev. Porter Osby Pastor  
17-SEDSC-All Ministries Workshop 9:00 a.m. Place: TBA  
22-SEDSC 4th Moderators Conference Host: Greater St. Mark Baptist Church, Tuskegee, Al Rev. C. P. Noble, Pastor.  
24-Ebenezer District Annual Laymen Program 6:30 p.m.????  
24 - Youth Rally 8 a.m. - 12:00 noon???  
31 - Matrons Banquet Program 5:00 p.m. ???

**April** 7-EDSC Christian Education Meeting-St. Paul Baptist Church, Greenville, AL10:00 a.m.  
7-2nd Saturday: Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
14-SEDSC Annual Women's Conference, Place and Time: ?????  
19-Selma University Founders Day Celebration,  
Selma University Campus, Selma  
21-Ebenezer District: Minister Wives Prayer Brunch - 10:00 a.m.???  
29-Ebenezer District: 5th Sunday Meeting 2:00 p.m.

## **Mt. Traveler Church Calendar**

Black History will be observed each Sunday during Morning Worship with each ministry during the month of February.

Sunday, February 12 - The 8th Appreciation: for Pastor and Sis. Datiri 2:30 P.M with Rev. Lindsey Tolbert and the New Popular Spring Baptist Church as our guest. Colors for the occasion will be black/purple/silver.

Easter Program and Sunrise Service will be held Sunday, April 8, 2012 at 6:00 a.m. Sunday School and Breakfast will follow.

## **Community Church News**

Mt. Lovely Baptist Church: Spring Revival-February 20-24, 2012. Mt. Traveler Mass choir has been invited to sing on Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m. Rev. Anthony Pogue, Associate Minister of Mt. Lovely will preach on Wednesday Night.

Mt. Pelia Baptist Church Annual Black History Program:-Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Sis. Alma Black has been asked to be guest from Mt. Traveler. Please feel free to dress in your African attire.

New Harmony 3rd Pastoral Anniversary: of Rev. and Sis. Melvin Kelley, Jr. Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 2:00 P.M Rev. Michael Heard and Pleasant Valley Baptist Church as guest.

The New South Coalition Chapter of Camp Hill has teamed up with Voncille Harris and staff. Please help spread the word of Dr. Murray's efforts to treat citizens that do not have medical insurance. Contact Ms Harris so she can assist you in making an appointment to see Dr. Murray. Contact Number: 256-896-4199.



Submitted by Sister Rose Datiri Coordinator of the Women Ministry

### A CONTRAST

THE VOLUPTUOUS WOMAN	THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN
Described in the first nine chapters of Proverbs	Described in Proverbs chapter 31
SHE IS LEWD (Proverbs 6:24; 2:17).	SHE IS LOYAL (Proverbs 31:11).
SHE IS A HOME BREAKER (Proverbs 7).	SHE IS A HOMEMAKER (Proverbs 31).
SHE IS EASY TO FIND (Proverbs 7:10-12).	SHE IS HARD TO FIND (a rare gem) (Proverbs 31:10).
SHE IS CHEAP (Proverbs 30:20)	SHE IS PRECIOUS (Proverbs 31:10).
SHE HAS OUTER BEAUTY - Surface attraction (Proverbs 6:25).	SHE HAS INNER BEAUTY - Heart attraction (Proverbs 31:30; 1 Peter 3:4)
SHE WORKS WITH HER MOUTH (lively lips but no life) - (Proverbs 21:9, 19; 25:24 etc.).	SHE WORKS WITH HER HANDS (a lovely life producing loving deeds) - (Proverbs 31, many verses).
SHE IS RELIGIOUS (Proverbs 7:14).	SHE IS RIGHT WITH GOD (Proverbs 31:30).
SHE IS OUTSIDE THE HOME (Proverbs 7:11-12).	SHE ABIDES IN THE HOME (Proverbs 31:27).
SHE DOES HER HUSBAND NOTHING BUT HARM (Proverbs 2:17).	SHE DOES HER HUSBAND GOOD (Proverbs 31:12).
SHE IS ON THE LOOSE AT NIGHT (Proverbs 7:9, 18).	SHE IS RESTING AT NIGHT SO SHE CAN AWAKE EARLY (Proverbs 31:15).
SHE KILLS HER VICTIMS (Proverbs 7:23).	SHE BLESSES HER FAMILY (Proverbs 31:28).
SHE LIVES BY LUST (Proverbs 7:10).	SHE LIVES BY LOVE (Proverbs 31:20).

## Happy Birthday!!!



### February

Alma Black	26
Anthonia Burton	28
Charles Ballard	23
Elizabeth Blackwell	22
Jamal Beavers	12
Jimmy Dowdell	4
John Trimble Jr	4
Johnathan Trimble	9
Randy Driver	1
Robert Lockhart	2
Simi Datiri	21
Timmesia Maddox	14
ZaKobe Collins	6
ZaKwan Collins	23

### March

Jimmy Johnson	9
Khadija Berthe	12
Kitzi Reid	22
Lula Gullattee	28
Mary S. Trimble	13
Ocie Jefferson	17
Ruth Lockhart	17
Ruth Trimble	22
Sandra Slaughter	31
Sonya Shaver	23
Teyei Datiri	2

### April

Amos Lockhart	29
Annie Lockhart	8
Dave Heard	10
Michelle C. Harris	18
Patricia Lockhart	18
Rose Datiri	21

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHRISTMAS 2011

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