



# The Church at Antioch

Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led, Mission-bound • Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, Stewardship

July-September 2021

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## AUMI celebrates recovery of three participants

Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. continues to serve the metro Atlanta community in many ways, but perhaps none more important than helping those ravaged by addiction break the chains that have held them hostage.

And so when they become drug free, the celebration is, well, off the chain. Such was the case July 19, when AUMI gathered to recognize and encourage three who completed programs at Ruth's and Luke's Place.

Graduating were Nadine Gill, affectionately known as Ne-Ne, of Ruth's Place, and Jason Deonte Evans and Jason Pinckney who completed Luke's Place.

"Recovery is a process that leads to change; tonight is the beginning, for what you've got is greater than that piece of paper," the Rev. J. Scott Copeland told them.

The Rev. John Byrdsell echoed Rev. Copeland and exhorted those assembled to remain humble, "for humbleness keeps you. When you get to where you think you've conquered your addiction, remember those who helped you, and reach out

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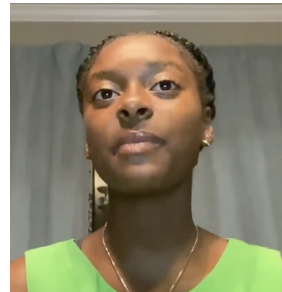
## Youth In Action

*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world.*

1 John 4:4



**Zachary Johnson**, the third son of Wendy Johnson, is a senior at Westlake High School who plans to major in cartoon animation and screenwriting.



**Ola Baker**, daughter of Olu and Nancy Baker, described as the answer to her father's prayers, a rising star with a loving personality and caring soul.



**Daija Duncan**, introduced by her father, the Rev. Lester Duncan, is a ninth grader at Arlington Christian Academy, where she is a straight A student.



**Julian Dudley**, son of Ontario and Jemetria Dudley, is active in both his school and community. He hopes to become an aerospace engineer.

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## NBC meets virtually after two-year hiatus

Not only was the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Annual Session held later in September and for a shorter period this year, it was hosted virtually like many gatherings over the past 18 months.

In many ways, the changes meant that more people were able to participate. In addition to a large contingent of Antioch Baptist Church North members, for instance, Georgia continued to be well represented. Dr. Brenda Eason, President of the Ushers and Nurses Auxiliary read the scripture during the opening session, and the Rev. Anthony Corbett, president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., delivered an inspirational message from Hebrews 11: "Faith That Believes the Impossible."

Although the convention, which was shortened from a weeklong to just two days, has not met in person for two years, the work has gone forward. The Foreign Mission, Home Mission, and Disaster Relief Ministries have been particularly active in meeting needs globally, and Antioch has contributed to these efforts. The appeal on behalf of the United Negro

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## A Message From The Pastor

My brothers and sisters,

Antioch, whether gathered and scattered, is amazing.

I cannot thank ABCNN enough for the technical expertise, but even more, the servants' hearts to facilitate all our worship services, Bible studies and classes, and ministry meetings and events. They allow us daily to continue to gather and experience our four pillars—fellowship, evangelism, doctrine, and stewardship. I am also full of gratitude for our staff members who keep us operating at full capacity.

Congratulations to Bro. Joseph Malbrough, recipient of a well-deserved honor from the Atlanta Business League. Our authors have drawn crowds to hear about their literary journeys and be blessed through their books. My niece, Erica Mansfield, started our book signing season with her first published book of poetry. Myoshi Level's children's book, *Dreams Do Come True*, will motivate adults as well as give you an opportunity to pour into the lives of our youth to help them realize their God-given destiny. Jacqueline James' homage to venerated Civil Rights leader Dr. C.T. Vivian is comprehensive and inspiring. My niece, Shatavia Alexander Thomas has published a 2nd volume of poetry especially important to us at this time, *Grief, Growth, Grace and Gratitude*.

Our COVID-19 Town Hall was nothing short of phenomenal. I am indebted to Dr. Dorothy Wiggins, Dr. Sheryl Heron, Dr. Jessie Hood, and Bro. Robert Bailey. They presented scientific research and indisputable data in laymen's terms so that we could have a clear understanding of the impact of the current pandemic and be able to make life-saving decisions. Many members said the chance to ask questions and get answers from our own member-experts helped to ease their minds, pray and make decisions with confidence.

