# Twentieth Annual GARNETT - NABRIT LECTURES





Dr. J. M. NABRIT

theme:

"EXPERIENCING A THIRST FOR GOD"

Sponsored By The

# AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1800 Whites Creek Pike Nashville, Tennessee March 28 - 31, 1977

Dr. Charles E. Boddie, President Rev. Samuel W. Hale, Jr., Director As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God...

-- Psalm 42:1, 2a

Hunger may be satisfied by even that which one does not like. Thirst, however, will not be satisfied except by water. Thirst is one experience that compels man and beast to strive for real satisfaction. Thirst will not be satisfied by substitutes. Coffee, tea, milk, cola, liquor or kool-aid may bring temporary relief, but nothing can quench a thirst like water.

The Child of God soon learns that life may afford a multitude of experiences to realize his many longings. But it may not take long for him to realize that only God can satisfy the longings in his soul.

Our Lecture Focus for this year seeks to speak to that very reality. Thus this week we shall confront the many responses, reactions and realities suggested by our theme "Experiencing a Thirst for God." Drink deeply with us of the Water from which we shall never thirst!

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this day of tape recordings, the words from contemporary greats are preservable with ease and dispatch. What our prayer always turns into when contemplating our Annual Lecture Series is a plea that the sure enough WORD will find expression by becoming flesh among us. Dr. Bobby Saucer, Reverend Raymond Harvey, and the Reverend John Cunningham prove to be adequate catalysts of that Eternal Word for this Series. As we contemplate the past, enjoin the present and project the future, may the song of the Psalmist hover over it all: "My Soul Thirsteth for the Living God."

Welcome to each and all alumni of our beloved school! Keep the "Garnett-Nabrit" habit and return next year.

Dr. Charles Emerson Boddie

## GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

In the name of our risen Lord, greetings. It is always refreshing and inspiring when we are planning for the lecture. Out of the planning session comes the great anticipation of genuine fellowship with old friends and new friends, and the great expectation of spiritual uplift that will come from preaching, lecturing, singing and praying. It is through the reality of these sessions that I gain new strength for the task that lies ahead.

Thus, I thank  $\operatorname{God}$  for you, your attendance, and support in making the lecture so meaningful.

Reverend J. H. Flakes

#### GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Peace be unto you! Your presence and participation in this year's Lecture Series is a great delight to us. Thank you for sharing.

We trust the theme of the year's Twentieth Annual Garnett-Nabrit Lecture Series will truly challenge your minds, warm your hearts and edify your souls. Please be assured that all our efforts in planning and implementing our plans have been with your spiritual welfare in mind. If during this week you feel we can be of better service to you, please do not hesitate to make your requests known to us.

Reverend Samuel W. Hale, Jr.

#### LEST WE FORGET



GARNETT, JAMES HENRY -- Clergyman, Educator b. Carter Plan-Gordon County, Georgia 1847; s. James K. and Levina (Carter) Garnett; m. Ida Lee Drake, August 15, 1888; two children, Ida D. and James Malcom; educ. Oberlin (A.B. 1887) Morman Park, Illinois Theological Course (B.D. 1886); Selma University (D.D. 1891); Arkansas Baptist College (LL.D. 1926); President, Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Arkansas 1886-87; President and Co-founder, Gaudalupe College, Seguin, Texas, 1887-91; President State University (Simmons University (D.D. 1891); Arkansas Baptist College (LL.D. 1926); President, Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Arkansas 1886-87; President and Co-founder, Gaudalupe College, Sequin, Texas, 1887-91: President State University (Simmons University) Louisville, Kentucky 1891-95; President Houston College, Houston, Texas 1894-99; Chairman of Languages (Greek and Latin) Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri for nine years; In business in Gary, Indiana (real estate and insurance) until 1922; Dean of Theology and Chaplain of Kansas Industrial and Educational Institute, Topeka, Kansas, 1922-25; Teacher of Systematic Theology and New Testament Greek, American Baptist Theological Seminary 1924-38; Dean of Seminary October 28, 1927-39; Acting President, April 8, 1930-April 12, 1932. Although Dr. Garnett was never honored with the elective office of President, it is to his credit and honor that the American Baptist Theological Seminary stands as a beacon-light today, for it was through his efforts that many of the problems of administration were solved. His memory is retained through the annual Garnett-Nabrit lecture series each year.



