The Church At Antioch



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

July-September 2010

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Pastor Alexander is named an Honorary Member of the Antioch Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry, and is presented with his very own dance uniform.





Youth Division Culmination

# Antioch youth declare it's all about Jesus

sion 2010 Youth Division Fellowship came across loud and clear: "It's not and wearing clean-cut khaki and about us; but ... it's about Jesus."

Antioch youth led the culmination and torch passing program to the Family Division on Sept. 26. From their spirited songs to the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. sermons from Minister Charles "Skip" Walker and Minister Derek McKinney Sr., respectively, the youth gave the congregation reason to celebrate.

In their rendition of "This is the Day"

The message and theme of the Vi- and "His Eye is on the Sparrow," the youth choir - filling the choir stand white - sounded like an adult choir with their strong voices and powerful praise.

> "What can you say about the youth? We love y'all," said Pastor Cameron Alexander, honoring them for their fellowship service and their presence in the choir and as ushers, dancers and verse speakers.

In his written message on the youth

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Brothers and Sisters,

Antioch's calendar of activities for the past three months has been filled with a cadre of wonderful activities that have encouraged FELLOWSHIP among the membership. Under the auspices of the Youth Division, I was both pleased and excited by the depth of these activities and how each activity worked to stimulate and sustain the vitality of our Church Family. While holding true to the goals of Vision 2010, the programs and activities led by our youth were simply incredible. Our Youth Division led in ways that excited the imagination and encouraged participation from all segments of the congregation, regardless of age. This edition of our church newsletter covers some of the programs presented.

On last Sunday, the Youth Division passed the Torch of Leadership and Service to the Family Division during a very spirit felt worship service. As pastor, I challenge our Family Division to emphasize the Spiritual Significance of the family during the months of October through December because I see the family as God's secret weapon.

In the Book of Genesis we read that when God saw all that He had made, He declared that it was very good. But in Genesis 1:28, only one part of the natural creation was singled out to receive His blessing: the human family. The family is special because it uniquely bears God's image.

Enjoy the newsletter and make certain that the church office has your email address so I can be in constant contact with you as events evolve at our beloved Antioch Baptist Church North.

Yours in God's Service,

Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor

### Honoring the man who fuels the vision

It was a special day, a special tribute, a special occasion for a special preacher, the Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander.

And so the people packed the 7:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services to celebrate his 41 years as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North. They sang.

They danced. They offered special tributes.

And as the verse speakers exclaimed, they even rejoiced "at the walls he has torn down and the ones he has built up."

Those walls include the Antioch Urban Ministries, the church food bank, clothing bank, Ruth's place, Luke's place and even the very sanctuary in which the congregation gathered to worship.

Attorney Breyuna Williams, a long time member of Antioch, and Georgia's Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond offered anniversary greetings.

Thurmond credited Alexander for "calling me out and sending me on my way." He called the pastor one of Georgia's most outstanding citizens and legendary preachers, who never waivered in the struggle to lift up the down trodden.

"He's a fearless man who never fails to speak truth to power," said Thurmond. "He's a rare combination of strength, power and com-



passion."

The Rev. Rodney Turner, and his son, the Rev. Kenneth Alexander preached.

Drawing from the anniversary scripture, Habakkuk 2:2, Kenneth Alexander said the writer raised the question we've all asked: "Why does God use the wicked against us?"

But Habakkuk, he said, also provides us with answers.

"Like diamonds, we seem to be more dazzling after we've been cut," Alexander said.

He was preceded by the Rev. Turner, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

Turner, who preached from Nehemiah 2:9-10, said that Pastor Alexander possesses qualities similar to Nehemiah. Like Nehemiah, he said, Pastor Alexander had a burden and a vision for the people.

"The burden that God puts in a man is not a financial, family or physical," Turner said. "It's a vision for the welfare of God's people, that they be taken care

The following persons received the Right Hand of Fellowship on Wednesday, September 15. This was inclusive of the months of July and August.

