

# Eighty-fourth Annual

Baccalaureate Services  
and  
Commencement Exercises

Sunday, May Tenth  
A.D. Two Thousand and Nine

Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr.  
President

Dr. J. H. Flakes  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

1924

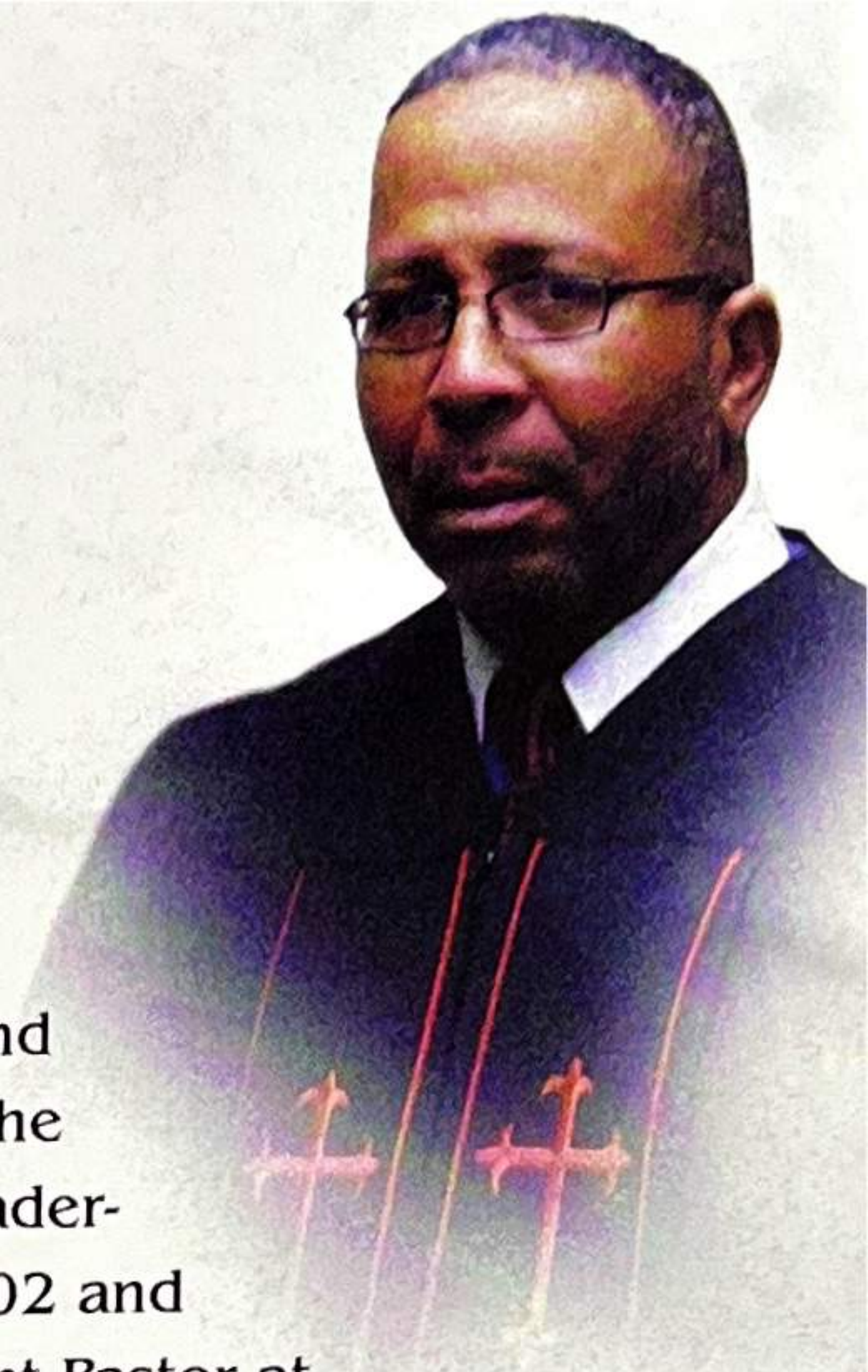
*BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER*