I thank Rev. Terry Hightower and everyone who works tirelessly with and financially support AUMI. In addition to our many outreach services, having COVID-19 vaccination and testing on-site has had a major positive impact in our community and beyond.

Christian Education planned and implemented another extraordinary Vacation Bible Study and Extended VBS Bible Study experience. From our babies through our seniors, everyone was actively engaged in learning more about biblical personalities and doctrinal truths to apply to our daily lives. Our morning devotions have been thought-provoking and inspirational, setting us up to rejoice in each day. Brother Nevin Harton has been tireless in providing Sunday School materials, and our Sunday School classes give me extra preaching fire knowing that when I say, "Well, you know the story," you really do!

Oooooo-Weeeee! That's about all I can say about our amazing youth and young adults. They remain grounded in the Word and wrapped up in Antioch's love as they spread their wings to soar. Our B.I.G. Youth-in-Action Sunday and morning devotion participants showed us that their greatness lies in their love of the Lord and their openness to allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them to impact the world—one friend, one classmate, one neighbor, one teammate at a time.

Yours in God's service,

*Kenneth Alexander*  
Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

*Continued from cover - AUMI celebrates*



to others in need."

Byrdsell has been clean 28 years; Cope-land for 26 years.

The Rev. Terry Hightower, director of AUMI, was also on hand to offer congratulations to the graduates. Early in his recovery, Hightower said he didn't want to hear any advice, but he has been able to remain clean for 23 years by understanding that the Holy Spirit leads you to whom you need to hear, what advice you need to heed, and whom you have to let go because they do not mean you any good.

Patrick Randolph, a representative from Recovery Associates of Atlanta, offered this bit of sage advice: "After a month, you look good outside, but recovery is an inside job. Don't leave before the miracle [of being clean]."

In addition to certificates, participants were awarded key tags that mark milestones in their recovery.

The celebratory gathering started with a moment of silence for those still addicted followed by the Serenity Prayer and readings from *Just for Today*, the Narcotics Anonymous book of meditations. It is that underpinning that produced what may have been the most touching moment of the evening as one young lady came forth to claim a white key tag signaling someone who is beginning or restarting the program. The tag reads "Just for today."

It is the beginning of a new life.

**AUMI**  
*Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc.*  
...serving the least of these.

[www.antiochurban.org](http://www.antiochurban.org)

**JULY****GMBC In Brief**

# Don't just survive, thrive

A large Antioch delegation attended the 59th Annual Session Congress of Christian Education of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

For three days in mid-July, members of the Christian Education Ministry enrolled in Certificate of Progress Courses (COPP) both for their own spiritual growth and to become certified to teach courses at Antioch.

Classes included basic courses, such as Baptist Doctrine, and courses specifically geared toward responding to current times: The African-American Church & Social Justice, The Church's Response to the 21st Century, and Rethinking Christian Education for Contemporary Innovations.

In addition to attending classes, participants heard from both Dean Keith W. Mitchell who expounded upon the theme, "Turning the World Towards God's Love through Evangelism and Christian Education, and President Benjamin Lett."

Lett, pastor of Hill Chapel Baptist Church in Athens and a son of Antioch North, told the gathering that although "this pandemic has shaken this world, we as children of God, Christians, must always stand firm in our faith and do more than survive, we must thrive and be bold in showing love and kindness."

## Ushers and health professionals celebrate

The Covid-19 pandemic made it impossible for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Ministry of Ushers and Health Professionals to celebrate its 25th anniversary last year.

Aug. 5-7 proved to be different. This year



*Antioch ushers attend the celebration*

the ministry celebrated in grand style.

Dr. Brenda Eason, State Coordinator, recalled when God gave her the vision and then president C.M. Alexander offered his full support. She and Sis. Jean Jones, administrator, immediately went to work traveling throughout the state training ushers at local churches, in district and association gatherings, and anywhere else they were asked to serve.

The 25th celebratory program was dedicated to his memory.

Attendees could choose from an array of seminars and classes, including "Understanding the Ministry of Ushering," "Nursing as a Health Ministry in the Local Church," and "Serving as a Ministry - Keepers of the Doors."

As delegates dined, they couldn't help observing how much the ministry had grown from just 50 ushers since the first meeting to more than 1,500. It has also added health professionals, a youth ministry, weekly prayer and annual periods of fasting, mission outreach, and Saints with a Testimony led by Sis. Redelle Doyle.