*The following 12 persons were Baptized* 

Paul S. Scott III, May Lillian Brooke Taylor, Nov Giana R. Davis, April Rickey Dorsey, Dec Joshua Lordge, July Dianna Foster, Dec Kaylon J. Hood, July Zendu Moses, May Joshua Moses, July Jalen Borne, May Isaiah Borne, April La Shanda Swinson, Oct

*The following 8 persons came with Christian Experience* 

Cheryl Nelson, July Michele Zellars, Feb Becky Stuckey, Nov Leisa Freeman, Dec Jettie Gibson, Aug Osrielle (Ozzy) Reed, May Hilton S. Borne, Jan Vernell Fields, Sept

A total of 20 persons were fellowshipped.

#### Continued from cover - It's All About Jesus



Youth Division Welcome

division's quarterly observation, Pastor Alexander wrote: "we certainly have to applaud the youth of Antioch for the exemplary leadership that they have demonstrated in organizing programs and activities during the past quarter."

Even the littlest of the youth, ages 3 to 5, took part with their "welcome, welcome, welcome" message to visitors.

Other exciting moments of the morning services included the boy's "speaking the truth" choir who reminded the congregation that even with IPhones today, calling on God is still the highest and best form of communication we can have as Christians; a unique, guitar-accompanied version of "Amazing Grace" that showed the incredible talent of Antioch youth; and, a memorable altar call that put youth with their parents and family.

During his 11 a.m. message, McKinney appealed to youth to remember that family dynamics are a powerful tool of God and to also invest effort in religious, cultural and scholastic education.

"The amount of effort you put forth is greater or equal to that you get back," McKinney said.

Preaching from Luke 2:40, 46, 52, McKinney also encouraged the youth to mind their attitude. "Jesus' attitude was exemplary," he said. "...forget about the crowd and serve God. The least we can do is serve Him because it's about Jesus, so be about Jesus."

#### **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 gstaples@ajc.com.

#### JULY

### Youth hold brunch with Pastor, Mrs. Alexander

the Fellowship Hall, the Youth Division sponsored a "Brunch with the Pastor". Over 130 youth, parents, and members were in attendance to pay tribute to Pastor Cameron Alexander for 41 phenomenal years of dedicated service to the Antioch family.

Unfortunately, due to illness Rev. Alexander was

On Saturday, July 31, in unable to attend but was represented well by our lovely "First Lady" Sis. Barbara Alexander, who graciously responded to a series of questions the youth submitted to the pastor.

> Here's a sampling of questions, she answered on his behalf<sup>.</sup>

Q: What is Reverend's favorite type of music?

A: Of course. Christian/ Gospel music is his favorite but he also enjoys Jazz. Q: Has Reverend always wanted to become а preacher?

A: You do not just decide that you want to become a preacher. It is not a choice. It is a calling.

Q; What is your most memorable moment with Reverend?

A: There have been many

memorable moments. It is hard to pick just one.

In another memorable the children moment. shared what they know about the Pastor, including the names of his children (Greg, Eric, Kenneth and Maria), the year (1969) he came to Antioch and the fact that he once played the saxophone.

# **Tips for successful school year**

The buzz of back to school is an exciting time for students, parents and their families.

With new teachers, new faces and even a new school to get used to, it can also be filled with anxiety.

In addition to the usual educational stress in school, youth are faced with many outside stressors, including drug use, violence, suicide and bullies.

Because of this, talking with your children about these issues will not only help decrease stress but also their chances of falling victim to temptation.

As students and parents think about ways to be successful and stay motivated this year, here are a few tools to keep in the family back pack:

• Get comfortable with the routine change that includes homework and building study skills.

• Watch for changes in behavior. Keep the lines of communication open and strong. Parents should get to know their student's teachers, friends and acquaintances.

• Prepare for the day with prayer and by eating right and setting a routine bed time. Don't underestimate the power of prayer, a good meal and a good night's rest.

• Get the entire family involved in afterschool activities, school information and responsibilities.



Back to school activities at the 590 Building

• Parents should teach their children to know what their function is as God's loved creation. Teach your child to glorify God and to develop and use his/her gifts from God, their intellect, talents, and skills, as instruments to help shape the world.

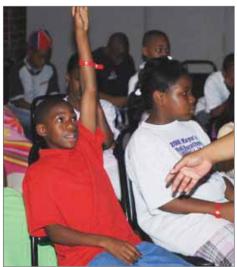
These are only a few tips for a successful school year but the best of these - inside and outside of the classroom - is prayer.

