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Congratulations 2023 Recipients!

Category I – Seminary Students

Min. Natalie C. Murdock:

Natalie Corrin has a heart for encouraging young adults in their walk with God, one day at a time. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Purdue University and is currently a second year Master of Divinity student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University as a Woodruff Fellow. She is thrilled to serve in ministry in multiple places in Atlanta and at the Historic Hill First Baptist Church in Athens, GA where she is the College & Young Adult Minister. Natalie is passionate about her ministry, Notes from Corrin, where she hosts a podcast called “Another Day, Another Chance” that has accrued thousands of listeners since its inception in 2020. Within Notes from Corrin, she also creates Bible studies, devotionals, and encouraging social media content. Natalie is extremely thankful to have received this scholarship and is eager to continue to do the work God has called her to.

Rev. Austin R. Warren:

The Reverend Austin R. Warren is a proud native of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Reverend Warren is an associate minister at the Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, under the leadership of the Reverend Reginald M. Buckley. After graduating from Vicksburg High in May 2015, Warren earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi (2019). Reverend Warren is a second-year Master of Divinity student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Reverend Warren transitioned into higher education from the banking industry at the beginning of 2023 and now serves as the Assistant Director for Religious and Spiritual Life at Alcorn State University. Additionally, he serves as the Interfaith Organizing Manager at Mississippi Votes, Incorporated. Inspired by the works of a host of great theologians engaged in social, educational, and political advancement throughout history, Austin hopes to be a bridge between religion, politics, and moral agency as a young native Mississippian clergyman. Among his other distinctions, Reverend Warren is a member of the National Association of the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP), Jackson State University’s National Alumni Association, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. Austin is married to his college sweetheart, the former Margaret S. Mason. Above all, Reverend Warren aims to live a life that honors God through word and deed.



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Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

Dawson Gibson:

Dawson C. Gibson is the youngest son of Deacon Melvin and Evangelist Tomeka Walton. He is also Sean Walton's younger brother. Dawson is a recent graduate of Southwest Dekalb High School in Decatur, GA. In the fall, he will be attending The University of West Georgia and majoring in Film Production. Dawson is a current member of Liberty Baptist Church and actively serves on the Audio Ministry. One of his favorite memories of growing up at Liberty was being in Sunday School with Mrs. Pelt and receiving cookies from Mrs. Wade afterwards. Church has always been a huge part of his life because that is where, other than school, he spends most of his time. Dawson knows that God has a plan and a design for his life and is eager to find out what it is!!

William Anthony Pleasant:

William Anthony Pleasant is a focused driven innovative young man who strives for excellence. At an early age he realized math stimulated all of his senses. The art of deciphering and completing math challenges piqued his interests and propelled him to search for a career where math computations would be a cornerstone in solving real world problems. William is currently pursuing a Biomedical Engineering major at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Graduating summa cum laude from Greater Atlanta Christian School with a GPA of 4.33, exemplifies his zeal for education. He gives all the glory to God and a strong village of supporters. Liberty Baptist Church, where he was baptized by Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and his grandparents William and Mattie Smith, members for 55 years, have been the main pillars. While his parents, Tony and Shyronda Pleasant, aunt and uncle Denise Brown and Erick Thomas complete the foundation. His foundation is built on Christian morals that he wants to spread. His prayer is to remain humble and allow God to complete the wonderful work He began in him. William is also an accomplished saxophonist playing both the Alto and Baritone.

Alaina Jane Rearden:

Alaina Jane Rearden is a 2021 graduate and honor student of Woodland High School in Stockbridge, GA. She is currently attending Georgia Southern University majoring in biology with a psychology minor. She plans to participate in orchestra, a variety of clubs, and a sign language program. Her future goals are to complete medical school and become a successful doctor, specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her aspiration is to own her own practice.



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Journey Wilder:

Journey Wilder is an Anthropology major at Kennesaw State University. She is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church where she is involved in the PA Ministry, the Praise Dance Team, the Youth Choir, the Youth Ministry, and the Praise and Worship Team. Journey graduated from DeKalb School of the Arts (DKA) in May of 2019 with a major in Instrumental Music and minor in Creative Writing. At her high school, she was a member of their Chamber Orchestra for two years and was a very dedicated writer in the Creative Writing Department. She also participated in a non-profit video production, was an editor for the school's literary magazine for two years, and had one of her plays go up in the school's Dark Knight program. Journey makes it a goal in her life to help others and treat people with kindness, love, and compassion. She is a genuine lover of Christ who does not hesitate to spread the Word of God to others. She is always happy to bring a smile to people's faces. She further hopes that she can bring her strong Christian and family values in the pursuit of her career as a forensic anthropologist. Her ultimate goal is to bring closure and peace to families who have been a victim of crime.