# Rev. Davie Tucker

*Beech Creek Baptist Church*

*Sunday, May 10, 2009*

*11:00 a.m.*



Reverend Tucker was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee and educated in the public school system. He accepted the call into the ministry at Beech Creek Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Reverend Grant Watkins Jr. He was ordained in July of 2002 and was subsequently selected and confirmed to serve as the Assistant Pastor at Beech Creek in September of 2002. In January of 2007 he was elected to serve as Pastor.

Reverend Tucker attended Volunteer State College in Gallatin, Tennessee majoring in accounting. He graduated from American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee with an A.A. in Pastoral Studies and a B.A. in Biblical Studies. During his matriculation at American Baptist College he served as President of the Student Government Association. In addition, Rev. Tucker completed the Executive Leadership Development Program at Harvard University in Cambridge Massachusetts.

His work experience includes a nine-year stint in the United States Marine Corps, Jail Administrator for the Davidson County Sheriff's Department and most recently, Vice President of Operations and Chief Operating Officer for TransCor America, Inc. Rev. Tucker is a member of the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship and the Vice-President of the Nashville Baptist Ministers Conference.

He is married to the former Ms. Carla Williams; they are raising two boys: Jarrod and Michael, twelve and twenty-two years old, respectively.

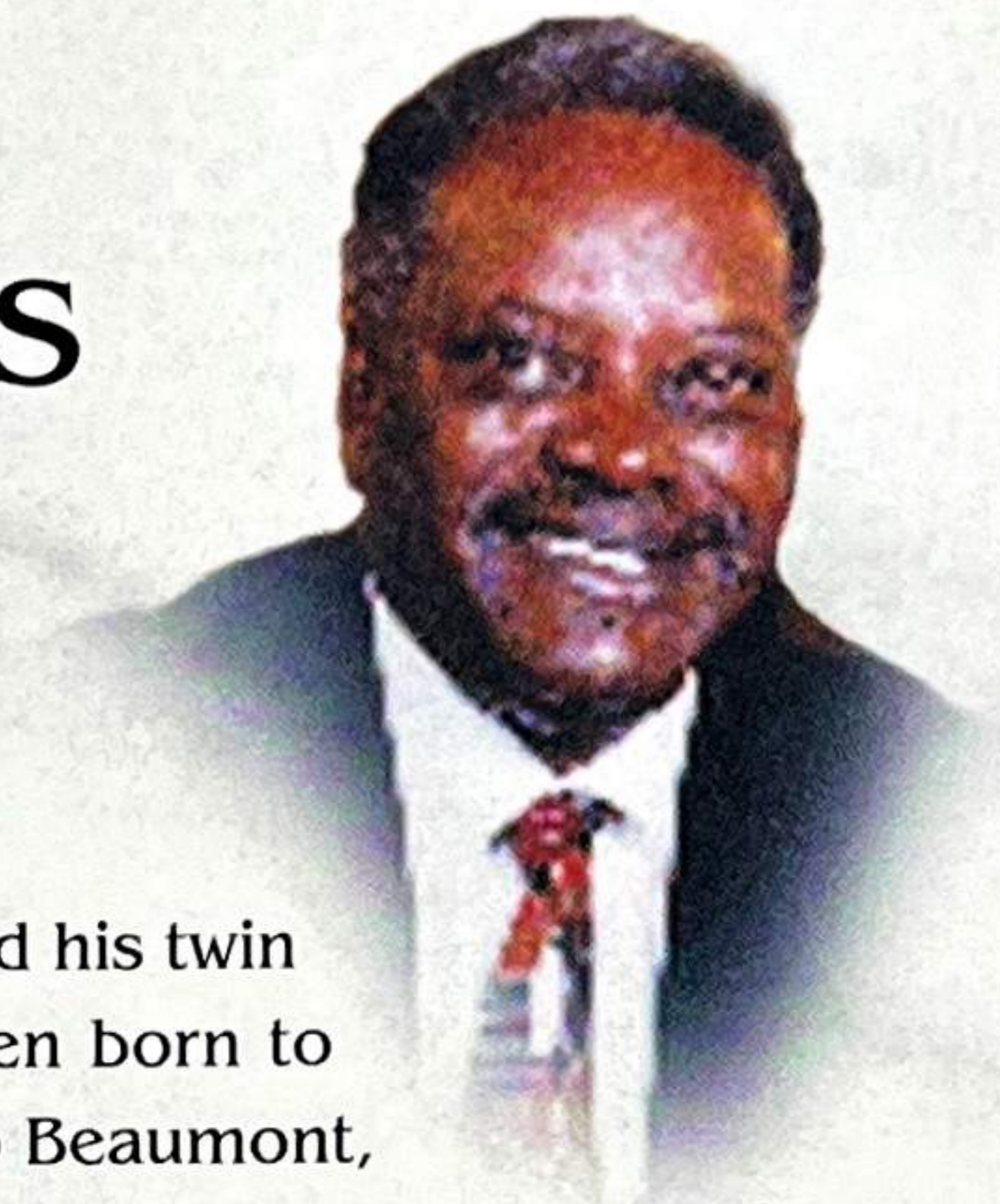
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