### **Don't miss out: Scholarship readiness workshop coming**

In an effort to identify all students in grades 8 to 12 who are members of Antioch Baptist Church North and affiliate churches, the youth, scholarship and Christian education ministries will host a special workshop at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 4.

This will enable the ministries to track our students through their school years. It will help the church ministry gain insight into the scholastic needs, social needs and financial needs, where necessary.

The scholarship ministry found that all students in our congregations don't need as much assistance as others, but it is their desire to make available to all students and



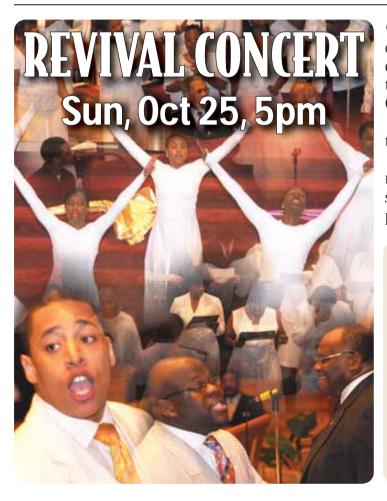
Scholarship-ready students

their parents/guardians, whatever assistance they can. It could be tutoring and/or mentoring, but the

hope is to recognize the need as early as possible.

The ministry's goal is to have all children who are members of Antioch Baptist Church North and affiliated churches ready to pursue higher goals for themselves at the end of high school. The ministry wants to make them aware of the opportunities that are available, both financially and academically. In addition to providing assistance, the ministry will also be seeking help in this effort from Antioch members who are affiliated with fraternal and community groups.

Additional details will be forthcoming.



#### Continued from page 2 - Honoring the man...

of, understand the value of a relationship with God, that there's only one way to Christ."

The burden he said fuels the vision.

Turner said that Nehemiah was grieved over the spiritual condition of his people and the fallen wall. "There's a burden in his heart to do something," Turner said.

And like Pastor Alexander's vision for Antioch, he said, Nehemiah's vision was plain.

"When the vision is clear, the people will work," Turner said.

#### JULY ANNIVERSARIES Happy Anniversary!

Arnold and Denise Curtis Carl and Nachele Hemphill Eric and Yvonnia Henderson Jeffrey and Myra Reeves Damon and Beatrice Copeland Geoffrey and Charlin King Walter and Valencia Seay Steven and Melodee Thomas Charles and Tiffany Hill Leslie and Nikki Moore Christopher and Regina Harden Derman and Shalitha Lawrence Darwin and Stephany Walls Michael and Felecia Martin Terrance and Tanya Abrams Larry and Rhea Hood Jim Wesley and Shea Daniels

# Youth Culmination



FALL REVIVAL - OCTOBER 24-27 - SUN-WED. Worship Services - SUN, OCT 24, 7:45AM & 11AM & Revival Concert - SUN, 5PM



MON-WED, OCT 25-27, 7PM Revivalist: Dr. Frank Ray Pastor, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH • REV. C. M. ALEXANDER, PASTOR

#### AUGUST

### Members attend fifth district education congress

The Fifth District Congress of Christian Education, held August 25-27, is a local opportunity to extend one's Christian education and advance in the Certificate of Progress Program (C.O.P.P.) administered through the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education.

Classes are available for youth through adults

and cover basic Bible and Christian doctrine subjects as well as specialized classes for ministers, deacons, deaconesses, ushers and nurses, and leaders. Antioch members served as teachers and enrolled in classes. Rev. J.J. Walker, Min. Eddie Bright, Dea. Clarence Hicks, and Sis. Brenda Eason taught classes, and Dr. Mary Hicks, Sis. Brigitte Hill, Janet Hill, and Karen S. McKinney attended classes and will share the information though courses offered in Antioch Congress of Christian Education.

The Dean, the Rev. Benjamin Lett, who also serves as the Southeast Region Director of Christian Education for the NBCUSA, Inc., is a son of Antioch.

#### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES Happy Anniversary!

