

# SALEM

# SPEAKS

Volume II, Number 3

Summer 1984

## PASTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT DENOMINATIONAL ACTIVITIES

By: Pastor Claude E. Shelby, Sr.

### BAPTIST GENERAL STATE CONVENTION

The 82nd Annual Session of the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois convened at the Providence Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois, June 4 - 8, 1984. Attending from Salem were Pastor and Sister Shelby, and daughter, Faith, on Thursday, June 7.

One of the bright spots of the day was a stirring message preached by the president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., Dr. T. J. Jemison. His message centered around the thought, "Now is the Time." In it he emphasized the importance of our people doing something constructive, economically to make our future secure. He is asking one-million of the over seven million members of our National Convention make a one-time contribution to be combined and invested, which would bring returns to the contributors on a monthly basis at retirement.

The day's highlight was the annual message brought by President R. B. Lyles. This was his final annual message, after serving the convention for the past sixteen years in that capacity. His message was very spiritual and soul-stirring.

### NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The national Baptist Congress of Christian Education convened in its 78th Annual Session, June 18 - 22, 1984, at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. In spite of the inconvenience of having to travel a considerable distance for accommodations, the mayor, Richard Gordon Hatcher, and the people of Gary did everything within their power to make our stay an enjoyable one.

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## 38th ANNUAL USHER'S DAY

FOR WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD  
(I Corinthians 3:9)

By: Darlene Terry

Rev. John Q. Owens, Bethel AME Church, choir and congregation, along with various churches in the Champaign-Urbana area, united with Salem Baptist Church to celebrate the usher's 38th annual day. Welcome was extended to pray together, lift up the name of Jesus in song, and receive spiritual growth from the word of God through His vessel, Rev. John Q. Owens, a great messenger and teacher.

Direction given of the old testament, Psalm 23:5-6: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

As we travel through life, it is good to know that God loves us, even when our enemies are upon us. Who are our enemies? Malice, envy, sin, selfishness, jealousy, backbiting, hatefulness, evil thoughts .... God's mercy makes security possible. He has provided us a place of refuge. The house of the Lord is always open. As we enter the doors, the ushers are the first persons we meet. They are "Force One, keepers of the tent," according to Rev. Owens.

"Force One" is there to greet us with a smile and welcome us into God's house. "Force One" is there with an open ear, if we need someone to talk to. "Force One" is there if our load is heavy and we need someone to lean on. Above all, "Force One" is there along with us to acknowledge the Lord, to receive understanding and knowledge of God's word, and strength to carry on, for we are laborers together with God.

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## THE TRINIDAD STORY

By: Montrula Shelby

On May 14, 1984 Pastor Shelby and I left St. Louis International Airport for Miami, Florida enroute to Port of Spain Trinidad. We boarded our Eastern Airline at 6:10 p.m. As we began to climb out over the ocean, we could look down and see a boat far off in the distance. The sky was a beautiful blue, with fluffy white clouds scattered about. As we soared higher, we could look down and the clouds looked like beautiful puffs of snow. My mind went back to the book of Genesis, the first chapter, where it says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." To see these beauties of the world, I knew that nothing but a God could make something as orderly as our universe. I said to myself, "what a mighty God we serve."

After a brief stop at the Barbados Airport, we traveled on to Port of Spain where we were met by Rev. Nelton Richardson. We spent the night there; and the next morning I traveled by car to Cocoyea Village where Rev. Richardson lives. Pastor Shelby and Rev. Richardson went to the television station where they appeared on a public affairs program.

We attended several churches where the pastor preached; and ten souls accepted Christ into their lives. They worship pretty much as we do, but they do not have many choirs or pianos, so everyone joins in and sings acappella. All the women there have to wear a hat or some type of head covering when entering the church.

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*"My children!  
Our love should not be  
just words and talk;  
it must be true love,  
which shows itself in action"*  
(1 John 3:18, TEV).

Please submit your favorite Bible verses, poems, quotes, or writings of your own to Jeanette Goines, editor, throughout the year. These items will be printed as space permits. Thank you.

## SALEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 6-10 State Congress of Christian Education (Chicago, Illinois)
- 11 Prayer Breakfast  
Family to Family Fellowship Dinner
- 25 Church Picnic

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Sunday School Promotion Day
- 3-7 National Baptist Convention (Washington, D.C.)
- 8 Prayer Breakfast  
Family to Family Fellowship Dinner
- 23 Pastor's Anniversary

For more information about the above events, please consult our weekly bulletin ....

TELL IT MORE IN 84  
by: Benjamin Nance

Salem's Missionary Department is in the process of re-organizing under the leadership of Bessie Peacock, president of the Senior Missionary, and Benjamin Nance, missionary coordinator. Corrine Buchanan will be the leader of Circles; Montrula Shelby, leader of J.M.A.S.; Betty Hassell, Y.W.A.s and Y.M.A.s; Bernita Shelby and Esther Donaldson, Red Circle; and Estel Brown, Juveniles. The groups are divided as follows:

Juvenile	ages 5-9
Red Circle	
Junior	ages 9-11
Intermediate	ages 12-14
Senior	ages 15-17
Young Women Auxilliary	ages 15-18
Junior Matrons Auxilliary	ages 18-35
Circle I	ages 35-50
Circle II	ages 50-60
Seniory Missionary	ages 60 & up

The Missionary Department held its first program Sunday, July 1, 1984. Pastor Shelby presented a video tape and slide show from their recent trip to Trinidad. The "Day of Fellowship" shown was an inspiration, as we saw thousands of people together in one place worshipping God. A special thanks to all who returned to share in our evening program.