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" is the theme song for the ushers, and it is obvious that for them, "every round goes higher, higher."

## Are you a woman of influence?

Members of the Antioch Womanhood and Women's Mission attended the Women of Excellence Unity Fest both on-site in Macon and virtually.

The theme, "High Praises, High Places and High Tops," based on the purpose of the ministry, was visually represented in pearls, representing "the grace of a lady," and Chucks, portraying "the strength to endure" the race, as Vice President Kamala Harris so masterfully demonstrated.

Presentations on prayer explained the foundational undergirding, discipleship laid out Christ's mandated action, and self-care, provided practical ideas for maintaining strength to serve.

Reverend Robert Worthy raised the question "How Are You Using Your Influence?" based on Proverbs 13:20. He defined influence as "the power to get other people to agree with you and get them to do what you want them to do."

"Influencers are not just a social media phenomenon," he said. "Each of us has a sphere of influence."



*Bright (waving) is the son of Vivian Bright and the Rev. Eddie Bright, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and one of the sons of Antioch Baptist Church North.*

## Bright living his dream

When Sterling Bright was named an inaugural Hank Aaron Fellow in July, it was a dream come true.

Not only was this a chance to hone his writing and reporting skills and learn the business, he'll get to do it for a sport he has loved and played for nearly his entire life.

The Atlanta Braves announced the creation of the new program in February in honor of Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Henry "Hank" Aaron, who died on January 22, 2021.

The program is part of the Brave's commitment to widen the talent pool of diverse industry leaders and to build on the legacy of trailblazers like Hank Aaron, a former home run king and Braves executive. Bright was one of two HBCU students selected to participate in the year-long program.

As a fellow, Bright said he will get a first-hand look into the management of a sports team and gain experience in all aspects of leading and operating the various lines of business within the organization while working directly with Braves President and Chief Executive Officer Derek Schiller.

"I am extremely grateful for this opportunity because it allows me to work with some of the best minds in sports," Bright said. "I'm getting great insight into what I need to do in the future to broaden my skills to work in management of a sports team."

He said that he was surprised to learn how much the Braves organization supports historically black college athletic programs. In addition to providing baseball equipment to HBCU teams, he said the Braves also offers mentoring and hosts an annual HBCU night at TRUIST stadium.

Bright, who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism at Florida A&M University in 2020, was the sports editor of the FAMUan student newspaper. Since joining the Braves organization, he has written several articles in the Braves playbill that each fan receives at a game.

"Being able to add to Hank's legacy is a blessing in itself," said Bright, a former sports intern at MLB.com. "For all he has done for the sport of baseball and the African-American community, I have no choice but to put my best foot forward and succeed in this position."

## Laymen called to serve this present age, show compassion

Members of the Northern Region Laymen were challenged to serve "this present age" as community influencers.

Dea. Gregory Bailey said that includes understanding that community means those whom we touch individually as well as the broader impact that can be had through partnership. Bailey is a member Salem Baptist Church in Lilburn.

Speaking at a virtual conference, Bailey presented a historical retrospective about how the calling to have a greater impact through Christian education, evangelism, and mission, both home and foreign, brought three different conventions and local churches together in the late 1800s to form the GMBC and addressed the conference theme: "Men Doing Mission and Evangelism" taken from Isaiah 61:1-2.

Dea. Donel Graham, Ninth District Laymen's President, broke down evangelism into 5 Ps: prayer, presence, proclamation, persuasion, and power. He said that one must be fully present to reach the unchurched through listening to them before trying to evangelize them.

Rev. Le'Zaire Reese brought to life the parable of the good Samaritan.

"Every child of God needs some compassion at some time in life," he said. "It is incumbent upon us to use the eyes of the Holy Spirit to recognize and meet needs as they arise by showing compassion."

In his remarks, Dea. Gregory Lattany, State Laymen's President, vowed to "broaden the outreach through the state's laymen in order to impact a culture that has become increasingly hostile to the Word."

# Meet the new assistant airport GM

Meet the new assistant airport GM

Myrna White arrived at the University of Georgia in 1977 with the goal of becoming a television news anchor.

After an internship in Tallahassee, however, she quickly realized she wasn't interested in such a super competitive field. White pivoted and went into newspaper reporting instead. Four years later, she decided that she would rather be on the other side of the interview spectrum -- the person providing information rather than the reporter seeking information.

