20th Edition - 2011

MANNA
FROM HEAVEN NEWS

ELEVATION BAPTIST CHURCH - 4729 NEW BERN AVENUE - RALEIGH, NC 27610
We greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are so grateful for another year and all of the many provisions in which the Lord has granted. As we examine previous editions of this great evangelistic tool, it reminds us just how good God has been to us; not only here at Elevation, but to all His Kingdom citizens. 1 Corinthians 2:9 states, However, as it is written: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

At the beginning of 2011, I decreed through the leading of the Holy Spirit, that believers would walk under an open heaven. Despite economic hardships, God has made a way for His people and we give Him the glory. The world might not understand how one might still be triumphant when the economy is filled with such bleakness from S&P Reports, Stock Market plunges, Wall Street busts, etc. Well, the answer is serving and trusting in a holy God; One who is faithful and just, reigns supreme, and has the final say!

We can rely on His word found in Psalm 37:25 which states, I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

At Elevation, the vision is evangelism. It’s about seeking the lost and winning souls for Christ. The word of God instructs believers to go out to the hedges and highways and compel others to come unto Him. How many have you led to Christ? How many ministering opportunities have you passed up? The book of James in Chapter 4 reminds us to draw near to God and He will draw near to us. We have the greatest news to share. It’s the news of a risen savior and eternal life for those who profess Christ as their personal savior. Christ is soon to return so why not reach souls for Him. There is no better time than the present as He desires none to perish.

As we continue in 2012, let our Christ-centered lifestyles serve as our witness. Let’s emulate Christ by sharing our spiritual gifts with those whom are lost. Love one another; speak a positive word into one’s life - remember words are powerful. According to Proverbs 18:21, Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Use your gifting to advance the Kingdom and great will be your reward.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor T.L. Carmichael, Sr.
Pastor’s Anniversary


Minister Joshua Carmichael, son of Pastor T.L. and First Lady Rebecca Carmichael spoke for the service. Minister Carmichael began by thanking Pastor Carmichael for his teachings but more so he wanted to thank him for being his father. He also acknowledged his mother First Lady Rebecca Carmichael, who he stated “was the rock of their lives”. Minister Carmichael message entitled “Your Breakthrough has Arrived.” taken from 2 Samuel 5:20.

He stated a breakthrough is overcoming or penetrating an obstacle placed before someone. He asked, “How can you not forgive when God has forgiven you?” Minister Carmichael also referenced Philippians 3:14 stating, If your ways please God, then God will give you the treasures of your soul. He noted God is in control and believers should always depend on God because God is bigger than man... we can always depend on God. He reminded the congregation that God tests his followers so they will have a testimony. Minister Carmichael further noted that believers should not dwell on the past; for the past can stop you from embracing the future. When asking God for a breakthrough, believers must first change their lives.

In conclusion, Minister Carmichael emphasized giving God all the praise is essential to receiving your breakthrough. In addition, there will be times when believers will have to face their enemy’s head on and other times they will have to leave some things behind. In doing this, God will see us through.

Pastor T.L. Carmichael and First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael are greatly appreciated by Elevation disciples. Through his preaching and teaching, he has turned weaknesses into strengths, obstacles into stepping stones and disasters into triumphs.
The first Evening of Hope was held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at Elevaton Baprist Church East Campus in Knightdale. Pastor T.L. Carmichael noted that each Evening of Hope service is planned to give the community and other churches a chance to worship with EBC. He commented that relationship is what really counts. Friendship is good but relationship is what we look for. Carmichael introduced the speaker for the evening as Superintendent Stenneth Powell, Sr. of Abundant Life Christian Center in Raleigh, NC.

Superintendent Powell informed the congregation that the word ‘thanks’ is a derivative of the word ‘think’; therefore, one cannot be thankful without first thinking about what he/she is thankful for. Powell thanked God for the gift of the Holy Ghost. He then honored our Pastor and First Lady as well as his First Lady, Beverly A. Powell. Powell stated that “fellowship is the best ship and he is glad to be on that ship.”

Powell based a short sermon entitled, “How to Win the City”, from this scripture. He noted that believers must celebrate the city, have compassion for the people of the city, and pray for the people in the city. Evil workers are those that are unrighteous. Some even seek to intimidate.

Next, he referenced, Revelations 2:4 which states, Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. Powell used this scripture to inform the group about ‘The Cold Church’. He noted that chapters two and three of Revelations are regarding Ephesus, a cosmopolitan city. Ephesus is where the famous temple of Diana was located and where much currency was received from the sale of items of this idol. Apostles, Timothy, and John made great contributions to the church at Ephesus. Paul also preached there for approximately three years and during this time many turned away from worshipping their images of Diana.

Superintendent Powell concluded by giving examples of how God is referenced throughout the bible. Moses said that he is a cloud by day and fire by night. Joshua said he is a battle axe. Sampson prayed and stretched his hands to Him. David said that the Lord is my Shepherd. Solomon said that He is the Lily of the Valley. Daniel said He is a mighty God and by His stripes we are healed. Jeremiah said He is like a fire shut up in his bones.

The church was making a difference in the community. Superintendent Powell commented “that a church in a community that does not make a difference is a dead church.” As Christians, we are the salt of the earth and keep lives from being broken.

The church of Ephesus was a working church, a patient church. No church should become a cold church – one that lacks oneness, or turns on its loved ones. The ‘cold church’ will die. The church must keep on toiling, working, having a zest for the truth, and loving even through contrary winds.