Willie and Fran Carter Corey and LaQuenta Barnes Darnell and Anthea Evans David and Andrienne Jackson Allen and Denine Jones Michael and Felecia Martin Al and Dot McQuire Charles and Marvella Walker Willard and Effie Nalls Tavaris and Natalie Rachel Robert and Bonita Davis LaMarcus and Ellide Smith Rodney and LaTonya Thompson Leo and Sherilyn Walker

### **GMBC holds leadership conference**

The General Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. held its annual leadership conference August 13 and 14 at Unionville Baptist Church in Macon.

"Developing Leaders to Make A Difference," it's theme was emphasized in each class, worship service, and breakout session. Under the direction of the president and son of Antioch, Rev. Clarence Moore, the educational seminars focused on the qualities of an effective leader, articulating a vision and setting goals to carry out a mission, and strategic planning through delegating tasks and developing people. In their sermons, the Rev. Ronald Terry, pastor of New Fellowship Baptist Church in Macon and son of Antioch and the Rev. Stephon Deen, pastor of First African Baptist Church in Alma, inspired those in attendance to make a difference by using their God-given gifts in their local congregations, homes, neighborhoods, jobs, and other organizations.

Antioch members in attendance included Dea. Clarence Hicks, and Sisters Peggy Cooper, Brenda Eason, Dorcas Ford Jones, Jean Jones, and Karen S. McKinney.

### **National Baptist Convention holds annual session**

The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. met in its Annual Session in Kansas City, MO, from September 6-10.

In addition to being the main business session of the Convention's year, each auxiliary as well as the Parent Body has a program filled with workshops and seminars as well as worship services.

As a member church of the NBCUSA, Inc., Antioch is involved in the outreaches to the "least, the less and the lost" on a national and international level in such endeavors as the partnership with Home Depot that has provided over 1,000 housing units for people in Haiti, the hospital that the Woman's Department supports in Africa, the work in Kansas City during the week by delegates to provide repairs, free of charge, for the indigent elderly, and the partnership with the Ameri-

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#### Continued from page 7 - NBC Annual Session

can Red Cross that provides relief in many situations and is targeting the collection of blood from African-Americans to have on hand much needed supplies for those devastated by diseases that are of high incidence in our community, such as sickle cell.

There was also opportunity for fellowship as delegates from across the state of Georgia enjoyed a luncheon at which the President of the Baptist Convention of Virginia brought the message. The Georgia Night held at the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church was true to its billing—"a down-home night of good hymn singing and hallelujah praise." The Rev. Ricky Breedy, pastor of Tremont Temple in Savannah, preached the Word. And, of course, there was great food.

Quite a few members of GMBC, and more particu-

larly, Antiochans serve in leadership positions in the NBCUSA, Inc. Rev. Dr. Clarence Moore serves as the Southeast Regional Vice President; Rev. Ronald Terry serves as President of the Music Ministry, and Rev. Benjamin E.V. Lett serves as Southeast Region Christian Education Director—all are sons of Antioch. Sis. Brenda Eason is Vice President of the Ministry of Ushers and Nurses, and Sis. Karen S. McKinney is Southeast Region Director of the Young People's Department. Delegates from Antioch were Sis. Evelyn Reynolds, Administrative Assistant to Pastor Alexander, Sis. Dianne Williams, Music Ministry and Calendar Coordinator, and Sis. Bonita Hammond, Membership Coordinator. Also in attendance were Brother Otis Byrd, Sis. Jean Jones, and Sis. Peggy Cooper.

## Young eloquent speaker

Joshua Isaiah Rawls Carpenter, an eighth-grader at Bay Creek Middle School and member of the Antioch youth and bell choirs, recently captured third place in the intermediate division of the 2010 State Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest.

Joshua, 13, is no stranger to public speaking or being in the spotlight. He was among dozen of Antioch youth to participate in the General Missionary Baptist of Georgia, Inc., 48th Annual Congress of Christian Education.

The son of Judith (Judi) Rawls and Joel Carpenter, Joshua recited his winning speech during services at Antioch in July.

Here is a portion of Joshua's speech to the Congress:

"The Articles of Faith contain the



Bro. Joshua Rawls Carpenter

attributes of the true God. Not only should we learn and recite these Articles, we must live by them, because we are made in the image of Him who is intelligent, spiritual and personal.