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Category I – Seminary Students

Andrea Wilson:

The life mission for Andrea Wilson, is to win the loss by exposing and imposing mankind to the Word and power of God through music, preaching, prayer, and love. She's passionate about ministering to those with wounded hearts and broken spirits, and currently has a weekly broadcast every Friday morning at 7:00 A.M. on Facebook Live entitled "Morning Glory". As an adoptee, she knows firsthand that God is able to heal all of our souls' diseases and can attest to the priceless, perfect peace of God. She believes prayer is one of the most powerful and effective change agents in this world, and that your feet are the truest testament to what a believer really believes. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity Degree at Mercer University-McAfee School of Theology. An ordained elder at Changing a Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, she is an instructional support specialist in a local adult education program helping students realize their postsecondary dreams, goals and providing opportunities that can improve their quality of living. No matter the form of ministry, her dedicated life and love for God permeates throughout her every endeavor.

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

Deja Dennis:

Deja Dennis is currently attending Miller Motte College in Chattanooga, TN where she is majoring in Business Administration. She graduated from Mays High School in Atlanta, GA with a 3.7 GPA. She has faced many trials and tribulations throughout her life but she has learned some great lessons from them all. Furthermore, she is forever grateful for the experiences she has endured because it has strengthened her to be where she is and who she is today. One of her greatest lessons in life has been to take heed to any and everything while realizing that sometimes you don't know what it is you need until you need it.



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Pelt Foundation**William Anthony Pleasant:**

William Anthony Pleasant is a focused driven innovative young man who strives for excellence. At an early age he realized math stimulated all of his senses. The art of deciphering and completing math challenges piqued his interests and propelled him to search for a career where math computations would be a cornerstone in solving real world problems. William is currently pursuing a Biomedical Engineering major at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Graduating summa cum laude from Greater Atlanta Christian School with a GPA of 4.33, exemplifies his zeal for education. He gives all the glory to God and a strong village of supporters. Liberty Baptist Church, where he was baptized by Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and his grandparents William and Mattie Smith, members for 55 years, have been the main pillars. While his parents, Tony and Shyrona Pleasant, aunt and uncle Denise Brown and Erick Thomas complete the foundation. His foundation is built on Christian morals that he wants to spread. His prayer is to remain humble and allow God to complete the wonderful work He began in him. William is also an accomplished saxophonist playing both the Alto and Baritone.

Alaina Jane Rearden:

Alaina Jane Rearden is a 2021 graduate and honor student of Woodland High School in Stockbridge, GA. She is currently attending Georgia Southern University majoring in biology with a psychology minor. She plans to participate in orchestra, a variety of clubs, and a sign language program. Her future goals are to complete medical school and become a successful doctor, specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her aspiration is to own her own practice.

Journey Wilder:

Journey Wilder is entering her fourth year at Kennesaw State University as an Anthropology major. She is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church where she is involved in the PA Ministry, the Praise Dance Team, the Youth Choir, the Youth Ministry, and the Praise and Worship Team. Journey graduated from DeKalb School of the Arts (DKA) in May of 2019 with a major in Instrumental Music and minor in Creative Writing. At her high school, she was a member of their Chamber Orchestra for two years and was a very dedicated writer in the Creative Writing Department. She also participated in a non-profit video production, was an editor for the school's literary magazine for two years, and had one of her plays go up in the school's Dark Knight program. Journey makes it a goal in her life to help others and treat people with kindness, love, and compassion. She is a genuine lover of Christ who does not hesitate to spread the Word of God to others. She is always happy to bring a smile to people's faces. She further hopes that she can bring her strong Christian and family values in the pursuit of her career as a forensic anthropologist. Her ultimate goal is to bring closure and peace to families who have been a victim of crime.



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Congratulations 2021 Recipients!