Superintendent Powell concluded by giving examples of how God is referenced throughout the bible. Moses said that he is a cloud by day and fire by night. Joshua said he is a battle axe. Sampson prayed and stretched his hands to Him. David said that the Lord is my Shepherd. Solomon said that He is the Lily of the Valley. Daniel said He is a mighty God and by His stripes we are healed. Jeremiah said He is like a fire shut up in his bones.
Pastor Powell delivered an awesome message that appeared to touch hearts and inspiring the congregation.

The second Evening of Hope was held on Sunday, February 20th. During Pastor T.L. Carmichael’s opening comments, he shared with the congregation the acronym HOPE.

H - Holy Spirit
O - Omnipresence, Omnipotent, Omniscient God
P - Providential God
E - Expectancy

He welcomed everyone and introduced the evening’s speaker, Pastor John Wilkins, Jr. of Wake Chapel Church in Raleigh, NC.

Wilkins urged the congregants to open their minds and hearts to receive the things of God and to bear witness for what He has done in the midst of a recession. Later in his sermon, Wilkins spoke of the long-term relationship that Elevation Baptist Church and Wake Chapel Church have enjoyed over many years. He encouraged the congregants to remain steadfast and support the vision that God has given to Pastor Carmichael. Then, Pastor Wilkins called Pastor Carmichael to the altar and spoke directly to his spirit, encouraging him to continue following the plan of God. To further illustrate, he summoned several men to the altar and requested they hold up Pastor Carmichael’s arms. This was a demonstration of the help that Pastor would need in the future. Pastor Wilkins reminded Pastor Carmichael that God gave His angels charge over him. To express his love and gratitude, Pastor Carmichael thanked Pastor and First Lady Wilkins and provided them with a copy of his book, Stepping Out on Faith.

On Sunday, March 27th, the Evening of Hope series continued with Pastor David Horner from Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. Pastor David Horner serves as Senior Pastor at Providence which began with 12 families approximately 33 years ago. Horner exalted Christ for the tremendous growth at Providence. The foundation scripture for his sermon came from Genesis 12:1-3 which states: Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Pastor Horner detailed the story of Abraham learning to trust God. Pastor Horner emphasized four specific points from his selected verses: (1) God has uncompromising standards – God told Abram not to take his family and he did. God told Abram to go to Canaan and he went to Haran, Egypt and then to Sodom and Gomorrah. Pastor Horner noted that partial obedience is disobedience. (2) God has unconditional faithfulness. His promises are yea and amen. God never backs away from His covenant relationship with us. (3) God has unlimited abundance that comes when things are done His way - God cannot deny Himself. Abram accumulated wealth in Haran and in Egypt. Abram did go to Canaan but there was a famine. God was not speaking to Abram because he did not go to Canaan when he was told to. Abram decided to go to Sodom and Gomorrah. (4) God has unsearchable wisdom – God’s wisdom was beyond Abram’s understanding. As promised, Abram, who became Abraham, that his seed shall bless us all through the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ. People do not have to understand God but they must obey Him.

Pastor Horner’s message appeared to be well received by the congregation and a blessing to all in attendance.
On Sunday, May 15th at the fourth Evening of Hope, Pastor T.L. Carmichael and the Elevation Church family welcomed the evening’s special guests, Pastor Frank Summerfield, and the Word of God Fellowship church family.

Pastor Carmichael opened the night’s services by introducing Dr. Summerfield. He noted personally he admires Dr. Summerfield. Likewise, Dr. Summerfield expressed his mutual admiration of Pastor Carmichael. Particularly, noting the humility and stability of Carmichael in addition to the church’s growth in ministry. Summerfield expressed a ministry comes out of the church and spans beyond the building – working in the eternal power of God. Dr. Summerfield’s topic of the evening, “Following - How To and How Not To Follow Bad People”, referencing 1 Timothy 5:17-18 which states, Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. He detailed how double honor is derived from the word “teemay” which is money paid to someone to honor him or valuable gifts of the highest source. Summerfield articulated the best way to receive a direct blessing is to give to the pastor. Summerfield guided the group in giving praise to Pastor Carmichael and First Lady Carmichael. Additionally he elaborated; it is good to major in your potential – everything God has said about you. He further commented that who you follow determines your destiny and prosperity comes when you believe your prophet. Believers are predestined to be where they are – some at EBC and some at other churches. Further detailing his thought Dr. Summerfield said, God gives us pastors to feed us with knowledge and understanding. We must eat, drink and sleep God’s Word. God enables the pastor to see into their parishioner’s lives as he is the set man over the congregation. As with Elijah and Elisha, God’s purpose was the double portion. Elisha always followed Elijah. Summerfield also referenced Numbers 11:16-17 which states, And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put [it] upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear [it] not thyself alone.

Finally, Dr. Summerfield noted, congregates are to do as the pastor says to receive his spiritual anointing and to receive natural and financial blessings. When the pastor shifts, those who are serious shall be there. Dividers should not be allowed into our lives as they cause strife and confusion.

The fifth Evening of Hope event occurred on Sunday, June 16th. Pastor Carmichael welcomed Superintendent Dr. Wooden, of Upper Room Church of God in Christ, and his congregation. Pastor Carmichael introduced Dr. Wooden as a leader in the community and noted how he serviced Wake and surrounding counties. Superintendent Wooden began with a song, “I’m Going to Serve Jesus [Because He is Alright With Me]” accompanied by the choir. Wooden congratulated Pastor Carmichael and the Elevation Family on its outstanding accomplishment – noting the standard had been elevated. Superintendent Wooden’s message was entitled “I Ain’t Changing,” referencing John 2:13-17, And the Jews’ passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.
As he continued, Wooden noted the cleansing of the temple took place just before the crucifixion. The week prior, the people called Jesus Christ, Hosana, as he rode down the street. On the third day of Jesus’ earthly ministry, he went to Capernum to participate in the Passover as all Jewish males should. Jesus walked into the outer court of the tabernacle and noticed the commercialism taking place. Jesus Christ began to turn over tables. Although the Roman soldiers were there, they did not bother Jesus. Jesus said “do not make my Father’s house a house of merchandise” (v.16). We must pay attention to what is going on the outer court – There must be reverence for God and His house. Jesus’ love for God made Him turn tables and today Christians must stand up for what is right also….follow Jesus no matter what.