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CLOSING REMARKS

By: Jeanette Goines

As I rushed to finish this quarter's issue of Salem Speaks, I sat in my office thinking, "how can I get around writing my closing remarks?" I simply did not have time to be creative -- and finish the necessary typing and layout, before my deadline. I looked around my office for a quick idea, and what immediately came to mind was "confusion" -- mass confusion. Besides realizing that my office needed to be straightened out, I imagined that other (normally very well-organized) people must be feeling some of the same confusion and state of panic as me.

We are indeed living in a day and time that is filled with confusion at every level. New things are happening in the political arena -- a black presidential candidate and a woman vice-presidential candidate?! Religious freedom in America is fading fast -- religious leaders are going to jail. Brand new incurable diseases are cropping up -- rather than cures for old ones. People are constantly tampering with medicine, food, mouthwash, and even Girl Scout cookies! A day care center was recently closed for sexually abusing one and two-year old children, and the list gets longer and longer.

With so much going on at once, it's not easy to offer consolation to people who feel as I do -- that there must be an end to all of this soon. I will say, though, that "God's grace is sufficient for you ...." (II Corinthians 12:9). His power is made perfect in our weakness. This lets me know that things will not get the best of me, no matter how weak I feel at times. I can always rely on God's grace.

There are other people who, in the midst of everything, do not feel weighed down by all this confusion, but would like to make sense of a very puzzling situation. They need (and search for) answers to all life's mysteries. For those persons I recommend this "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths ...." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

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Editor-in-Chief  
Managing Editor

Claude E. Shelby, Sr.  
Jeanette Goines

Your pastor and his family represented Salem. Efforts were made to encourage other members of our church to attend this national meeting, especially since it was convening in close proximity to our area, to no avail.

My week's study centered around Christian Education. Information was gleaned from our class study that will be helpful as we strengthen our Department of Christian Education. Sister Shelby's class dealt with youth work and Faith studied on the Baptist Youth Fellowship.

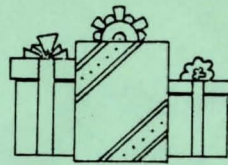
On Wednesday, Dr. Jemison delivered a message to the Congress. In it he reinforced the idea of economic progress for our people, which he talked about at our State Convention. On Thursday afternoon, June 21, the Reverend Jesse Jackson paid a visit to the Congress. He brought an inspiring message to a near-capacity crowd. Dr. Jemison, who had invited the Reverend Jackson, called for a day of appreciation for him in Baptist churches around the country on the first Sunday in July or some other designated day.

Dr. T. Oscar Chappelle, Sr., President of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, brought his annual message on Thursday evening. He dealt with the Congress theme, "Teaching and Growing Our Churches Through Evangelism." His scripture text was from Habakkuk 2:2. He said, "to me the program of Christian Education in the local church has to be made plain so that those who participate in the program can be better prepared in the field of Christian Education." He pointed out the need to return to Baptist doctrine, and Biblical preaching.

In a short column like this, it is difficult to condense such a report and yet do it justice. I trust that you have gained some insight from these few words. Further, I hope that you gain more from those things that we infuse into our overall program.

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*"If I ascend up to heaven,  
thou art there:  
if I make my bed in hell,  
behold, thou art there.  
If I take the wings of the morning,  
and dwell in the uttermost parts  
of the sea, even there  
shall thy hand lead me"  
(Psalm 139: 8-10).*



# Birthdays!

Our biggest and greatest day was the day of Fellowship that was held in Port of Spain on Sunday, May 20. It was held at the Jean Pierre Complex Stadium where 3,000-4,000 people gathered to worship the Lord. There were also singers from other churches. Rev. Fitzroy Richardson preached that morning; and our own pastor preached the afternoon message. Both messages were very inspiring. It is not very often that you can get that many people to come together and give praises to God. It really made me feel good to know that this can be done, if we, as God's children, can unite in a spirit of love and put our trust in Him.

Trinidad is a small country with lots of fruit trees, sugar cane, coffee, cocoa, and coconut trees. It is very densely populated with trees. The roads are very narrow, and the people drive on the left side of the streets. It takes a long time to drive from place to place; and there are many traffic jams, because of so many cars on the roads. The weather in Trinidad was hot and humid, so it was uncomfortable for me; but the people there were very kind and friendly to us. We enjoyed their hospitality. Everyone wanted to feed us (and we had to accept).

It was a great experience for me, and I thank the Lord that he blessed me to be able to make the trip.

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This newsletter is sent quarterly to Salem Baptist Church members, former members, and friends. If you are interested in receiving a copy, write us at 500 E. Park, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
500 East Park Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jonah Bell I  
Alfreda Bolden  
Veola Bradley  
Mazie Brown  
Coleman Carrodine  
Luella Gray  
Willie Jackson  
Sekon Jones  
Tim Jones  
Val Jordan  
Carl Marr III  
Virginia Miller  
Benjamin Nance  
Sheila Price  
Tammy Stevens  
Yolanda Wilson

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Mary Alexander  
O.C. Bradley  
Emma Gordon  
Ruby Gordon  
Ruth Jackson  
Lee Melvin  
Ollie Overstreet  
Samantha Stevens  
Rodney Stewart  
Tiffany Trent

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marc Ellis  
Edward Jackson  
Floyd Marion  
Robert Marion  
Valeria Miller  
Angela Witherspoon

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