Category I - Seminary Students

Torrey Fingal:

Torrey Fingal (or Pastor Torrey, as he is affectionately called) has been serving the Lord since he was 15 years old. He accepted his call and began preaching at the age of 17. After moving to New Orleans in 2004 to attend Xavier University and graduating cum laude with a B.S. in Chemistry, Torrey continued to work in ministry as a musician, Psalmist, and preacher. He was licensed in October 2008 and ordained in January 2020. Torrey has served in and led a wide range of church ministries including Overseer of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Special Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Marketing Director, Chief Strategist, and the First Assistant Pastor. He also serves as Digital Media Specialist for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. Pastor Torrey's unique approach to the Word of God has made him a favorite among both the young and the young-at-heart. His educational background and anointing allow him the ability to blend theology with science, philosophy, and elements of psychology to be an effective minister of the Gospel. He is currently pursuing his Masters of Divinity at the United Theological Seminary. Pastor Torrey is the husband of Alaina Fingal and the father of two daughters Tori Michelle and Alyssa Jade.

Anthony Alann Johnson:

Reverend Anthony Johnson is a graduate of Talladega College, Morehouse School of Religion, and Emory University. Reverend Johnson is currently a doctoral student at United Theological Seminary. His focus group is "Building Dr. King's Beloved Community" with an emphasis on Black/Jewish relations. He was licensed and ordained in 1996 by his grandfather, the late Rev. Dr. Nelson Henry Smith Jr., a renown international Civil Rights Icon. Reverend Johnson was the first hired as an America Regional Organizer for Obama in the State of Alabama. He established campaign headquarters in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and later in Detroit. He has served as a Legislative Aide in the Georgia and Florida House of Representatives and was elected to serve as a State Representative in the Alabama State Legislature. With an outstanding 25-year record of service in the political, civic, and religious arenas, Reverend Anthony Alann Johnson is a sought-after speaker on the topics of Civil Rights, Community Engagement, Interfaith Collaboration, and a staunch advocate for civil and human rights.



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Timothy Shaw:

Timothy Shaw, a native of East St. Louis, IL was born to Mr. Timothy Shaw, Sr. and the late Mrs. Angelia Parker. Rev. Shaw graduated from East St. Louis Sr. High School and received his Associate's Degree from Shawnee Community College. Rev. Shaw completed a Bachelor of Theology from Anchor Theological Seminary and Bible Institute. He has also completed his Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies at Covenant Theological Seminary and his Master of Divinity degree at Luther Rice Seminary. At the age of 32, Rev. Shaw is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He is married to his beautiful wife, Jameshia Shaw. Together, Rev. Shaw and Sis. Shaw has three wonderful children Jace, Trinity and Tristin Shaw.

Andrea Wilson:

The life mission for Andrea Wilson, is to win the loss by exposing and imposing mankind to the Word and power of God through music, preaching, prayer, and love. She's passionate about ministering to those with wounded hearts and broken spirits, and currently has a weekly broadcast every Friday morning at 7:00 A.M. on Facebook Live entitled "Morning Glory". As an adoptee, she knows firsthand that God is able to heal all of our souls' diseases and can attest to the priceless, perfect peace of God. She believes prayer is one of the most powerful and effective change agents in this world, and that your feet are the truest testament to what a believer really believes. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity Degree at Mercer University-McAfee School of Theology. An ordained elder at Changing a Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, she is an instructional support specialist in a local adult education program helping students realize their postsecondary dreams, goals and providing opportunities that can improve their quality of living. No matter the form of ministry, her dedicated life and love for God permeates throughout her every endeavor.

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

William Anthony Pleasant:

William Anthony Pleasant is a focused driven innovative young man who strives for excellence. At an early age he realized math stimulated all of his senses. The art of deciphering and completing math challenges piqued his interests and propelled him to search for a career where math computations would be a cornerstone in solving real world problems. William is currently pursuing a Biomedical Engineering major at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Graduating summa cum laude from Greater Atlanta Christian School with a GPA of 4.33, exemplifies his zeal for education. He gives all the glory to God and a strong village of supporters. Liberty Baptist Church, where he was baptized by Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and his grandparents William and Mattie Smith, members for 55 years, have been the main pillars. While his parents, Tony and Shyrona Pleasant, aunt and uncle Denise Brown and Erick Thomas complete the foundation. His foundation is built on Christian morals that he wants to spread. His prayer



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is to remain humble and allow God to complete the wonderful work He began in him. William is also an accomplished saxophonist playing both the Alto and Baritone.

Alaina Jane Rearden:

Alaina Jane Rearden is a 2021 graduate and honor student of Woodland High School in Stockbridge, GA. In the fall of 2021, she will attend Georgia Southern University. In college, she plans to major in biology and minor in psychology. She also plans to participate in orchestra, a variety of clubs, and a sign language program. Her future goals are to complete medical school and become a successful doctor, specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her aspiration is to own her own practice.