Superintendent Wooden closed his sermon by calling all preachers and ministers to the altar and leading them in a special prayer. He told them they have been called to be the voice of God and should preach the gospel in and out of season. He warned them not to compromise in their standards but to have an enduring conviction to preach God’s truth.

Pastor and First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael closed the service and directed those requesting special prayer to join members of Elevation’s Prayer Ministry in the prayer loft, located on the second level of the church.

On Sunday, September 11th, the sixth Evening of Hope was held at Elevation Baptist Church East Campus in Knightdale. Pastor Carmichael introduced Pastor Bowen from Faith Baptist Church in Knightdale. He noted that Pastor Bowen has pastored for about seventeen years. Pastor Bowen shared his testimony; he noted that he owned a night club and gambling casino. His Dad was a praying man; and he prayed with his Dad. Bowen had made arrangements to purchase liquor and ¼ ton of marijuana. His friend was burned and not expected to live. A chaplain led his friend to Christ – the friend died later. Bowen was watching a man on television one night and he was convicted. He was making money but he was miserable. He wanted to speak to his Dad so he called him. His Dad came over to his house and prayed with him that night and Michael Bowen accepted God as his savior. One year later he was called to preach. Mercy is God’s attitude towards those in distress. Bowen stated that “he is glad and grateful that God showed him mercy.” Pastor Bowen’s message entitled, “Paul, The Apostle of Grace”, God took a legalist and made him into the apostle of grace. His scriptural reference was Romans 1:1, 14-16 which states, “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,… I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. The seven things that he informed the congregants about Paul were: (1) he was faithful to his obligations; (2) he was a saved man; (3) he was a surrendered man – God’s servant/slave; (4) he was separated unto God; (5) he was a debtor to Jesus Christ and to those around him; (6) he was flexible for opportunities; (7) and he was fearless towards the opposition – not ashamed of prison, purpose of the gospel, power of the gospel, plan of the gospel.

Pastor Bowen closed his sermon with a prayer. Pastor Carmichael thanked Pastor Bowen and his parishioners for visiting with us. Pastor Bowen was given a copy of the Carmichael’s book – Stepping Out On Faith.
So, how do you reverse the trend and improve one’s health? Trendy diets are NOT the answer!

**In order to improve one’s health status, follow these recommendations:**

- Control high blood pressure (exercise and maintain a healthy weight)
- Improve cholesterol levels (choose leaner cuts of meat, less fast foods)
- Quit smoking (as a start, enroll in a smoking cessation class)
- Get Active (at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity, most days of the week)
- Eat right (more fruits and vegetables, more fiber, less fat and fewer calories)
- Recognize and Manage Stress (take time for yourself daily, weekly)

What a great way to start 2012 – make it your New Year’s resolution and stick to it!

Each year, the second Sunday in February is recognized as Red Dress Sunday. It’s not just about wearing red, but an opportunity to educate others about the importance of being heart healthy. Heart disease is still the nation’s No. 1 killer, crossing all classes and races of people. The majority of chronic disease diagnoses are related to lifestyle; genetics and environment are also contributing factors. Risks factors, such as age and family history can’t be changed but certain behaviours can and should. Bottom line: eat smaller portions, remain active, and consume less sugary drinks. Additionally, know your numbers!

Do you know your numbers? When is the last time you’ve had your blood pressure, cholesterol, or blood glucose checked? Do you discuss the results with your health care provider? Regular checks are advised and keeping a log is also helpful to track changes.

One of the most prevalent diseases is high blood pressure (hypertension) often referred to as the “silent killer.” It is a sneaky disease and often presents with no symptoms. Those who are diagnosed, significantly increase their risks for heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and death.

Waist circumference is an indicator of heart disease. A measurement greater than 40 inches for men and 35 inches for women means your risk of heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure is higher.

Do you know your Body Mass Index (BMI)? It too, is another indicator of health risks and has a direct link to chronic conditions. For the last decade, individuals who measure in the overweight and obese categories have been steadily rising and this is a growing concern for adults and youth.

So, how do you reverse the trend and improve one’s health? Trendy diets are NOT the answer!
The monthly Women’s Word Study is a time of study, fellowship and bonding among Elevation members and guests. The women convene to study scripture, pray, sing, meditate, and openly discuss life’s experiences. The attendees explore an array of topics to encourage personal and spiritual growth.

The 2011 Women’s Word Study focused on the book Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted written by Priscilla Shirer. The book encompasses life’s interruptions and how to deal with them. The author shows what one sees as an interruption may truly be God’s divine invitation to a life much bigger than ever imagined. During the year, women were able to openly share examples of interruptions depicting personal tragedies as well as triumphs.