The Bible tells us to be holy, even as our Father is holy. God has a purpose and a plan for our lives. He has given every one of us gifts to fulfill His purpose. However, He expects us to develop these gifts, and the results will glorify Him.

God has placed everything here for our convenience. So man creates nothing; he works with the stuff that has already been provided by the One and only True God, the Creator. God is spirit, infinite, everlasting, holy and unchangeable. Men change, circumstance change, but our God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

So because He is my personal God and preserver, I will hold on to his unchanging hand."

#### **SEPTEMBER**

### **North Mission becomes New Horizon**

Members of the Antioch North Mission and Antioch Baptist Church North turned out in masses to witness the birth Sept. 12 of New Horizon Baptist Church.

The organization of the mission as an independent church comes nine years after Pastor Cameron Alexander challenged the Rev. Sean Smith to start an evangelistic outreach and mission in the city's northwest quadrant.

"I am whale proud of Rev.

Sean Smith," Rev. Alexander said. "He's taken some good licks but he's never been knocked down."

Pastor Alexander reminded those gathered that the church is an outpost of heaven.

"We are rehearsing for our heavenly living," he said. "We're practicing righteousness. We're practicing fellowship. We're practicing stewardship because none but the righteous shall see God."

Even at New Horizon.

Alexander said, it is Rev. Smith's job to teach righteousness, not be world friendly because there is a war going on between right and wrong, between good and evil

He said he hope New Horizon will not be satisfied doing things the same old way but rather look for new ideas and avenues in stewardship and doctrine and even technology to communicate the message of Jesus indicates, he said, "This is Christ.

As the church's name privileges."



Rev. Sean Smith. Pastor

a new moment with new

### **Dance Ministry holds 1st annual concert**

Praise is not only who they are praise is what they do!

That was never more evident than when the Antioch Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry commemorated its 10 year anniversary Sept. 11 before a standing-room- only crowd.

The dynamic, soul-stirring concert, "A Decade of Dancing for Jesus: Celebrating our Past, Present, and Future," was the first of its kind at Antioch. Hosted by the Vessels of Praise and the Antioch Music Ministry, the concert included the Antioch Teen and Youth Dance Ministries and guests dance, mime, and spoken word ministries from ten years. across the metro Atlanta.

Guests included the Ray of Hope Christian Church Dance Ministry; the Agape Seed Liturgical Dance Ministry; Passion for Worship Dance Company International; Unspeakable Annointin', a mime ministry; and the Destiny Metropolitan Worship Church **Destinations Spoken Word** Ministry.

In addition to the anniversary concert, the Vessels invited former members back for a ministry fellowship and to dance during Sunday worship services on Sept. 12, when the combined group ministered to a medley of selections that represented various ministry favorites from the past

When the Vessels of



Antioch Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry

Praise was founded in tioch worship experience 2000, adult members of the congregation were given an opportunity to incorporate dance as ministry during Sunday worship services and special events at Antioch. The Youth Dance Ministry was organized in 1997, but no similar outlet existed for adults to use dance and mime as a part of the An-

prior to start of the Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry. Ever since that time, the ministry has been drawing souls to Christ through the use of dance and other worship arts. The Vessels of Praise have also taken their ministry beyond the walls of the church to do missionary outreach in the community.