# Rev. James Thomas

*Baptist World Center*

*Sunday, May 10, 2009*

*5:00 p.m.*



In Orange, Texas, on February 26, 1940, Reverend Thomas and his twin brother, Jerry, became the fourth and fifth of thirteen children born to the late Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Thomas. The family later moved to Beaumont, Texas, where Reverend Thomas attended local public schools until graduating from Charlton Pollard High School in 1959.

It was in 1950, under the spiritual leadership of the late Reverend Dr. U. S. Keeling, Sr., that Reverend Thomas was converted and joined Mount Zion Baptist Church, of Beaumont, Texas; but it was under the pastorate of the late Reverend J. H. Wright, Pastor of Booker Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, that the call to the ministry was accepted.

In 1971, Reverend Thomas was united in holy matrimony to the former Ida Phillips of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On June 20, 1971, he became the eighth pastor of the Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church. Because of his leadership, Jefferson Street has become a shining symbol of the grace of God in the greater Nashville, Tennessee community. This church is known both nationally and internationally for its innovative approach to Christian leadership. Jefferson Street has been visited by both secular and non-secular organizations from virtually every ethnic group in this country; it has been visited twice by members of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

During the past 30 years, Reverend Thomas' interest in the welfare of the entire community has led him into various areas of evangelic and civic work. His relentless and untiring efforts have greatly benefitted the broader community, and his work has been invaluable to the African-American diaspora. For five years, he served as a member of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. He also served ten years as Co-chair of the Davidson County Rainbow Coalition, having been a founding organizer. Furthermore, he served twelve years as president of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Tennessee, and he served ten years as Moderator of the Convention's Nashville City District Association.

Reverend Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Bible Theology with a minor in Pastoral Studies from American Baptist College. He has also completed course work toward a Master's Degree in Theology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

**COMMENCEMENT**  
Sunday, May 10, 2009  
5:00 p.m.  
Baptist World Center

**THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION**  
The President, Speaker, Administrative Officers, and Faculty

**MARSHALL**  
Dr. James A. Campbell

**THE ORDER OF EXERCISES**  
Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr., President  
Presiding

Prelude	Mr. James Scandrick, Jr. ABC Director, Institute of Black Sacred Music
Processional	<i>"Pomp and Circumstance" (Elgar)</i>
Hymn	<i>"Lift Every Voice and Sing" (Johnson)</i>
Invocation	Rev. Janet L. Wolf ABC Division Chair of Church Vocations
Scripture	Ms. Janet K. Walsh ABC Director of Library Services
Solo	
Introduction of Senior Class President	Ms. Marcella F. Lockhart ('97) Director of Enrollment Management