In addition to the Women’s Word Study Series, the women also participated in a “Girlfriends Night” event. On April 8th, the lower annex was arranged in a cinema-like setting. With snacks and beverages, the Women’s Ministry hosted a movie night with a showing of Maggie’s Passage. Maggie, who is an 18 year-old girl, leaves her adopted Christian home after her father’s tragic death. Trying to fill a void in her life, Maggie feels the need to locate her birth mother. She finds a mother that does not love her or want her. After a few months enough becomes enough and when all hope is lost, one desperate night she reaches her breaking point. In a rage, she releases her frustrations by destroying the seedy hotel room that has been her home. At her feet falls a Bible, and it is then she realizes that there is only one thing that can break the bondage she is in - Jesus Christ, her Savior. Maggie finds herself living on the streets, broken and alone until she meets the right people, Max and Grace. Grace gives her shelter, while Max becomes a father figure. They take Maggie under their wings and help her get to where she belongs, at home with her adopted mother who has been praying for her safe return. By the end of the movie, there wasn’t a dry eye in the room as viewers witnessed the grace and mercy of God on the screen.
Once again the Music and Fine Arts Ministry, under the direction of Harold Phillips, has produced yet another soul inspiring Easter musical. The 2011 EBC Easter musical entitled, “Resurrecting Hope - I Know the Truth” chronicled the majestic work of Jesus.

As in years past Phillips used music to punctuate the moment. However, unlike years past he used characters, dance and song to tell the story, in the third person. With each lyric, spoken word, and dance step the work of Christ and His impact on the lives of others was accentuated. The musical opens with the song, “Latter Rain.” The song delivers a hope of what had been foretold in the scripture, and the impact of the Holy Spirit on the world.

In a moment of reflection disciple Simon Peter is introduced to the audience and reflects on the teachings his master, Jesus, had taught him and his brethren. Simon recalls Jesus’ predication of His death and resurrection. In addition, Simon speaks the climate of the day after Jesus’ crucifixion and how his fellow disciples hid in fear of losing their lives.

Another notable moment in the life of the risen Savior is told through dance. Sisters and close acquaintances of Jesus - Mary and Martha - personal loss of their brother Lazarus is brought to by the lyrical works of the Aretha Franklin classic gospel song, “Mary Don’t You Weep.” With every crescendo the dancers body moments portrayed the agony and sadness the sisters felt at the loss of their brother. And likewise, their joys are punctuated when Christ raises Lazarus from his grave.

Throughout the musical Phillips highlighted other moments that lead to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as well as the days and moments thereafter. For example, the conflict between the Jewish and Roman leadership to the sun refusing to shine as Christ hung on the cross. Yet, at the close of the musical the EBC singers sang a moving rendition of Milton Brunson’s, “Jesus Lives.” This brought the audience to their feet as they sang along and rejoiced for the risen Savior!
1. Pontious Pilate
2. “The Latta Rain”
3. Easter Musical Cast
4. Jesus Christ
5. Lazarus & his Sisters
6. Easter Musical Cast
2011 Scholarship Recipients:
Taylor Eunae Braxton; DeAnna Marie Hardesty; Princess Tiyonna Shardae Houston; and Aleeyah Nichols.

2011 High School Graduates:

Student: Taylor Eunae Braxton  
School: Leesville High School  
Plans: North Carolina Central University

Student: Darylon Burton,  
School: East Wake High School,  
Plans: U.S. Coast Guard

Student: Randel Doubty  
School: East Wake High School  
Plans: Fayetteville State University

Student: Mickey “Ryan” Fowler  
School: Sanderson High School  
Plans: University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Student: DeAnna Marie Hardesty  
School: Enloe High School  
Plans: Winston-Salem State University

Student: Nyema Heyward  
School: East Wake High School  
Plans: University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Student: Princess Tiyonna Shardae Houston  
School: Athens Drive High School  
Plans: University North Carolina – Charlotte

Student: Teresa Mangum  
School: Clayton High School  
Plans: Miller-Motte Technical College

Student: Aleeyah Nichols  
School: Millbrook High School  
Plans: Winston-Salem State University

Student: Brandon Charles Reed  
School: Knightdale High School  
Plans: East Carolina University

Student: Daivonya “Dai” Reddick-Simmons  
School: Southeast High School  
Plans: Howard University

Student: Kenny Tillman, II  
School: Leesville Road High School  
Plans: Wake Technical Community College

Student: Xavier Malik Vaughn  
School: Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School  
Plans: University of North Carolina - Greensboro

Student: Alexander L. Walton  
School: Knightdale High School  
Plans: Living Arts College

Student: Forest R. Wilder  
School: Clayton High School  
Plans: North Carolina A & T State University

Student: Premere Sade Williams  
School: Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School  
Plans: East Carolina University

Student: Tiara Wilson  
School: Knightdale High School  
Plans: Louisburg College
**2011 College Graduates:**

- **Student:** Carline Melvin-Bethune  
  **School:** Shaw University  
  **Degree:** Bachelors of Arts in Liberal Arts  
  Concentration in Education

- **Student:** Brandy Dodd  
  **School:** University of North Carolina –Charlotte  
  **Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Public Health

- **Student:** Jordan Holly  
  **School:** Winston-Salem State University  
  **Degree:** Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

- **Student:** Kimberly Danielle McDonald  
  **School:** St. Augustine’s College  
  **Degree:** Bachelors of Science in Biology

- **Student:** Ashley Rogers  
  **School:** North Carolina Central University  
  **Degree:** Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education and Communication Disorders

- **Student:** Nichelle Weathersbee  
  **School:** University of Phoenix  
  **Degree:** Masters in Science and Nursing and Masters Health Administration

**Honor Roll & Dean’s List:**

- **Student:** Taylor Eunae Braxton  
  **School:** Leesville Road High School

- **Student:** Randel Doubty  
  **School:** East Wake High School

- **Student:** Nyema Heyward  
  **School:** East Wake High School

- **Student:** Crystan McLymore  
  **School:** Millbrook High School

- **Student:** Andre Noel  
  **School:** Knightdale High School

- **Student:** Brandon Charles Reed  
  **School:** Knightdale High School

- **Student:** Jamie Rogers  
  **School:** Cary High School

- **Student:** Daivonya Reddick-Simmons  
  **School:** Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School