She pivoted once more before landing a temporary public relations position at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the busiest airport in North America.

Thirty years later White's moves have paid off in ways unimaginable.

In July, she was tapped to become assistant general manager at Hartsfield-Jackson, overseeing among other things, media relations, international and community affairs and special events.

"Myrna has proven her leadership over and over with her achievements and her commitment to excellence," Hartsfield-Jackson General Manager Balram "B" Bheodari said in a press release. "Her dedication to the Airport and to the City are unmatched. I am confident that as a senior leader in the organization, she will continue that performance, but at an even higher level."

For her part, White, a divorced mother of a son and longtime member of Antioch Baptist Church North, said she has tried to live what she preaches. It is important to be prepared so that when opportunities present themselves, you are ready to seize the moment.

"Nothing is written in concrete; you can pivot when life leads you in another direction," she said. "It's important to be strong in your faith and confident in your abilities."

When White started at the airport in 1991, there was no government or community affairs unit. And even though it was not her job to win the community's approval of the Airport's plans to build a 5th runway,



*Myrna White*

she could clearly see the need for one, developed a strategy and quickly solved the problem.

She would go on to become manager of the department she created.

"As the government affairs manager, one of my most memorable accomplishments was working with state legislators to win approval for the airport to issue commercial paper," White said. "That led to our saving a substantial amount of money over the years in financing our capital projects. As the manager of Community Affairs, she established the airport's Partners in Education program, now called Aviation Education, exposing area youth to the myriad of careers available in the aviation industry.

Her work has not gone unnoticed.

In addition to receiving resolutions from both the Georgia House and Senate for her leadership, White is the recipient of the 2021 Pinnacle leadership award from the Airport Minority Advisory Council and was recognized by ATL executive management for maintaining the organization's stellar connectivity and engagement with employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

White is currently first vice president for the ATL Airport Chamber and has recently been named to the Women in Leadership Advisory Board for Clayton State University.

"I am just very appreciative and quite



## Happy Birthday to Mother Brooks

Members of Antioch Baptist Church North celebrated the birthday of Mother Grace Magby Brooks who turned 99 on Aug. 30. The drive-by celebration, which kicked off with a spirited devotion led by Dea. Clarence Hicks, was hosted by Mother Effie Nalls and included food, blowing of bubbles, and other festivities. Bob Brown, Melvin Buchannan, and Minister Brian Mitchell were the energetic willing workers of the day. Since Mother Brooks has been an inductee of The Yellow Rose-Strong Oak Society for the past nine years, Sis. Margaret Edinburgh, along with a few board members, made their contribution. "99 1/2 won't do, I gotta' make a hundred," she told family and friends. We're looking forward to 100, said Edinburgh.

humbled that the community appreciates the work I've put into building the Airport's stakeholder engagement program over the years," she said. "I thank God for giving me a career that allows me to share my talent, meet and work with some incredible people and perform work that I thoroughly enjoy."

Antioch Baptist Church North members have written and published a bevy of new books recently. In addition to Sis. Shatavia Alexander Thomas, who is featured in a Q & A in this quarter's Church at Antioch newsletter, here are two more of note.

# Dr. Shay on grief, growth, grace, and gratitude

Four years have passed since Dr. Shatavia Alexander Thomas released Volume 1 of her first book of poetry.

It was written under the pseudonym/pen name of Alex Shay; hence, the title of the poetry collection. "Alex Shay Collections," Volume 1, taught us of "Love, Life Love and New Life." In Volume 2, published in August, we learn through "Grief, Growth, Grace and Gratitude that there is always a path through darkness which leads us back to His marvelous light as we continue our spiritual walk.

In a series of questions from the Church at Antioch's MaryAnn Morgan, Dr. Shay shared her motivation and inspiration for ministering and guiding us through difficult periods in our lives.

Here's what else she had to say:

**The Church at Antioch:** Is this your first book?

**Dr. Shay:** This is my second book of poetry. Volume 1 was published in 2017.

**The Church at Antioch:** What motivated you to begin this new venture?

**Dr. Shay:** Grief is a great motivator. The ongoing pandemic prompted creative ways to foster healthy coping and catharsis.