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Category I - Seminary Students

Torrey Fingal:

Torrey Fingal (or Pastor Torrey, as he is affectionately called) has been serving the Lord since he was 15-years-old. He accepted his call and began preaching at the age of 17. After moving to New Orleans in 2004 to attend Xavier University and graduating cum laude with a B.S. in Chemistry, Torrey continued to work in ministry as a musician, Psalmist, and preacher. In October of 2008, Torrey was licensed to minister and under the guidance of his pastor Bishop Lester Love, in January of 2010, Torrey was ordained as an Elder in the Lord's church. Torrey has served in and led a wide range of church ministries including Overseer of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Special Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Marketing Director, Chief Strategist, and most recently the First Assistant Pastor all at The City of Love. He also serves as Digital Media Specialist for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. Pastor Torrey's unique approach to the Word of God has made him a favorite among both the young and the young-at-heart. His educational background and anointing allow him the ability to blend theology with science, philosophy, and elements of psychology to be an effective minister of the Gospel. He is currently pursuing his Masters of Divinity at the United Theological Seminary. Pastor Torrey is the husband of Alaina Fingal and the father of two daughters Tori Michelle and Alyssa Jade.

Anthony Alann Johnson:

Reverend Anthony Johnson is a graduate of Talladega College, Morehouse School of Religion, and Emory University. Reverend Johnson is currently a doctoral student at United Theological Seminary. His focus group is "Building Dr. King's Beloved Community" with an emphasis on Black/Jewish relations. He was licensed and ordained in 1996 by his Grandfather, the late Rev. Dr. Nelson Henry Smith Jr., a renown international Civil Rights Icon. Reverend Johnson was the first hired as an America Regional Organizer for Obama in the State of Alabama. He established campaign headquarters in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and later in Detroit. He has served as a Legislative Aide in the Georgia and Florida House of Representatives and was elected to serve as a State Representative in the Alabama State Legislature. With an outstanding 25-year record of service in the political, civic, and religious arenas, Reverend Anthony Alann Johnson is a sought-after speaker on the topics of Civil Rights, Community Engagement, Interfaith Collaboration, and a staunch advocate for civil and human rights.

Timothy Shaw:

Timothy Shaw, a native of East St. Louis, IL was born to Mr. Timothy Shaw, Sr. and the late Mrs. Angelia Parker. At the age of thirteen years old, Rev. Shaw acknowledged his call to the Gospel Ministry in



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January 2001. Rev. Shaw was ordained into the Gospel ministry on November 24, 2013. Rev. Shaw graduated from East St. Louis Sr. High School and received his associates degree from Shawnee Community College. Rev. Shaw completed a Bachelor of Theology from Anchor Theological Seminary and Bible Institute. He has also completed his Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies at Covenant Theological Seminary. Rev. Shaw has completed his Master of Divinity degree at Luther Rice Seminary. At the age of 32, Rev. Shaw is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Rev. Shaw currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Second Baptist Church of Danville, IL. He is married to his beautiful wife Jameshia Shaw. Together, Rev. Shaw and Sis. Shaw have three wonderful children Jace, Trinity and Tristin Shaw.

Tiffany Stubbs:

Dr. Tiffany M. Stubbs is a native of Birmingham, AL. Dr. Stubbs is a 3rd year student at McAfee School of Theology (Mercer University). At McAfee, she is actively serving as the Vice-President of the Student Advisory Leadership Team. Dr. Stubbs loves serving in ministry, as she assists the Young Adult Ministry, works in Pastoral Care, and serves as an ordained Elder at Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church. She is a proud graduate of Samford University (B. A. Religion) and Xavier University of Louisiana (Doctorate of Pharmacy). Dr. Stubbs is passionate about her mission and calling to provide strategies of transformation at the intersection of ministry, medicine, and missiology. She enjoys reading, writing poetry, going to the movies, helping others, and spending time with family and friends. Currently, she is an intern in Clinical Pastoral Education providing spiritual care for those in crisis. Her greatest joy is serving God and others.

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

Startisha Gresham:

Startisha Gresham was born in Decatur, Georgia and was the only child until 2013. She is now a big sister to her six-year old sibling. She is a graduate of Southwest Dekalb High School in Decatur, Georgia. In December 2019, Startisha received an Associates Degree from Atlanta Metropolitan State College, in Atlanta, Georgia, where she majored in Criminal Justice Law Enforcement and Child Psychology. Currently, Startisha is a student at Clayton State University majoring in Criminal Justice. Startisha has always had faith in Jesus Christ and always believed that God sees our true colors. She has recently joined Liberty Baptist Church and has been baptized to show that she has accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She believes that she is on her path to righteousness.