- **Student:** Forrest R. Wilder  
  **School:** Clayton High School

- **Student:** Premere Sade Williams  
  **School:** Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School

---

"A WISE MAN WILL HEAR AND INCREASE LEARNING." (PROV. 1:5)
EBC Youth Ministry –
On The Move

Elevation Youth Ministry, under the leadership of Minister Joshua Carmichael, hosted various activities for EBC’s youth and the surrounding community. On Wednesday, May 11th, the youth performed a skit entitled, “God’s Plan of Salvation.” The concept of the skit emphasized life’s journey of children under the guidance of God’s plan. The youth did an outstanding job displaying their acting and singing skills, which brought about a standing ovation.

On Wednesday, May 18, 2011 the Reaching A Generation of Excellence (R.A.G.E.) Conference began with guest speaker Minister Reginald Sharpe Jr. and guest artist, Travis Greene. The theme for this even was “Expect the Unexpected - A Fight for your Life.”

During the culmination of the R.A.G.E. conference on Sunday, May 22nd, there was an awesome performance from guest artist, F.O.C.U.S. Followed by a powerful message from Minister Mark Moore from Faith Covenant Church in Decatur, GA. As if the R.A.G.E activities weren’t blessing enough, Pastor Carmichael also closed out Sunday services with the presentation of a $5000 donation to St. Augustine’s College’s Recovery and Restoration Fund. The fund was designed to help the school restore the campus to its historic beauty after a tornado tore through Raleigh on April 16, 2011, leaving devastating damage in its wake. Pastor Carmichael also presented a $5,000 donation to Shaw University, which suffered severe damage to its campus.

“The Elevation Church Family is committed to taking the love of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of its sanctuary and into the community, said Dr. T.L. Carmichael Sr. When we saw the damage the tornado caused to these two historic institutions, we felt compelled to do what we could to help both schools restore their campuses.” The youth ministry closed out the year with an inclusive event, Family Matters: “How Do You Keep the Family Together?” Guest speakers, Dr. Bryce Kaye and Dr. Karmala Uzzell spoke to separate groups of adults and youth about family and relationships. Dinner was served immediately following the event. “It’s been an awesome year and we give God praise for it all,” stated Minister Carmichael.
1. Travis Greene
2. Travis Greene
3. Reverend Reginald Sharpe
4. Minister Mark Moore

5. EBC dance Team
6. Hurricane relief donation to Shaw & St. Augustine University Reps.
7. F.O.C.U.S.
On September 24, 2011 EBC’s College Ministry hosted a College Night session. Youth Minister Joshua Carmichael delivered a word based on Matthew 20:29-34. His message, “In the Pursuit of the Impossible”, taught the modest group they should not fear because God is with them; and He may be trying to get a blessing to them. Minster Carmichael noted God did not give us a spirit of fear and that believers may have to cut people off who are not going where they are going. He further stated, God sometimes places His people in places where others enable them. Likewise, he gave the scripture reference Romans 8:7 and noted: (1) do not minimize your own potential; (2) when goals are achieved, give God the glory; (3) do not focus on what you cannot do; and (4) do not speak against what you want.

Minister Carmichael also referenced Hebrews 13:15, noting followers of Christ must offer sacrifices of praise to God. He specified that God wants all to worship in Spirit and in truth and God is trying to take His people to another level.

In addition, Minister Carmichael mentioned Matthew 20:29-34 and elaborated: (1) do not let other people keep you from giving God His due praise; (2) God may want to see how a Christian is going to handle opportunities for giving, relationships, work challenges, or worshipping; (3) believers must give God the glory at all times. He commented that “Your ministry is inside you and God blesses those who are about doing His work.” He closed with a prayer and announced the College Ministry members would be visiting the local college campuses on Thursdays.
On Saturday, July 9th, Elevation’s Prayer Ministry hosted a Prayer Summit, facilitated by Angela Law. The theme, *Have Life More Abundantly Through Effectual Fervent Prayer* was taken from John 10:10, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* The focus of the Summit was prayer power in the trinity of worship, prayer, and praise.

Minister Sybil Mitchell Simmons from Big Macedonia Baptist Church in Supply, NC, delivered the message “Healing Power of Prayer” referencing Psalm 139:13-16, *For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.* Attendees were encouraged as Minister Simmons shared her own personal healing testimony and conveyed statements and scriptures indicating who Believer’s are in Christ.

The Summit included descriptions of the following:

**Accessing God’s throne**
- The Power of the Blood: Interceding Before the Throne
- Necessity of a Clean Heart and a Forgiving Heart

**Prayer: Fine Tuning Your Conversation with God**
- Praying God’s Word
- Praying in the Name of Jesus
- Confronting and Defeating Hindrances to Prayer, and the Power of Fasting
- The Power of Praise and Thanksgiving

The Summit included testimonies of manifested prayers. In addition, individuals provided model prayers for leadership, church, institution of marriage, children, singles, needs (financial, employment, mental, and emotional), the lost, government, nation and the world. The Summit adjourned with attendees personalizing a Prayer of Thanksgiving, and the teen sign of praise ministered through dance.
The 4th Annual Mother-Daughter Tea Celebration was held on May 14, 2011. The theme: Treasuring God’s Gifts, referenced Matthew 6:20-21, *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* Over one hundred mothers and daughters attended this event, including Elevation’s very own First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael. Following prayer and scripture Proverbs 31:30-31, “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. Guest speakers, Marcia Roots, Tea Specialist and Minister Laquisha Parks blessed attendees with messages that were empowering, motivating and uplifting. Recording artist, CoCo McMillan performed three powerful and spirit-filled selections. The celebration also included a brunch, dancing from the EBC Dance Ministry, an inspiring skit, and door prizes.

