

THE GATHERING 2008



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That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving..." Psalm 26:7

One People-One Goal-Excellence!

PRESIDING PRELATES:
APOSTLES M.K. & D.A. BRAXTON
MARCH 16, 19-22

DYNAMIC SPEAKERS

APOSTLE E. V. NEWSOME SUN, MAR 16
SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIP CENTER, GOLDSBORO, NC

ELDER REGINALD ADAMS..... WED, MAR 19
VICTORIOUS PRAISE CHRISTIAN CENTER, COLUMBIA, MD

CRYSTAL FORTNER & KEVIN WESTERN THU, MAR 20
(A. M. WORKSHOP FACILITATORS), FAYETTEVILLE, NC

ELDER REGINALD M. HOLIDAY THU, MAR 20
BETHANY FELLOWSHIP COGIC, GREENSBORO, NC

PROPHETESS BARBARA THOMAS..... FRI, MAR 21
GREATER VICTORY TEMPLE MIN, ALBERMARLE, NC

APOSTLE C. THOMAS..... FRI, MAR 21
GREATER VICTORY TEMPLE MIN, ALBERMARLE, NC

ELDER K. L. THOMPSON..... SAT, MAR 22
BAL PERAZIM CHRISTIAN CENTER, KANNAPOLIS, NC

“And the Lord said, behold, the people are one and they have all one language, and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be withheld from them which they have imagined to do.” (Gen. 11:6 KJV). “There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Eph. 4:4-6 KJV).

2008.....a year of no limits.....a year of an abundance of blessings; a year of new beginnings. It is indeed a year of excellence! Excellence requires maturity! Excellence requires teamwork! Excellence requires discipline and consistency! It requires motivation, joy, and a renewed mind, body and spirit! It requires us all, knitting ourselves together, into our leader's vision; which is God's purpose! God's purpose requires unity! And unity is the underlying theme for our 2008 Gathering.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard; even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments.” (Ps. 133:1-2 KJV). This year, as in years past, God has single-handedly appointed and prepared many mighty, anointed, spirit-filled men and women of God, to speak at our 2008 Gathering. They spoke with clarity, conviction, and truth, all while echoing our man and woman of God, Apostles M.K. and D. A. Braxton.

While there is nothing new under the sun, and while God's Word never changes, the style of His teachers and preachers does. We were blessed to be in the presence of revived men and women of God, bringing a fresh, unified, right-now Word from the Lord. As they were all on one accord with our standing theme of unity and excellence, so shall we write this unto you, as one people, with one goal-excellence! †

One people, one goal begins with what we believe. When we believe in the vision of the house, whatever success we imagine for the house, will come to fruition, with unity. We cannot be restrained. This doesn't mean that there won't be opposition. When we lock into our purpose and do what we're supposed to be doing, we are going to attract opposition; but we won't be hindered.

When we work together, we can accomplish our goal; with a spirit of excellence. At the same time, we cannot be excellent, *and* disobedient! Whenever unity is broken, the mind is being tampered with; then the one goal becomes separate goals, and excellence is no longer present. Excellence cannot coexist with disobedience; it doesn't accept the excuses we give, and it demands a better effort.

Excellence is a notable distinction; a goal or state that is pursued. It requires us to go beyond our comfort zones of safety. We have to stretch ourselves, so that we're not complacent and content with where we are and what we're doing in ministry. When we stretch ourselves, not only do we see and experience growth, but we understand that there truly are no limitations for us; and it helps us to remain where God has placed us in ministry and in ministry assignments. While in the pursuit of excellence, we are always developing and in transition; therefore, we must keep striving. Excellence is an attainable goal; but in order for us to reach it, we must first have an appointment to meet, discuss and agree on what is excellent----on any goal. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3 NAS). We cannot walk with God and be in disagreement with Him; or in sin.

God is maximizing the gifts that He has placed inside of us; and as our gifts grow and increase, we need to use them to maximize our leaders' position by pushing and furthering them in the vision. †

As God is maximizing our gifts, we must stay connected, and together in unity (u-nit-y)—you, “knitting” yourself---us, knitting ourselves; closely woven, to Yahweh.

Excellence is characterized by many things; one is Godliness. We must do what is right, no matter what the cost, circumstance or consequence. Godly character requires discipline, and we have to work at not compromising our values. Each one of us is unique; and each of us has but one objective---to be like Christ! As such, we should never put our self worth and accomplishments in a title. Without the title, we are still who we are. Love, compassion, and joy are other Godly characteristics, that when nourished, help us to become outstanding, excellent people of God.

It was a tremendous undertaking to build the tower of Babel. The people had one mind; and one momentum. They continued to work; move together, in unity, to accomplish a goal. When God confused the language, they continued to build. They not only were building a building, but a body of believers; which is the same thing God is doing for us now; building us up as a body.

We are still in our year of new beginnings. God is getting ready to break records. When we have one goal, God will bring all of our desires to pass; but in doing so, we have to learn to cut some people out of our lives. Not everyone is going to the next level (with us); and not everyone wants us to go to the next level. In order for us to nurture our spirit of excellence, we must rebuke negative talk when we hear it. Now is the time to take responsibility for every decision we make and use the authority that God has given us! In order to do that, we must come together, and take covenant relationship with God. It won't be easier, but it will be greater! †