William Anthony Pleasant:

William Anthony Pleasant is a focused driven innovative young man who strives for excellence. At an early age he realized math stimulated all of his senses. The art of deciphering and completing math challenges peaked his interests and propelled him to search for a career where math computations



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would be a cornerstone in solving real world problems. Biomedical engineering is the major he will be pursuing at Georgia Institute of Technology. Graduating summa cum laude from Greater Atlanta Christian School with a GPA of 4.33, exemplifies his zeal for education. He gives all the glory to God and a strong village of supporters. Liberty Baptist Church, where he was baptized by Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and his grandparents William and Mattie Smith, members for 55 years, have been the main pillars. While his parents, Tony and Shyronda Pleasant, aunt and uncle Denise Brown and Erick Thomas complete the foundation. His foundation is built on Christian morals that he wants to spread. His prayer is to remain humble and allow God to complete the wonderful work He began in him. William is also an accomplished saxophonist playing both the Alto and Baritone.

Journey Wilder:

Journey Wilder is a sophomore at Kennesaw State University as an Anthropology major. She is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church where she is involved in the PA Ministry, the Praise Dance Team, the Youth Choir, the Youth Ministry, and the Praise and Worship Team. Journey graduated from DeKalb School of the Arts (DKA) in May of 2019 with a major in Instrumental Music and minor in Creative Writing. At her high school, she was a member of their Chamber Orchestra for two years and was a very dedicated writer in the Creative Writing Department. She also participated in a non-profit video production, was an editor for the school's literary magazine for two years, and had one of her plays go up in the school's Dark Knight program. Journey makes it a goal in her life to help others and treat people with kindness, love, and compassion. She is a genuine lover of Christ who does not hesitate to spread the Word of God to others. She is always happy to bring a smile to people's faces. She further hopes that she can bring her strong Christian and family values in the pursuit of her career as a forensic anthropologist. Her ultimate goal is to bring closure and peace to families who have been a victim of crime.

2019-2020 J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship Recipients Final



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Congratulations 2019 Recipients!

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

Shana Brown:

Shana Brown was born in Rome, Georgia. Her family moved to Atlanta when she was 10. She graduated from Harper High School in Southwest Atlanta. After graduation, she started college but didn't finish. She began a family with her late husband. She's worked over 15 years in Healthcare and decided to go back to school after 30 years. She first pursued Business and Health Administration, but then decided to pursue Psychology. Shana enjoys people and serving others. Family is her life! She is an overcomer living with Lupus. Shana is mother to Sean and Alexandria and grandmother to 4 grandchildren and is expecting her 5th in 2020. She's a caregiver to her father and bonus mother. In the Fall, Shana will transfer to Valdosta State University to complete what she began 30 years ago! Her destiny awaits!

Startisha Gresham:

Startisha Gresham was born in Decatur, Georgia and was the only child until 2013. She is now a big sister to her five-year old sibling. She is a graduate of Southwest DeKalb High School in Decatur, Georgia. Currently, Startisha attends Atlanta Metropolitan State College, in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is studying Criminal Justice Law Enforcement and Child Psychology. Startisha has always had faith in Jesus Christ and always believed that God sees our true colors. She has recently joined Liberty Baptist Church and has been baptized to show that she has accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She believes that she is on her path to righteousness.

Journey Wilder:

Journey Wilder is a first-year student attending Kennesaw State University as an Anthropology major. She is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church where she is involved in the PA Ministry, the Praise Dance Team, the Youth Choir, the Youth Ministry, and the Praise and Worship Team. Journey graduated from DeKalb School of the Arts (DKA), majoring in Instrumental Music and minoring in Creative Writing. At her high school, she was a member of their Chamber Orchestra for two years, and was a very dedicated writer in the Creative Writing Department, in which she participated in a non-profit video production, was an editor for the school's literary magazine for two years, and had one of her plays go up in the school's Dark Knight program. Journey makes it a goal in her life to help others and treat people with kindness, love and compassion. She is a genuine lover of Christ who does not hesitate to spread the Word of God to others. She is always happy to bring a smile to people's faces. She further hopes that she can bring her strong Christian and family values in the pursuit of her career as a forensic anthropologist. Her ultimate goal is to bring closure and peace to families who have been a victim of crime.

2019-2020 J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship Recipients Final



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Congratulations 2018 Recipients!