All attendees sampled an array of teas, while listening to a brief teaching on tea history and etiquette. The celebration concluded with a Mother-Daughter dedication and closing remarks by First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael.
On Sunday, June 19, 2011 the men of Eleva experienced an inspiring, yet challenging message. Referencing Ephesians 5: 14-16 and Genesis 1:26, Pastor Carmichael challenged the men to rise to a ‘new standard.’ He spoke of a time when men stood in their rightful place, much like Joshua did (Joshua 24:15). He added that ‘men of standard’ are referred to as priestly or kingly. “No one can replace the guidance of the father,” Carmichael said. A father is described as: a provider, protector, and leader; he is the one with authority and demands respect.

Referencing Proverbs 14:1; 22:6, fathers (parents) should train their children, because as adults, they set the stage for the character they expect from their children.

In a society that assaults men’s masculinity and diminishes their role as leaders, Pastor Carmichael spoke life into the men assembled. He declared that Christ-like men would reclaim their positions at home and at church; they would become the mighty men of valor God is calling, and resume dominion over the earth. Pastor Carmichael concluded the worship service with a special reading [resolution] for the men. The men read several statements that professed their commitment: devoting more time to God’s word, honoring God with their talents, and working diligently to provide for their families. The men were instructed to depart and live out the words of the resolution so that others would see Christ through them.
September 10-11, 2011 was a weekend of celebration and reflection. While much of the world spent time reminiscing about the nation’s 9-11 tragedy, Elevation disciples and guests gathered to celebrate Elevation’s 95th Church Anniversary.

On Saturday, members of the community joined Elevation disciples for an outdoor, carnival-like setting with pony rides, face painting, horse shoes, music, putt-putt golf, basketball, hotdogs and more. At the conclusion of a fun-filled day, Pastor and First Lady, Carmichael invited all to join them for worship on Sunday, commemorating the annual church anniversary as well as the one-year anniversary of the East Campus opening.

“Just imagine a year ago today, we stood on this hallowed ground and blessed God for the manifestation of the Vision,” proclaimed Pastor T.L. Carmichael, Sr. as he opened Sunday morning worship service.

Later he introduced guest speaker, Apostle Norbert Simmons, Pastor at Deeper Life Ministries, Goldsboro, North Carolina. Apostle Simmons’ sermon entitled, “God Specializes” referenced 1 Peter 5:7, Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. During his sermon, Apostle Simmons reminded parishioners that God will take care of each one’s situation; just give it to Him and He will turn it around. Simmons reassured all that God will fix every situation so cast your cares on the specialist [Jesus Christ].

Later that evening, Elevation hosted its 6th Evening of Hope service featuring Faith Baptist Church in Knightdale. Additionally, military, law enforcement, along with fire and rescue personnel, were honored for their day-to-day service and for the bravery demonstrated during the 9-11 event. Pastor Carmichael summoned each of them to the altar and covered them (and their families) with a prayer of protection.
Family & Friends Day
The Christian’s Role in Social Media

Detailing the usefulness and responsibilities associated with social media while championing Christianity was the mission of the Elevation Baptist Church Newsletter’s social media workshop. The workshop held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 was a first of its kind at EBC. Members of the Manna from Heaven Newsletter Ministry and the church’s public relation staff educated attendees in understanding social media applications and the associated responsibilities.

Wikipedia – an online encyclopedia defines social media as the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into an interactive dialogue. The goals of the workshop were to: define social media; detail how one can be efficient in using social media tools; introduce the benefits of social media in evangelism; and to remind believers of the expressed and implied responsibilities they have while using social media.

Workshop attendees were given a detailed walk-thru of some of the most popular social media outlets like: Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. EBC Public Relations ministry leader, Kassaundra Lockhart demonstrated how to step-up a Facebook page and Twitter account. Lockhart also spoke to the various privacy settings that can be established to secure information you put on both sites. Newsletter ministry member, Brian Johnson detailed the uses of Youtube. Johnson showed how Youtube - a video media site can be used to view things like previously aired television shows, old church sermons, and other everyday moments in a person’s life. Like Facebook and Twitter, Youtube allows one to establish a free membership account. With the accounts embers can upload videos, pictures and other multimedia applications. Likewise, when an account is established a member can choose to “follow” friends, celebrities, and others with accounts. When a subscriber of any outlet elects to follow another they are allowed to view information posted on their accounts. However, an account holder can keep select to keep some information private.

Workshop presenters detailed ways social media can be used to spread the gospel. The most widely used applications are Facebook, Twitter, and blogs. Like Elevation Baptist, many national and internationally known leaders in the gospel use these social venues to reach followers and provide them with daily words of encouragement as well as details about what’s happening in their respective ministries.

Finally, workshop attendees were cautioned as to when and what to post. Once something is posted on a social media application, remember it is there for the world to see. While one can delete the information from their personal account, the information can be searched by other sources and recounted.
“Wow, we need to do this more often - movie night that is!” replied one movie-goer as he exited the theater holding his wife’s hand. On September 30, 2011, EBC hosted the movie Courageous at the Regal North Hills Stadium 14. The theater was packed with EBC disciples and friends, including invited guests from local and state law enforcement. Movie goers found themselves laughing, crying, and cheering as they watched four men strive to become fathers who would make a lifelong impact on their children.