**The Church at Antioch:** Who was your inspiration?

**Dr. Shay:** My inspiration is my desire to utilize my God-given talents and skills for His glory. The priceless love and support of my husband and son, as well as the encouragement from family and friends, also fuel my passion.

**The Church at Antioch:** Has this experience changed you? If so, how?

**Dr. Shay:** The vulnerability of sharing always gives me butterflies (pun intended). The process of writing brings about a wide range of emotions - pride,



*Dr. Shatavia Alexander Thomas*

fear, contemplation, excitement, etc. The beauty of relatability always brings me great joy. My latest lesson is to feel comfortable sharing my creative side, even in professional circles. Many know me as a family therapist, but few know that I have been writing poetry since I was in elementary school. Until recently, my poems were mainly my personal outlet and intimate gifts.

**The Church at Antioch:** How does one purchase the book?

**Dr. Shay:** To place your order log onto [www.alexshaywrites.com/contact](http://www.alexshaywrites.com/contact)

**The Church at Antioch:** What message do you want readers to get from this book?

**Dr. Shay:** Growing through grief is a process. Acknowledge the pain, while also giving yourself grace, and acknowledging the potential for gratitude along the way. Everyone's journey is unique.

*Additional reference material can be found at [www.alexshaywrites.com](http://www.alexshaywrites.com)*



*Level holding her book with Bonitia Ponder*

## "Dreams" by Myoshi Level

*Dreams Do Come True* is the story of a third-grade girl who loves art and dreams of having her artwork displayed in her favorite place. She has a moment of hesitation that her dream will come true when the new school year starts, and there is a new art teacher, who doesn't know how talented she is.

Dr. Myoshi Level says she saw "the book in a dream, but I didn't think I could write and publish a book. My experience illustrates the title."

Dedicated to her mother, who always told her she could fly, butterflies are sprinkled throughout *Dreams* and a constant reminder of her mother.

As an educator, the idea of having no limits is one that she tries to impart to her students.

At a book signing July 24 at the Evelyn G. Lowery Library, Level gifted each of her guests with a butterfly as a reminder to make dreams come true.

## Pearls of Vivian by Jacqueline James

*Pearls of Vivian*, the latest book written by Sis. Jacqueline James, chronicles the life, but more importantly the lessons gleaned, from the late civil rights icon C.T. Vivian. Sis. James said, Rev. Vivian was a civil rights giant, "and the book is a memorial dedicated to him."

Sis. James launched her *Pearls*, part of a series entitled *Friends of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, at a book signing and talk Aug. 7 at the Evelyn G. Lowery Library at Cascade.

An educator with a keen interest in history, she wanted to present the series in a way that is accessible to a range of ages. She hopes that these biographies will be foundational springboards for generations to come.

# Fifth District holds back-to-school giveaway

Hundreds of children returned to school in the fall with backpacks filled with supplies, thanks to the Women’s Auxiliary of the Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

Because of COVID-19, the August 29 back-to-school give-away operated as a drive-thru at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where the Rev. Eddie L. Bright is pastor. Bright, a son of Antioch Baptist Church North, is president of the Fifth District.

Recognizing that a lot of children returning to school, especially after being out for over a year, would be in need of basic supplies, Women’s Auxiliary president, Sis. Jeri Griffin, and Vice President, Sis. Julia Heflin, coordinated the event.

Each church in the district provided supplies and volunteers who filled backpacks with age level materials.

As cars rolled by to pick up the items, Griffin said auxiliary members considered postponing the event because so many schools had already started but she was glad they didn’t.

“We are still meeting a need,” she said.



*Antioch Visitor’s Ministry Serving at Food Bank*

*Continued from cover - NBC*

College Fund (UNCF) included testimonies from students and graduates of HBCUs who have benefitted from the support of the NBC.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights leader and host of MSNBC’s PoliticsNation, made an appeal for everyone to be vigilant regarding what is happening with voting rights in

many states across the country as well as on the national level. He urged everyone to use their voting power to hold our representatives accountable.

In his annual presidential address, Dr. Jerry Young, encouraged the Convention to remain encouraged. Beginning with the opening lines of Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of*

*Two Cities*, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” he said the recent history is “punctuated with paradox.”

While this is a time “fraught with obstacles, Christians must see the opportunities,” Young said, and “cancel our failures, ignore the distractors, and concentrate on the future.”