Category I - Seminary Students

Minister Richard N. Stewart:

Richard N. Stewart was born in Kingston, Georgia but moved to Bronx, New York at an early age. Upon graduating from Christopher Columbus High School, he entered the U.S. Army and served as a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Operations Specialist. His contribution to the United States Army and Chemical Corp has been numerous and can be seen through his previous assignments and deployments around the world. He also served as Operation Sergeant Major for the 525 Military Police Battalion GTMO, Cuba. Minister Stewart currently serves as Youth Director at Beulahland Bible Church. He also serves as a small group adult teacher and as a Bible study teacher for the Nexgen youth, middle school and teen groups. He has distinguished himself by consistently volunteering to reach back to the upcoming generation of youth in the spirit of Sankofa by volunteering as a Mentor with Communities in School (Augusta, GA); Big Brothers (Macon, GA); and E-cyber-Mission High School mentoring (Aberdeen, MD). Minister Stewart is also a certified teacher in the state of Georgia, a nationally certified Mathematic Tutor and currently mentors with Star-base 2.0 (STEM) in Warner Robins, GA.

Minister Stewart is a graduate of Georgia Military College and Mercer University. He is also a 2018 graduate of Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA where he received a Masters of Divinity in Christian Education. Currently, Minister Stewart is pursuing a Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

Startisha Gresham:

Startisha Gresham was born in Decatur, Georgia and was the only child until 2013. She is now a big sister to her four year old sibling. She is a recent graduate of Southwest Dekalb High School in Decatur, Georgia. Currently, Startisha attends Atlanta Metropolitan State College, in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is studying in Criminal Justice Law Enforcement and Child Psychology. Startisha has always had faith in Jesus Christ and always believed that God sees our true colors. She has recently joined Liberty Baptist Church and has been baptized to show that she has accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She believes that she is on her path to righteousness.



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Sean-Tyler Thomas Walton:

Sean-Tyler Thomas Walton, a native of Atlanta is the oldest child of Melvin and Tomeka Walton. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Arts at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film in Nashville, Tennessee. He was dedicated and led to Christ by the late Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and has been active in many ministries at Liberty over the years. Sean is a natural born artist who has pursued his God given talent since he was a little boy. He knows that he can do all things through Christ who empowers him!

Freeman Wilder:

Freeman Wilder was born in Decatur, Georgia. He is currently attending Kennesaw State College in Marietta, Georgia where he is pursuing a degree in Computer Science and Video Game Design. Freeman has attended Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta all of his life and has been active in several ministries. He accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized by the late Rev. Dr. J. Sherman Pelt.

2018-2019 J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship Recipients-F 8-10-18



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Congratulations 2017 Recipients!

Category I - Seminary Students

Minister Richard N. Stewart:

Richard N. Stewart was born in Kingston, Georgia but moved to Bronx, New York at an early age. Upon graduating from Christopher Columbus High School, he entered the U.S. Army and served as a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Operations Specialist. His contribution to the United States Army and Chemical Corp has been numerous and can be seen through his previous assignments and deployments around the world in Cuba, Korea, Germany and England to name a few. He also served as Operation Sergeant Major for the 525 Military Police Battalion GTMO, Cuba. Minister Stewart currently serves as Youth Director at Beulahland Bible Church. He also serves as a small group adult teacher and as a Bible study teacher for the Nexgen youth, middle school and teen groups. He has distinguished himself by consistently volunteering to reach back to the upcoming generation of youth in the spirit of Sankofa by volunteering as a Mentor with Communities in School (August, GA); Big Brothers (Macon, GA); and E-cyber-Mission High School mentoring (Aberdeen, MD). Minister Stewart is also a certified teacher in the state of Georgia, a nationally certified Mathematic Tutor and currently mentors with Star-base 2.0 (STEM) in Warner Robins, GA.

A graduate of Georgia Military College and Mercer University, Minister Stewart is currently pursuing a Masters of Divinity in Christian Education at Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA.

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Students

John Tysinger:

John Tysinger, a graduate of Norcross High School in Norcross, Georgia currently attends Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is majoring in Computer and Information Systems. He has a passion for computers and information systems and he believes the Lord has blessed him with this special gift. He is a current member of Liberty Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. John Tysinger is proud to accept the J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship as both a member of Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta and the Tysinger household.