From the creators of movies like Facing the Giants and Fireproof, this Christian drama focuses on four keys areas: responsibility, priorities, legacy, and faith. The movie challenges men to be bold and intentional leaders and it strives to strengthen families and fathers in their respective congregation(s).

Courageous takes you deeply into the lives of four officers who discover that honor begins at home. Throughout the movie, the men [officers] face moments where their integrity is questioned, their faith tested and their relationships strained. During the latter part of the movie the officers prepare for a resolution ceremony, a covenant, inspired by one of the wives. The moment was reminiscent of the 2011 EBC Father’s Day worship when men read from that same resolution led by Pastor Carmichael. The film ends with a portion of Joshua 24:15, Choose you this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. For those who’ve seen the movie, one would agree it’s a box office hit. If you haven’t seen it, rent it, or better yet, arrange a movie night and enjoy with the family.

The women’s celebration choir and recording artist Colandra McDowell set the atmosphere for an anointed word from Bishop Corletta Vaughn, Senior Pastor of the Holy Spirit Cathedral of Faith Detroit, Michigan. Vaughn continued the retreat’s theme with her sermon topic, “Open Heaven” referencing Genesis 49:2 and Isaiah 54:2. She referred to an “open heaven” as being a time when heaven invades the earth. She further proclaimed that in order to experience an “open heaven” a crisis must come. When a crisis comes, it causes an increase in prayer, worship, revelation, and a pursuit of God’s face. She warned the believers to get ready for a season of testing but to know that testing proves one’s faith and to know that God always gets the glory.

The retreat continued on Saturday, October 15th with morning glory prayer and an inspiring word from Minister Donna Coltrane Battle, of Durham. Battle gave insight on the purpose of meditation, how to apply it, and what it should mean in the daily lives of believers. She explained that one form of meditation means to open up to God in earnest prayer. When one communes with God, she should get quiet and become attuned to His still voice. Battle used Elijah as an example when he went to Mount Sinai, the holy mountain, to commune with God. Retreat participants participated with a personal meditation moment followed by a session with a pew partner. Immediately following the meditation session, Adonna Lewis, of Ignite Dance and Creative Arts Studio, ministered in dance and prepared the way for an empowering word from Pastor Tammy Renea Glenn of Life Center Church, Welford, SC. Pastor Glenn said, “we were created on purpose by God, through the manifestation of a thought He had of us... He birthed us at the time when we would be needed,” referencing Psalm 139:13-14.

Following lunch, retreat participants were blessed by the anointed mime performance of three young ladies from Xpressions of Praiz. The day concluded with two workshops: Real Talk – Real Issues, a panel discussion about Love, Relationships and Cheating and Staying on Track, led by Minister Shaunte Smith, Harvard graduate. On Sunday, October 16th, the culminating word was rendered by Evangelist Leah Hill McNair of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Thomasville, NC. Her sermon topic, “Get Back Up” referenced Acts 9:36-41. She told parishioners to trust God in spite of circumstances because better things are coming. She further noted that when one is attacked that means one is progressing in the things of God so don’t give up. She closed by saying that some folks need an eviction anointing meaning some need a benediction from our lives – that one is better off without them. First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael, Retreat Host, closed the worship service with accolades to all those who assisted with the planning and execution of the retreat.

In addition to the women’s retreat program, 50 gift bags filled with toiletries collected from members and friends of Elevation were donated to the Women’s Center of Wake County. On Wednesday, October 19th a formal presentation was made to Mrs. Jean Williams, Women’s Center Executive Director, during the weekly Word Empowerment service. Elevation is grateful for the opportunity to bless others and share the gift of love.
The EBC Men’s Conference began on Friday, October 29th at the West Campus in Raleigh. Before delivering the word Pastor T.L. Carmichael, stood in front of a boxing ring, had all the men lock arms, prayed that God would deliver, heal and set free everything in their hearts, and that things would turn around in their lives. That decree led to his message “A mess up? Not me! I’m washed up.” He noted men will allow their “mess ups” of the past to prevent them from moving forward. What they don’t realize is they’re carrying around transgressions from the past from which God has already delivered them.

He referenced Michael Vick and Plexico Burress to show how the grace of God can turn lives around. He borrowed a word from St. Luke 22:33-34 and Mark 16:6-7. They tell the story of how Jesus saw Peter’s denial of him and how after the resurrection, the first person Jesus wanted to see was Peter. Jesus forgave Peter even though he denied him. There are times when men get “bamboozled by the devil” and deny Jesus, but He’s still looking for them. Next, Pastor referenced 1 Samuel 17:33-39, which explains when David readied himself to fight Goliath, he stripped himself of the armor most warriors used in battle because they weighed him down. He went into battle his way and won. Pastor encouraged the men to be an “original you” – meaning there are still attributes men had before they were saved that God can use. David was the most unlikely of men but God saw his heart and anointed him to become king. He later showed a video of Mohamed Ali’s historical boxing match with George Foreman and showed how Ali won a fight he was supposed to lose by simply using unconventional methods. “You’ve been carrying heavy stuff around too long and until you pull that off you will never be able to be successful in your future,” said Pastor. The final part of his message was from Psalm 51, a powerful plea for forgiveness when you “mess up” and neglect the will of God. In order to speak this word in spirit and in truth and wholeheartedly seek His forgiveness and mercy, one must do one thing - acknowledge they were wrong.