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**SEPTEMBER**

## Youth In Action

Ola Baker, Zachary Johnson, Deija Duncan and Julian Dudley were the featured speakers on Youth in Action Sunday held Sept. 26. The annual service was a display of Antioch Baptist Church North's youth from start to finish. If you missed them, you missed a spiritual treat that explained in their own words what it means to be BIG or Blessed In Greatness. Their speeches, edited for space, are below:

### Zachary Johnson: *Blessed to be an overcomer*

For Youth Sunday, I was tasked with discussing what it means to be blessed in greatness. Or better yet, what does it mean to be great? The answers to these questions can be found in 1 John 4:4 which says, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Being great means overcoming boundaries and allowing God to show you all that is possible with His grace. Philippians 4:13 reminds us that with the help of God, "we can do

all things," in God's strength. In life, the devil will put obstacles in your path to distort your vision and focus. But just like Peter, we have to keep our eyes on God, the source of our strength.

There have been plenty of times in my life when God helped me through difficult and trying times, and I know that I am not the only one with a testimony today. Since 2020, we have all had to readjust our lives, dealing with Covid-19, being shut down for months on end. For a while in lockdown, I thought I would go crazy. Then

there was the factor of national attention toward ongoing racial injustice and more. The past two years have been extremely isolating and numbing for many. I personally could not imagine how I would make it out the same. But, because of God, I made it through.

Although we are not 100% out of this crisis, there is no need to fear. The Bible reminds us in Romans 8: 35 that neither "trouble, nor distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, nor violent death" can separate us from God's love.

1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we

are a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and of a holy nation." God has trusted us youth to carry out the Great Commission, which is to spread the word of God. Though we already have greatness in us, it takes guidance of the Holy Spirit to fully maximize our greatness. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the youth, or as the scripture says, the children would be lost. But because of God's greatness, we are never truly lost, because with God's grace and mercy, we are never far from our home in heaven.

### Ola Baker: *It is the God in me that makes me great*

My cousin's favorite song growing up was "I love God, you don't love God? what's wrong with you?" by Mary Mary. She would sing this song All Day Long. I mean she would sing it in the car, once we got home, and even when she was tying her shoes.

It drove me crazy. Until this summer. That phrase really helped me strengthen and understand my relationship with God. I realized I didn't have an issue with my faith in God, I had a problem with putting too much faith in man. So, I had to ask myself if I truly love God, how could I allow people to hurt me with their words and low expectations?

Let me explain.

This summer, with few exceptions, I primarily hung out with

my mostly white cross county teammates. One day, one of my best friends on the team invited me to her sweet sixteen birthday party. She didn't hang out with too many African Americans, so it wasn't surprising that me and my friend Zari were the only two black people there.

The party had moved downstairs when I realized I'd left my phone upstairs.

I was heading back to get it when out of nowhere I got the shock of my life: "Ola, oh my gosh I just love this girl," I overheard my friend's father say. "You all have to meet her, she is so bright and colorful she lights up the room. Man she is really such a nice person and she speaks proper too... isn't that crazy!"

I thought to myself, "Isn't that

crazy?" Instead of hearing God say in Psalms 118:9 "it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man," I heard the enemy say, "Why don't people in America treat black people with respect and kindness?" I felt hurt, disgusted and demeaned. Then I heard my cousin's once annoying voice, singing, "I love God, you don't love God? what is wrong with you?" and I realized I had placed too much trust in man.

As an African family in America, we don't get to rest from the constant dehumanization of others.

My parents give away parts of themselves to better our futures, making sure that we succeed to our fullest potential. That's why comments like I heard at my friend's party seem

small compared to God's big picture. Jeremiah 29-11 says: "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God's plan for me is to show his greatness through me as I trust him. I realized that I love God. I also realized that God loves me. And as a Believer, having a true relationship with God helps me know with all strength and power that it is the God IN ME that makes me GREAT. I don't have to accept nor believe what this world thinks or says about me. As long as I live guided by the Holy Spirit..then I am BIG. I am BIGGER than anything that people throw at me to keep me down. Because my God is greater, my God is strong and my God is sufficient



## Daija Duncan: *God is greater than any giant*

When people think of giants, they may think about giants that are in storybooks. There are times in life where our troubles and problems feel too large to face. They feel like giants but they can be any large life event, problem, issue, or fear that you are facing.