Seniors' Address

Minister James Se'Bree ('09)  
Senior Class President 2009

Recognition of Guests and  
Introduction of the Speaker

Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr. (Th.B. '79)  
President

Solo

Commencement Address

Rev. James Thomas ('90)  
Pastor, Jefferson Street Baptist Church

### Special Presentations

#### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Ms. Marcella Lockhart ('97)  
Director of Enrollment Management

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr. (Th.B. '79)

INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION—Rev. Marvin Neal ('92)

Alma Mater

C. O. Inge ('59)

Benediction

Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr. (Th.B. '79)

Recessional

*"God of Our Fathers" (George-Warren)*

***\*Ushers: American Baptist College Students***

***\*\*President's Reception Immediately After Service (Atrium)***

## ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Colebrooke, Ernest	Summa Cum Laude	Nassau, Bahamas
Miller, Allison	Magna Cum Laude	Nashville, TN

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

Clark, Marcus		Detroit, MI
Corder, Leon		Christiana, TN
Favors, Michael		Nashville, TN
Henderson, Solomon		Nassau, Bahamas
Howse, Corey		Nashville, TN
Lee, Jr., John		Lexington, KY
Parham, Ron	Cum Laude	Nashville, TN
Payne, James		Clayton, OH
Pickett, Anthony	Magna Cum Laude	Brentwood, TN
Sandusky, Anthony	Cum Laude	Lexington, KY
Se'Bree, James		Nashville, TN
Thompson, Larry		San Antonio, TX
Turner, Lee		Pontiac, MI

## BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

Blackstone, Catherine	Summa Cum Laude	Nashville, TN
Bryant, Timothy	Cum Laude	Mt. Juliet, TN
Williams, Douglas	Magna Cum Laude	Madison, TN

# CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

May 17, 2009

Certificate of Christian Training

Tommy Allison  
Larry Banks  
Gregory W. Harris  
Kristopher Hightower  
Ellarein Holston  
Jessie J. Reese, Jr.  
Ashford Rutledge  
Willie C. Tolbert  
John P. Watson  
Floyd Lee Williams

Diploma of Theology

Tony R. McEady

EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

May 13, 2009

Certificate of Christian Training

Joanne Alford  
Diane T. Edwards  
Sarah Fleming  
Willie L. Johnson, Sr.  
Robbie A. Kilpatrick  
Bruce McKenzie  
Clairetha Thornton  
Matt Whittington  
Celestine Wilson

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

May 10, 2009

Diploma of Theology

Reginald Currie  
Hazel Fuller  
Essie Johnson  
Rubie Oatis  
Christopher Perkins  
Charles Robinson  
Kelvin Sanders  
James Tipler  
Marilyn Womack

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

May 11, 2009

Certificate of Christian Training

Thelma M. White  
Gloria D. Wilder  
Charles C. Jackson, Sr.



## Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring;  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies;  
Let it resound, loud as the rolling seas.

Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun;  
Let us march, on till victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light;  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met Thee.  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

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## Alma Mater

We love thee, Alma Mater, the school we cherish so.  
The world will read thy data where ever we may go  
Thy words we'll never alter, we'll never, never falter  
In showing forth thy faithfulness, A.B.T.S.

The world will praise thy students,  
where ever they may go  
Thy walls have made them prudent  
because they love thee so.  
They'll ne'er forget the pleasures,  
the care and precious treasures  
Of all thy love and righteousness, A.B.T.S.

The mem'ry of thy teachers shall linger in our hearts.  
The words of all thy preachers  
shall battle Satan's darts.  
We'll honor thee forever, forsake thee never, never,  
For'er we'll sing thy blessedness, A.B.T.S.

C. O. Inge ('59)