NABRIT, JAMES MADISON--Clergyman, Educator b. September 17, 1877, Atlanta, Georgia. s. J. Clarke and Margaret (Knox Petty) Nabrit; m. Augusta G. West, May 5, 1899; eight children, James M. Jr., Margaret, Samuel M., Ann, Gertrude, Henry, Lois, Cecelia; educ. Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia (A.B., D.D.); Virginia Union Seminary Richmond, Virginia (M.A.) Morris College (D.D.) Chicago, Illinois; Pastor, St. James Church, Forsyth, Georgia 1902-07; Bethesda Church, Americus, Georgia, 1907-12; Springfield Baptist Church, Auguesta, Gerogia, 1912-21; Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Atlanta Georgia 1921-36; Teacher, Central College 1899-1907; Americus Institute 1907-12; Walker Institute 1915-20; Trustee Morehouse and Atlanta Universities, Atlanta, Georgia; General Secretary of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. 1931-1946; President of Georgia Baptist Convention: Elected president of American Baptist Theological Seminary April 23, 1936. Six months after accepting this posttion he suffered a severe back injury which left him a half invalid, nevertheless the school experienced its greatest encouragement and the ground work for this institution was laid during his administration. Dr. Nabrit resigned in 1944 in order to resume the pastorate in Atlanta, Georgia. He dies there in 1947.

## HISTORY OF THE GARNETT-NABRIT LECTURES

"...They...expounded unto them the way of God more perfectly."
--Acts 18:26B

Even in the midst of learning situations, there come moments when that which is learned need be enhanced, enriched and enlightened. This concept seemingly was in the mind of Dr. J. C. Miles as he, under the leadership of Dr. J. M. Nabrit, the President of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, directed the first Missionary Conference in March, 1937. An Annual Conference on Pastoral Problems was planned and held in November, 1937, which was closed with a celebration of Founder's Day. These conferences were combined at least by 1943 and continued each year until 1957.

In 1949 the conception of the Garnett-Nabrit lectures was realized.

At the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association held, June 3, 1949, a committee (J. T. Moore, B. E. Callier, J. T. Ridley, W. N. Daniel, Charles Williams and William H. Donaldson) reported that they had polled the alumni throughout the country and received the majority of votes in favor of a Garnett-Nabrit Lectureship This Lectureship was created and named for Drs. J. H. Garnett and J. M. Nabrit. Dr. Garnett had served as Dean of the Institution and was acting President at several interims. In 1936 he was elected President-Emeritus and was retired in 1940. The other personality was Dr. Nabrit, the Secretary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., who served as President of the Seminary from 1936 to 1944.1

It was not until 1957 that the birth of the Garnett-Nabrit Lectures was actualized. For in the April 30 - May 1, 1957 meeting of the Board of Trustees the vote was made to change the name of the Annual Ministers and Missionary Conference to the Garnett-Nabrit lectures in honor of the Former Dean, Dr. J. H. Garnett and Dr. J. M. Nabrit, the fourth President of the Seminary. The first Lecture Series was held April 30-May 1, 1958, under the co-directorship of Professor Joseph M. Conley, Director of Seminary Extension, and Dr. Maynard P. Turner, President. In 1964, the Alumni Association strengthened the Lecture Series by initiating an Alumni Banquet. Each year an Alumnus is chosen by the Alumni Association to deliver the Banquet Address. These Lecture Series have continued for twenty years, and have been blessed with the priceless contributions of the speakers listed on the next page.

Ruth Marie Powell, Lights and Shadows, 1964.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Ruth Marie Powell, <u>Lights and Shadows</u> (Nashville: 1964), pp. 64, 65.

ALUMNI ORATOR						Rev. W. O. Wells ('57) Rev. William K. Richardson ('58) Bew. G. Calvin McChitcheon ('50)	d. Calvin McCuccheon A. G. Kendrick ('41) Bernard Lafayette, Jr. John Lewis ('61) C. T. Vivian ('60)	Dr. Harcourt W. Brown ('38)	Dr. Odie M. Hoover ('49) Rev. Solomon Gort ('62) Rev. Nigil L. McPherson ('58)	
PREACHER	Rev. William J. Harvey, III Rev. J. Royster Powell	Rev. Ceasar A. W. Clark Rev. I. S. Powell Rev. M. H. Ribbins ('45) Rev. L. Juan Burt Dr. T. J. Jemisch		Dr. D. C. Washington Dr. William R. Haney		Dr. Roland O. Hudson Dr. Sandy F. Ray Dr. Thomas Kilonso			Dr. Gene E. Bartlett Dr. Benjamin E. Mays	Dr. Odie M. Hoover ('49) Dr. Sandy F. Ray Dr. Fredrick G. Sampson Dr. Manuel L. Scott Rev. Raymond F. Harvey
LECTURER	Dr. Henlee H. Barnett Dr. Clyde T. Francisco Dr. W. Kendrick Grobel Dr. I. H. Henderson, Jr.					Dr. Kyle Haselden Dr. Dale Moody Dr. Victor T Glass			Dr. Phale D. Hale Dr. Clyde T. Francisco	Dr. Wayne E. Oates Dr. George D. Kelsey Dr. Carl H. Marbury Dr. Samuel D. Proctor Dr. Bobby Joe Saucer
SERIES	1958	1959	1961	1963	1964	1965 1966 1967	1968 1969	1970	1971 1972	1973 1974 1975 1976

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**



DR. BOBBY JOE SAUCER: LECTURER - A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Dr. Saucer is the distinguished Dean of the Morehouse School of Religion. He holds the B.A. Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; the B.D. and M.Th. Degrees from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York; the D.Min. Degree from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts and has studied towards the Ph.D. in Social Gerontology at the Florence Heller School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. Dr. Saucer's research and teaching area is Social Gerontology, specializing in "The Role of the Black Elderly in Black Churches."