### An overview of the Bible in a wordsearch

See answers on the Antioch website at: www.antiochnorth.org/bqanswers.htm

Q	G	0	Х	V	Е	G	А	S	S	Е	Μ	Ν	R	Ν	Т	Μ
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В	R	Е	V	Е	R	0	F	L	R	U	F	J	Ζ	А	Q	Т
L	Ζ	V	F	J	G	0	0	D	Ν	Е	W	S	Н	U	F	Ρ
Κ	R	А	G	Ρ	R	Α	Ρ	V	Ι	А	Т	D	С	0	V	А
Ι	Ρ	Е	В	В	Ι	S	R	А	Е	L	Ζ	G	Х	L	L	В
А	Κ	Н	Т	Κ	Ι	Ν	G	D	0	Μ	S	А	Ρ	G	S	Υ
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F	R	S	G	U	W	0	L	W	В	Ν	Т	Y	S	Е	Е	Е
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Y	А	S	Ρ	Ι	R	С	S	R	G	Е	Т	С	W	D	С	Υ
Н	R	G	L	0	L	Т	F	Е	Т	Ζ	R	Н	F	Ν	Е	Q
V	S	А	L	V	А	Т	Ι	0	Ν	Η	Κ	С	Е	G	L	Ν
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BAPTISM BIBLE CHRIST CREATION EARTH FOREVER GARDEN OF EDEN GENESIS GLORY GOD GOOD NEWS HEAVEN HOLY ISRAEL JERUSALEM KINGDOM LIFE MARY MESSAGE MOSES NAZARETH PRAYER RESURRECTION REVELATION SALVATION SAVIOUR SIN SPIRIT TEMPTATION WATER

### Antioch's "O" bride

Lashia Levins, a longtime Antioch member, was recently featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Levins, 26, was stunned when the popular talk show host announced to her and some 50 other brides-to-be that they were the recipients of a Vera Wang wedding gown, two travel gift certificates from United Airlines, and a \$4,000 gift card to any Marriott Hotel in the U.S. and Canada.

The daughter of Margaret Levins-Neal, Lashia is a former member of Antioch's Youth MADD for Christ Ministry, Rites of Passage, 1 Timothy and Youth to Leaders ministries.

Levins was invited to participate in the Sept. 17 show after submitting an email about the hardships she faced planning a wedding while her fiancé, Christopher Miller, was serving in Afghanistan.

That was in March. A crew flew to Los Angeles, where Levine is a senior consultant for the Army Corps of Engineers, and filmed her story for the broadcast.



*Sis. Lashia Levins* "Good thing I didn't give up," Levins said.

#### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES Happy Anniversary!

Lee and Veronica Baker James and Lindsey Swittenberg Borquaye and Shatavia Thomas Hilton and Tammy Borne Darryl and Holly Speed John and Cynthia Daniels Reginald and Leda Everett Larry and Garnet Riley Nevin and Andrea Harton Garry and Sharon Mott Phillip and Joyce Lyde Van and Gail Herrin





### Changing lives one poem at a time

Bro. Hank Stewart's life changed on Nov. 7, 1991.

Bro. Stewart was at home, watching one disturbing news report after another. Then came the most shocking news of the day: basketball superstar Earvin "Magic" Johnson announced he had been diagnosed with HIV, a condition that was then considered a death sentence.

Bro. Stewart, then a manager at UPS, did something completely out of character. He wrote a poem.

"Lord, there's times when I cry. Can you hear me Lord? Can you hear me?" it read, in part.

With that began a change in his career and purpose. Today, Bro. Stewart, a member of Antioch for more than 24 years, is an accomplished poet and runs a non-profit foundation that works with young people between the ages of 9 and 16, teaching them financial literacy and getting them involved in community service projects. About 100 kids are in the program. Most of them live in southwest Atlanta.

"I just want to see our



Bro. Hank Stewart

young people establish themselves as leaders," Bro. Stewart, 47, explained. "It's got to get to the point where we develop new leaders and listen to them."

Bro. Stewart gives a hearty portion of the credit to Rev. Cameron Alexander, who gave him his first opportunity to read his poetry in front of an audience one Sunday. Several Antioch members asked him to speak at other events.

Bro. Stewart lists among his professional accomplishments being the first poet to perform at the Essence Music Festival, which has starred acts such as Beyonce, Mary J. Blige and Janet Jackson.

Each summer, he hosts a three-day fundraiser for the foundation called "White Linen," that includes live music, comedy, a fashion show and, of course, poetry. Next year will be White Linen's 10th anniversary.

The money raised helps pay for many of the foundation's activities. Bro. Stewart's future goals with the foundation include taking the kids to the New York Stock Exchange to learn more about the nation's financial system and to Washington, D.C. to see how government works.

Bro. Stewart gives all the glory to God for the program's success.

"It's just proof that if you take the gifts God gives us, He will manifest it and make it grow."

To learn more about the Hank Stewart Foundation, go to www.thestewartfoundation.com