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EST. 2014

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Sean-Tyler Thomas Walton:

Sean-Tyler Thomas Walton, a native of Atlanta is the oldest child of Melvin and Tomeka Walton. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Arts at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film in Nashville, Tennessee. He was dedicated and led to Christ by the late Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and has been active in many ministries at Liberty over the years. Sean is a natural born artist who has pursued his God given talent since he was a little boy. He knows that he can do all things through Christ who empowers him!

Freeman Wilder:

Freeman Wilder was born in Decatur, Georgia. He is a recent graduate and Salutatorian of The Wilson Academy in Lithonia, Georgia. Freeman has attended Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta all of his life and has been active in several ministries. He accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized by the late Rev. Dr. J. Sherman Pelt. In the fall of 2017, Freeman will be attending Kennesaw State University at the S.T.E.M Campus in Marietta, Georgia. While at Kennesaw, he will be pursuing a degree in Mechatronics or Computer Science and Video Game Design.



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Pelt Foundation



Congratulations 2016 Recipients!

Category I - Seminary Students

Keilah Johnson:

Keilah Johnson is a bold Christian who desires to lead her generation to not conform to the destructive patterns of the world but instead renew their minds to the greatness and fullness God has prepared in advance for them! She was born and raised in Lithonia, Georgia to two amazing and dedicated parents, John and Stephanie Johnson and she is the youngest of five children. Keilah attended a summer internship in New York City where she discovered her purpose. Her heart began to break and burden for the young girls, boys and teens who were becoming mere products of their environments. Upon returning to school, Keilah changed her major and started an after-school program for high school girls and later founded a 501(c)(3) organization in 2013 called The Truth in Chaos Foundation. She also has a YouTube Ministry. Keilah is overjoyed that she will be pursuing a Master of Divinity Degree in Christian Leadership at the Columbia Theological Seminary in September 2016. She knows God has her in Atlanta for a specific purpose - to shift the culture, to shift her generation and to speak the truth with compassion and love. Words cannot express how thankful she is for receiving the J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship, as she was blessed by Dr. Pelt's ministry during the intentional time God used him on this earth.

Minister Jokeda L. Nelson:

Min. Jokeda L. Nelson is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and the youngest of three daughters to the Rev. and Mrs. Hubie J. Nelson. She received her Bachelor's in Agricultural Economics from Alcorn State University and her Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics with a concentration in Food Science from the University of Arkansas. While residing in Athens, Georgia, she accepted her call in the ministry on December 9, 2012 and was licensed by Dr. Wilson Lattimore at Chestnut Grove Baptist Church. Minister Nelson is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) - Morehouse School of Religion. Overall, her heart's desire is to be pleasing in the eyesight of God. Minister Nelson finds no greater joy than to see the Lord be manifested through the people of God. She counts it an honor and a privilege to be one of God's chosen vessels. To sum it all up in the words of Tasha Cobbs, she wants to make God smile.

Rev. Marcus Jerkins:

Rev. Marcus Jerkins is native of Atlanta, Georgia. He received his secondary education at the Science and Math Academy of the Benjamin Elijah Mays High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion from Emory University. After receiving his degree in Religion he, matriculated at Emory's Candler School



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of Theology. During his matriculation, he obtained a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology with a concentration in New Testament Studies, Classical Hebrew, and Classical Greek. He is the former Assistant Pastor of the Historic Mount Moriah Baptist Church and shared ministerial duties as an Associate Minister of East Friendship Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia and Greater Fellowship Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia. Rev. Jerkins is the former Executive Secretary of Convention Operations for the New Era Baptist Convention of Georgia. He was also the Executive Chair of the Mt. Hermon Baptist Association of Atlanta. Currently, Rev. Jerkins, his wife, Courtney, and three children, Nathaniel, Naomi and Joanna, reside in Waco, Texas, where he is pursuing his Ph.D. in Religion in the area of New Testament studies at Baylor University.

Category II - Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta Members

Bryan Nikolas Harris:

Bryan Nikolas Harris was born in Decatur, Georgia and is the youngest of four siblings. He is a recent graduate of Southwest DeKalb High School in Decatur, Georgia. He has been accepted to Gordon State College, in Barnesville, Georgia, where he will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. At an early age, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior, and he joined Liberty Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. J. Sherman Pelt. Bryan's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." He knows and understands that he must continue to let his light shine through his good works!

John Tysinger:

John Tysinger is a recent graduate of Norcross High School in Norcross, Georgia. He currently attends Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is majoring in Computer and Information Systems. He has a passion for computers and information systems and he believes the Lord has blessed him with this special gift. He is a current member of Liberty Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. John Tysinger is proud to accept the J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship as both a member of Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta and the Tysinger household.