Dr. Saucer has held administrative and/or teachings position with the Union Theological Seminary, Boston Theological Institute, Urban League, and the Peace Corps. He also serves as Vice Chairman, National Caucus on the Black Aged; Trustee, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School; on several Boards and Commissions on Gerontology, Theology, Study of Black Religion, Nursing Homes and Ministers Conferences.

A noted lecturer and preacher, Dr. Saucer has recently appeared on Television programs on Black Aging in New York City, Pittsburg and Washington, D. C.



REVEREND RAYMOND F. HARVEY: PREACHER - A native of Hempstead, Long Island, New York, Reverend Harvey is a noted Preacher and Lecturer at Evangelistic Conferences and Pastors Conferences across the country. Reverend Harvey holds the A.B. Degree from Virginia State College and the B.D. Degree from Howard University School of Religion. He has done post-graduate studies at Oberline College School of Theology; Mansfield College, Oxford University, Oxford, England and Continuing Education, Princeton University.

Reverend Harvey has served as Acting Chaplain of Tuskegee Institute, Pastor of Bethesda Baptist Church, Opelika, Alabama and Pastor of twenty-two years of Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.



REVEREND JOHN F. CUNNINGHAM: BANQUET SPEAKER - A Native of Homer, Louisiana, Reverend Cunningham is Pastor of the Mt. Enon Baptist Church of Dayton, Ohio. He holds the B.A. Degree from the American Baptist Theological Seminary and has done further study at Austin Peay State University.

Reverend Cunningham has serves as Assistant Minister in Nashville, Tennessee and Ferndale, Michigan; Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee; Registrar-Treasurer and Instructor of the Clarksville Baptist Extension Unit of A.B.T. Seminary; Moderator of Stones River District Association; Clarksville Chamber of Commerce and Regional President of the Tennessee Baptist Educational Congress. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, chairing the Committee on Seminary Extension.

#### ORDER OF EVENTS

ONDAY,	MARCH	28, 1977
2:30	A.M.	ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Chapel Reverend J. H. Flakes ('68), Presiding
7:30	P.M.	PRE-LECTURE MUSICAL ABT Seminary Chorus
UESDAY,	MARCH	29, 1977
9:00	A.M.	REGISTRATION
10:00	A.M.	WORSHIP SERVICE, Tabernacle on the Hill Dr. C. E. Boddie, Worship Leader Dr. J. Lewis Powell, Worship Assistant
		Meditation in Music Call to Worship Invocation Hymn of Praise Observations Special Music
12:00	Noon	LUNCH
1:30	P.M.	LECTURE I, Tabernacle on the Hill Reverend Samuel W. Hale ('66), Presiding
		Hymn Prayer Observations Presentation of Lecturer LECTURE
3:30	P.M.	NATIONAL ABT ALUMNI MEETING
<b>5</b> :00	P.M.	DINNER

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7:30 P.M. WORSHIP SERVICE, Tabernacle on the Hill
              Reverend J. F. Grimmett, Worship
              Dr. Amos Jones ('69), Worship Assistant
              Meditation in Music
              Call to Worship
              Invocation
              Hymn of Praise
              Observations
              Special Music ...... Westwood Baptist Church Choir
              Presentation of Preacher
              Scripture
              SERMON ..... Reverend Raymond F. Harvey
              Hymn of Commitment
              Benediction
  10:00 P.M. ALUMNI WORSHIP SERVICE
              Roger Heights Baptist Church
              Reverend Rudolph Allen, Speaker
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1977
   8:00 A.M. EXTENSION DEPARTMENT BREAKFAST, Ramada Inn, North
              Reverend William Grimes, Dean - Speaker
                 Quad Cities Extension Unit
                 East Moline, Illinois
   9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION
  10:00 A.M. LECTURE II, Tabernacle on the Hill
              Dr. Richard Lucas, Presiding
              Hymn
              Prayer
              Observations
              Presentation of Lecturer
              LECTURE ..... Dr. Bobby Joe Saucer
              Discussion Groups
                  I. "Thirsting for the Word of God
                      Discussion Leader: Reverend Curtis Tolbert
                                                   ('68)
                 II. "Thirsting for the Power of God"
                      Discussion Leader: Reverend Nathaniel D.
                                         Brockman ('57)
                      "Thirsting for the Guidance of God"
                      Discussion Leader: Reverend William J.
                                          Campbell ('72)
  12:00 Noon LUNCH
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1:30 P.M. LECTURE III, Tabernacle on the Hill Mrs. Annabell Jones, Presiding

