

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRINTING BULLETINS

Note: Print half as many lasers as needed since each sheet of paper has 2 bulletins.  
Printing on a light tan or cream colored paper will provide a more historical look.

***If using a printer which prints 2-sided:***

Print page 2 on the front side and page 3 on the back side—landscape (horizontal) printing.

***If using a printer which prints 1-sided:***

Print page 2, then flip paper, place back in tray and print page 3—landscape (horizontal) printing.

After printing, cut printed bulletins in half. A swing-arm cutter works best.

Bulletins are copyrighted material.

For permission to reprint any text or images, please contact:

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# CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST

## *The Preaching of the Gospel: A Baptist Tradition*

David George was among the eight founding members of Silver Bluff Baptist Church, the first African American Baptist congregation that was founded in 1774 on a plantation near Savannah, Georgia. In 1782, George and the two other preachers in the congregation went separate directions: George followed the British to Nova Scotia and founded another Baptist congregation, George Liele migrated to British-controlled Jamaica and started a church in Kingston, and Jesse Galphin moved the Savannah congregation to Augusta, Georgia.

More than eighty years would pass before African Americans gained freedom in the land of liberty, but during this time, black Baptist churches grew and prospered despite the shackles of slavery. While growing abolitionist sentiment in the North resulted in increasing congregational leadership opportunities for blacks, especially in Episcopal and Methodist churches, some of the most well-known black Baptists were southern slaves.



John Jasper

First Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, surpassed other southern biracial congregations by allowing slave members to perform funeral sermons and lead Sunday prayers. Carey Lott, who in 1821 became the first African American missionary to Africa, honed his preaching and leadership skills in Baptist churches, as did John Jasper in the decade prior to the American Civil War. Preaching revivals throughout Virginia, Jasper became one of the most successful evangelists of his day, baptizing as many as 300 people in four hours.

Following emancipation and the end of the war, African Americans formed their own congregations. Jasper formed the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church (1867), became a leader in the community of Richmond, and in 1878 first preached his most famous sermon, “Sun Do Move,” in which he sought to prove that the sun revolves around the earth. Remembered as a pioneering black Baptist and a great orator of the nineteenth century, Jasper is memorialized in William Hatcher’s 1909 volume, John Jasper, *The Unmatched Negro Philosopher and Preacher*.

Today, some of the best known Baptist preachers in America are African Americans, including Gardner C. Taylor, born in 1918 and now known as the “dean of American preaching.” Prior to his retirement in 1990, Taylor pastored Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York for forty-two years. Taylor worked alongside the late Martin Luther King Jr., perhaps the most famous Baptist preacher in history, in the struggle for Civil Rights and in the founding of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

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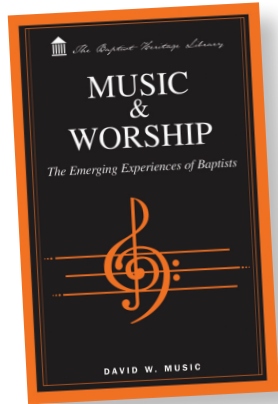
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## BAPTIST HERITAGE RESOURCES

### *Music and Worship: The Emerging Experiences of Baptists*

by David W. Music



**Special Price  
\$1.25**

**List price \$2.50**

Price good through August 31, 2009.

To order this resource,  
e-mail [BHHS@baptisthistory.org](mailto:BHHS@baptisthistory.org)  
or call 678-547-6095.

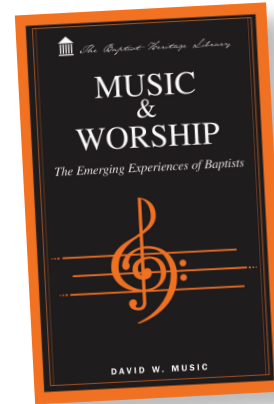
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The Baptist History and Heritage Society publishes a journal, *Baptist History and Heritage*, and newsletter, *Baptist Heritage Update*. The Society also has an informative website, which features an on-line resource catalog, a membership application, and a new series of articles titled "History Speaks to Hard Questions Baptists Ask." For more information, visit [www.baptisthistory.org](http://www.baptisthistory.org).

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**The Center for  
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Mercer University

This bulletin insert is the eighth of twelve to be provided monthly during 2009 by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies. The article was written by Bruce T. Gourley, interim director of The Center for Baptist Studies, Mercer University.

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