

The Full Gospel Baptist Times

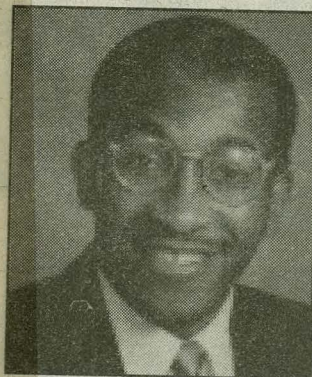
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Spirit of Truth Full Gospel Baptist Church Forms Alliance

*S staff Writer
Tennessee Bureau*



"In partnership to give young persons opportunities..."

That is how District Overseer Ronnie Collins vies his church's new alliance with Northeast State Technical Community College to provide scholarships to deserving minority students in the community.

The congregation of Spirit and Truth Full Gospel Baptist Church in Kingsport has established a scholarship fund through Joshua Generation Outreach Ministry to supplement Northeast State's Minority Grants program that awards maintenance fees and textbook stipends to qualified students. The initial Joshua fund awards, totaling more than \$4,000, were made up to nine Northeast State Students.

According to Overseer Collins, the scholarship fund is a response to negative stereotypes that persist in the black community--prejudicial stereotypes generated by both blacks and whites--that can push a young person away from seeking higher education.

"We believe that providing a child or young person with opportunities will help to counteract those bade perceptions," said Overseer Collins. "Opportunities begin with education. This fund is a wake-up call for the community--to get blacks and whites on board--to come together to do something positive."

The church has set a fundraising goal of \$15,000 for the first year to fund the scholarship program. Future scholarships will cover two semesters and will include the textbook stipends.

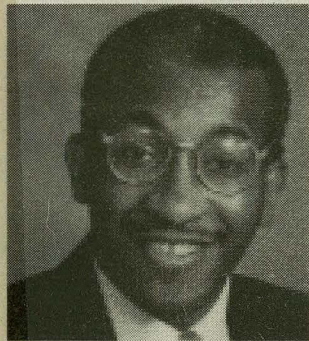
Spirit and Truth Full Gospel Baptist Church, sometimes referred to as the "smallest big church in the Tri-Cities" for its community outreach. The congregation became familiar with Northeast State through some of its members' involvement on the Northeast State Advisory Committee and by witnessing the college's dedication to providing opportunities to its students.

The church decided to establish the Joshua Fund when the college's Minority Grants program exhausted its funds with several qualified applicants remaining on the list.

Officials of Northeast State expressed their sincere appreciation for the contribution of Overseer Collins and the Joshua Generation Outreach Ministry.

TENNESSEE FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP STATE CONFERENCE '99

Staff Writer
Tennessee Bureau



District Overseer
Ronnie Collins

The Tennessee Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship hosted their Annual State Conference the week of March 29 through April 2, 1999 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Opryland Hotel. This will be the first time the conference has been held in the state capital (Nashville).

Tennessee Full Gospel Baptist Church fellowship will kicked off it's State Conference on March 29th by distributing enough food to feed a family for a week (for over 5,000 low-income persons) in one day through the "MY Brother's Keeper Program"! The groceries will consist of corn, green beans, cookies, macaroni and

cheese, juice . . . The "My Brother's Keeper Program" was founded by District Overseer Ronnie Collins of Spirit and Truth Full Gospel Baptist Church located in Kingsport, Tennessee. The "My Brother's Keeper Program" provided food to over 7,000 low-income persons in the eight county region of East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia in 1998 and has already provided food to over 1,500 low-income persons in 1999.

District Overseer Collins has challenged not only his church body and community but now the state of Tennessee to become a "My Brother's Keeper Program Partner" based on Matthew 25:42-46. It is his hope that other Full Gospel Baptist Churches and Organizations will adopt the "My Brother's Keeper Program" and spread it across the county, and eventually the world.

The Tennessee Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship is kicked off it's State Conference based upon the belief that it should not just patronize the hotels, restaurants, and malls but are called to be a blessing the people of Nashville. Those assisting in the food distribution are Tennessee Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship membership, the metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, and community volunteers.

Those interested in becoming a "MY Brother's Keeper Program partner" can send a donation of \$4 each month or a yearly donation of \$48 which will provide enough food for a family to survive the last week of each month. Surveys show that most families who receive government assistance run out of food stamps or money by the third week, leaving the family to go without until a new disbursement of funds or stamps is received at the beginning of the next month. Please send your tax deductible donation to: Spirit and Truth Full Gospel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3390, Kingsport, Tennessee