Charlene Denise Farmer-Harris:

Charlene Denise Farmer-Harris was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. In 1991, she took a leap of faith, (Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen) and moved to Decatur, Georgia with her three small children. She always had a desire to further her education, but with so many obstacles in her way, that desire was placed on hold until 2005 when she received a Technical Certification in Business Technology/Legal Secretary Specialist from DeKalb Technical College in Covington, Georgia. After finishing the program at DeKalb Technical College, she



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THE REV. DR. J. SHERMAN

EST. 2014

Pelt Foundation



went back to school in the Fall of 2013, taking night and Saturday classes to continue her education at Georgia State University-Perimeter in Decatur, Georgia. She is currently pursuing an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. Her favorite song is "We've Come This Far by Faith."

Sean-Tyler Thomas Walton:

Sean-Tyler Thomas Walton, a native of Atlanta is the oldest child of Melvin and Tomeka Walton. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Arts at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film in Nashville, Tennessee. He was dedicated and led to Christ by the late Dr. J. Sherman Pelt and has been active in many ministries at Liberty over the years. Sean is a natural born artist who has pursued his God given talent since he was a little boy. He knows that he can do all things through Christ who empowers him!

Rev. Warren J. Brown, Sr.:

Rev. Warren Johnson Brown Sr. is the sixth child of seven children by the late Rev. Marvin and Mrs. Rosebud Brown. He is the fourth of his siblings to answer the call to the ministry. He is a recent graduate from Point University and is currently working towards a Master of Divinity Degree from Liberty University. He is currently serving as Assistant Pastor in Wedowee, Alabama under the leadership of Rev. A. J. Sims and serves on the Ministerial staff at Liberty Baptist Church as a Sunday School teacher. He is most proud of knowing that he is redeemed, washed by the blood of Jesus who has changed his whole life.



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Minister Jerrie'Me K. Wright:

Min. Jerrie'Me K. Wright is a native of Tarboro, South Carolina. He is the youngest of four siblings. He is a graduate of Columbia High School in Columbia, SC. In 2009, he received his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. After receiving his undergraduate degree in 2009, he enrolled in the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) - Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA. During his graduate career, he joined Liberty Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA under the leadership of Rev. Dr. J. Sherman Pelt. Under his pastor's leadership and guidance, Min. Wright preached his initial sermon. He graduated from ITC - Morehouse School of Religion in May 2012 with a Master of Divinity Degree. Min. Wright has been accepted to the Howard University School of Divinity, in Washington, DC, where he will pursue a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Rev. Marcus Jerkins:

Rev. Marcus Jerkins is native of Atlanta, Georgia. He received his secondary education at the Science and Math Academy of the Benjamin Elijah Mays High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion from Emory University. After receiving his degree in Religion he, matriculated at Emory's Candler School of Theology. During his matriculation, he obtained a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology with a concentration in New Testament Studies, Classical Hebrew, and Classical Greek. He is the former Assistant Pastor of the Historic Mount Moriah Baptist Church and shared ministerial duties as an Associate Minister of East Friendship Baptist Church in Athens, GA and Greater Fellowship Baptist Church in Decatur, GA. Rev. Jerkins is the former Executive Secretary of Convention Operations for the



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Ratasha J. Collier:

Ratasha Collier is a native of Barnesville, GA and is a member of Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta. As a current graduate student, she is pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work at The University of Georgia (UGA). Prior to attending UGA, Ratasha obtained a Bachelor's in Social Work from Georgia State University. Ratasha plans to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. One of Ratasha's favorite scriptures that has helped her persevere to obtain her goals is Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Rev. Barbara Mitchell:

Rev. Barbara Mitchell is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana. She has served in Christian ministry for over forty years. Rev. Mitchell is currently serving as the Teachable Moment class instructor at Liberty Baptist Church-Atlanta. She has provided Christian services in a plethora of ministries since becoming a servant of God. To enhance the utilization of her unique skills and spiritual gifts for God's kingdom work, Rev. Mitchell has attained a Bachelor of Science in Education from Henderson State University and a Master of Divinity Degree from Mercer University. She was officially ordained as a Preacher/Teacher of the Gospel at Liberty Baptist church in 2013 under the pastoral leadership of Dr. J. Sherman Pelt. Rev. Mitchell is presently pursuing a Doctorate Degree in Ministry at Mercer University-Atlanta.

Inaugural J. Sherman Pelt Scholarship Recipients 2015