		Hymn Prayer Observations Presentation of Lecturer LECTURE
3:30	P.M.	NATIONAL ABT ALUMNI MEETING
5:00	P.M.	DINNER
7:30	P.M.	WORSHIP SERVICE, Tabernacle on the Hill Reverend Samuel W. Hale, Sr. ('42), Worship Leader Reverend Gil H. Gordan ('62), Worship Assistant
		Meditation in Music Call to Worship Invocation Hymn of Praise Observations Special Music
10:00	P.M.	ALUMNI WORSHIP SERVICE Roger Heights Baptist Church
THURSDAY,	MARCI	H 31, 1977
9:00	A.M.	REGISTRATION
9:30	A.M.	LECTURE IV, Tabernacle on the Hill Dr. Don B. McCoy, Presiding
		Scripture Prayer Observations Presentation of Lecturer LECTURE
12:00	Noon	LUNCH
1:30	P.M.	WORSHIP SERVICE, Tabernacle on the Hill Reverend J. H. Flakes ('68), Worship Leader Reverend Tommy Mims ('77), Worship Assistant
		Meditation in Music Call to Worship

Invocation

3:00 P.M. ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7:00 P.M. ALUMNI BANQUET, Ramada Inn, North Reverend J. F. Cunningham ('65), Speaker

GARNETT-NABRIT LECTURES' HYMN

"O For a Closer Walk With God"

O for a closer walk with God, A calm and heav'nly frame, A light to shine upon the road That leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew When first I saw the Lord? Where is the soul refreshing view Of Jesus and His word?

What peaceful hours I then enjoyed! How sweet their mem'ry still! But they have left an aching void The world can never fill.

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Return, O Holy Dove, return, Sweet Messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made Thee mourn, And drive Thee from my breast.

--A-men.

#### **APPRECIATION**

We are especially grateful to all our distinguished guests and to all our leaders who share their rich experiences with our many participants, for whom we are also grateful. A special thanks is extended to the many students, faculty and administrative personnel who helped to make this Lecture Series a reality.

#### PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

- REVEREND RUDOLPH ALLEN Pastor, Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia.
- DR. CHARLES E. BODDIE President, American Baptist College and Seminary.
- REVEREND NATHANIEL J. BROCKMAN ('57) Director, Martin-Webb Learning Center; Pastor, Union Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina.
- REVEREND WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL ('72) Registrar, Nashville Extension Unit; Pastor, Berean Baptist Chapel, Nashville, Tennessee.
- REVEREND J. H. FLAKES ('68) President, Alumni Association; Pastor, Fourth Street Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia.
- REVEREND GIL H. GORDON ('62) Pastor, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.
- REVEREND WILLIAM GRIMES Dean, Quad-Cities Extension Unit, East Moline, Illinois; Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Rock Island, Illinois.
- REVEREND J. F. GRIMMETT Assistant Professor and Director of Pastoral Studies; Coordinator of Student Affairs, American Baptist College.
- REVEREND SAMUEL W. HALE, JR. ('66) Director, Department of Seminary Extension, American Baptist College and Seminary.
- REVEREND SAMUEL W. HALE, SR. ('42) Pastor, New Salem Baptist Church, Decatur, Illinois.
- DR. AMOS JONES ('69) Pastor, Westwood Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.
- MRS. ANNABELLE J. JONES Academic Dean-Registrar, American Baptist College and Seminary.
- DR. RICHARD LUCAS Director, Department of Bible and Theology and Associate Professor of Church History, American Baptist College and Seminary.

- DR. DON B. McCOY Director, Department of Philosophy; Professor of Philosophy and Education, American Baptist College and Seminary; Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dickson, Tennessee.
- DR. VINCENT McCUTCHEON ('68) Associate Professor of Old Testament, American Baptist College and Seminary.
- REVEREND TOMMIE MIMS ('77) President, Senior Class, American Baptist College and Seminary; Pastor, Luster Chapel Baptist Church, Guthrie, Kentucky.
- DR. J. LEWIS POWELL Vice President, American Baptist College and Seminary; Pastor, Faith-United Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.
- REVEREND CURTIS TOLBERT ('68) Dean, Macon Extension Unit; Pastor, Progressive Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia.

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Rev. Marvin Bingham, Pledgee

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# ALMA MATER



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