My giant is anxiety. It is something that bothers me from time to time. But when I start to get anxious, I remember that the Lord is with me. I ask God to help me to not be anxious, I read bible verses that focus on worry and anxiety, and I think about them throughout the day.

I remind myself that God's character is greater than my anxiety. He is the God of peace. He is in complete control. He

loves me and wants the best for me. He is bigger than my fears. Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us, "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus."

I belong to God. I've already won the victory because the Spirit who lives in me, is greater than the spirit who lives in the world!

Have you thought about the fact that you've got the greater one living on the inside of you? That means that when you are in a difficult situation, you're not facing it alone. You've got

someone to help you, to lead you, and help you overcome things when life gets tough, and when it feels like you can't make it, you can be encouraged. You've got what you need to succeed and overcome in every area of your life. Choose today to lean on the help of the greater one living in you!

You can know that no matter what you face today, you're not alone and you can overcome it. As Christians, we have been taught to test the spirits to see if they are from God. There are two types of spirits in the world, the spirit of God and the spirit of the antichrist. These two spirits oppose each other. One is the true Spirit, the other spirit is not. Jesus is the true son of God

who became flesh and is among us. He is an almighty God, and we are his children. As the children of God, we have overcome the world and evil. So, when you are in a difficult situation with your giant, pray and remember that God is on your side.

Christ triumphed at the cross and enabled John to proclaim to all who believe that God's power is greater than the enemy's; He is greater in might, majesty, dominion, power, and is the almighty omnipotent God! We serve a great God! The spirit of God has taken up permanent residence in the hearts of all his children forever!

He is bigger than your giants because "greater is he that is in you, than he who is in the world!"

## Julian Dudley: *Will you choose to be overcomed or an overcomer?*

About seven years ago, Pastor Kenneth Alexander went out his way to acknowledge the achievements I earned during my elementary school career. That day he instilled me with the courage to keep pushing and being great. So, I want to thank him for giving me the opportunity to instill that same courage in the youth of the church today.

The theme for Youth in Action Day is BIG, Blessed in Greatness. The theme of my message is from John 4:4. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because

greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

As believers in Christ, we are called to live a spirit-filled life. The reason Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit is so that you and I can live life to the fullest. You may wonder what the Holy Spirit is. Remember looking over and seeing church members dancing in spirit and shouting praising God? That is God within. If you're living a spirit-filled life there is a purpose for your life. What makes this purpose possible is the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

Dr. Martin Luther King had

a purpose. Mary McLeod Bethune had a purpose. Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, Harriet Tubman, John Lewis, and our very own Pastor Kenneth Alexander had a purpose.

No matter what was thrown at our leaders, the obstacles they had to overcome and the struggles they endured, the one who is in them is greater than anything in the world.

For me, the past couple of weeks have been stressful, with work, school, studying, traveling, loss of family, signing up for scholarships, but I know God is

within me and always has my back. All of us will face struggles in life, during school, jobs, at home. But take a deep breath and relax because remember God is within. God is our shield of protection. God is our Savior.

As the Holy Spirit continues to work through you, He gives you the power to produce Jesus Christ in your life, so that you can be the overcomer. The Lord is the primary source of everything good and perfect in life.

My question is, Would you want to be overcome or be the overcomer?



## ANTIOCH FAMILY!

Proud of the job you do or want to nominate your sister or brother in Christ to be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Church at Antioch*?

E-mail your story idea to Sis. Gracie Staples at: [gracie.staples@gmail.com](mailto:gracie.staples@gmail.com)

# Malbrough named Man of Influence

Joseph Malbrough, a longtime member of Antioch Baptist Church North and owner of the UPS Store in Smyrna, has been named one of the Atlanta Business League's 2021 Men of Influence.

He was honored along with a dozen other men in August during the league's annual reception and induction ceremony. "I am extremely honored and humbled to be included with such a distinguished group of African Americans," Marlborough said. "I plan to continue their commitment to business achievement and community engagement."



Joseph Malbrough

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Sunday  
Worship**  
**10:00 am**  
f YouTube  
www.antiochnorth.org  
facebook.com/antiochbaptistchurchnorth  
youtube.com/antiochbaptist

**Leadership Conference III**  
**Saturday  
October 30  
10am**

**MEN OF ANTIOCH**  
**Virtual**  
**PRAYER  
BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, Oct. 16th  
at 9:00am via Zoom**

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at Antioch  
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