On Saturday, October 30th in the shadow of the boxing ring, Pastor Carmichael reconvened the conference by hosting a panel discussion. The boxing ring is symbolic because it hosts many competitors and crowns many champions. Conversely, the ring has seen many strong contenders of varying weight classes fall to their defeat. With the deep symbolism of the boxing ring as a backdrop the panelist discussed issues to help strengthen, enlighten and encourage the men. Participants heard from panelists, Judges Mike Morgan and Carl Fox, who spoke about the need for men to share and discuss their life experiences. In addition, they spoke to the importance of financial stability and its associated advantages. They went on to express that financial independence has its roots in legal wage-earning jobs. Without such, one places themselves in a hazardous situation, especially, if they are involved in illegal activities. The men also heard panelists speak about other life challenges like those eroding one’s walk with Christ—such as pornography, and other media images.

While the men were still meditating on the words spoken on Friday and Saturday, the weekend’s conference culminated with a powerful word from Bishop C. Anthony Muse from the Ark of Safety Christian Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. His message entitled, “Pressing on In Spite of My Sinful Scars,” opened with a scripture about Moses, taken from Exodus 3:2, And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. God told Moses he was the son of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the people being enslaved at the time, and not the son of Pharaoh. God’s purpose for speaking to him was to tell him who he really was, and when Moses heard this he hid his face in shame, thus scarring him. “God’s fire is not to make you jump or shout,” said the bishop, “but God’s fire is God’s self because he is an all-consuming fire.” He borrowed another story from Acts 22:21, And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentile. Paul “pressed on” to preach the gospel despite resistance from the Gentiles. Paul gave glory to God because he too had scars for the same reason Jesus had scars. His scars were a result of his struggle against sin --- sin in man, sin in the world, and sin in the church. The bishop reminded congregates all have scars - whether emotional, mental or physical, and because of those scars even the best of folks can miss God at times, even after being delivered.

As the men’s conference weekend came to a close, Bishop Muse, who is also a Maryland State Senator, spoke on the large number of black men in America who are “scarred and broken down.” Black men are victims of negative learned behavior carried down through generations. Some are targets of a privatized prison system that hands out mandatory sentencing. Others fall victim to a faulty education system that is more concerned with moving them along instead of teaching them. But despite those institutional hurdles, God still needs black men to do His work and minister to a traumatized world. We live in a world where God is not just trying to deal with people’s spirits, but trying to deal with people’s baggage. Muse ended by saying, “most of the great men in the Bible wore scars, so God can use damaged, messed up people.”
But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

On Saturday, October 22nd, the Women’s & Health Ministries joined in partnership with InterAct of Wake County and Susan G. Komen, NC Triangle Affiliate for the 2011 Health and Healing Prayer Walk. The Prayer Walk was held at the East Campus in Knightdale honor of October’s Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness month. Survivors, victims and supporters from the surrounding communities were invited to join EBC disciples, lace up their sneakers, and wear Purple (for Domestic Violence) or Pink (for Breast Cancer).

The morning commenced with on-site registration and continued with monetary and clothing donations that would benefit the agencies that serve women (and their families). Damita Chambers with Interact of Wake County provided an information booth for participants to learn more about the organization and its mission.

First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael delivered inspiring opening remarks, expressed the purpose for the Prayer Walk and led the group in an opening prayer. Afterwards, Jackie Thomas led the group with an eloquently choreographed warm up exercise, which gave participants enough energy to brave the chilling elements and begin the 1 mile walk around the campus parking lot.

Participants included women, men and children, who walked and prayed together, sharing personal stories and experiences. “It is gratifying to know the impact this clothing drive will have on the thousands of victimized women that InterAct serves each year,” said Chambers.
Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
Luke 6:38

On Saturday, November 19, 2011, Elevation Baptist Church sponsored a Turkey Giveaway at its East Campus in Knightdale. The giveaway attracted residents from across the Triangle. Pastor and First Lady, Rebecca Carmichael, along with a host of ministry representatives were available to aid in the distribution of 315 turkeys.

This was yet another opportunity to show love and evangelize to others in the community. One of the recipients stated, “God is going to truly bless you all for standing out in the cold giving away turkeys...Thank you and God bless you.”
The EBC disciples and guests shouted with a voice of triumph as Pastor T.L. Carmichael, Sr. declared that 2012 would be a year of ‘fruitfulness.’ He noted that the number 12 represents purpose so believers should walk with intention and expectation, trusting and believing God for the overflow blessings. He referenced Jeremiah 17: 7-8, "blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit," followed with a message entitled, “The Fruitfulness Is Ahead of You.” During his teachings he defined ‘fruitfulness’ as producing fruit and bearing it in abundance. He added that one’s confidence is boosted in knowing harvest time follows seed time. He reminded each believer to sow into good ground and watch God manifest an abundant harvest. “One should not worry about the enemy’s plan to devour what the Lord has already promised, said Carmichael. Jehovah is in total control and in due season, one shall reap if they don’t faint or give up.” Fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ, decree increase over your life, family/household, job, health, finances, etc. Remember, God is your provider and you will be fruitful in 2012.
Join us for prayer, praise and worship

Worship Service at EBC East (Knightdale, NC)
Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Navigation Classes & Sunday School at EBC East
Sunday Mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Glory Prayer at EBC East
Sunday Mornings from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Word Empowerment at EBC West
Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Intercessory Prayer at EBC East
Thursdays at 12:00 Noon

Two Locations: One Church

Elevation Baptist Church (East)
5271 EBC Village Way
Knightdale, NC 27545
(919) 231-6418

Elevation Baptist Church (West)
4729 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 231-6418

For more information visit us at: www.elevationbaptist.org

Elevation Baptist Church - Newsletter Ministry
Marion Alston, Veronica Tiffany Fisher, Angela Hendricks, Brian Johnson,
Elaine Reid, Sonya Reid, Teresa Richardson, Rahee Sullivan,
Jay Thomas, and LaTisha Toole, LC Ulmer.
Contributor: Yolanda McMillan