

**Welcome to the 2022**

**J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest**

**2019 – 2022**

**JAMES F. WERTZ**

**OFFICIAL ORATORICAL TOPICS**

**DIVISION I: PREPARATORY (GRADES 6-8),**

**THE POWER OF LOVE**

**WHY JESUS CAME**

**THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

**DIVISION II JUNIOR (GRADES 9 - 11)**

**THE POWER OF A GODLY TESTIMONY**

**STRONG FAITH-STRONG FINISH**

**DIVISION III: SENIOR (GRADE 12)**

**GLEAM"**

**God Lit Everything Around Me**

**Psalm 119: 105 NKJV**

**Gaston County Missionary Baptist Association Oratorical Contest  
Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:00 AM  
Friendship Christian Church  
211 W. Bradley Street  
Gastonia, NC  
Bishop John A. McCullough, II  
Pastor**

**James F. Wertz Oratorical and Conference 2022  
Saturday, June 28, 2022  
First Baptist Church  
700 North Highland Ave.  
Winston Salem, NC**

## **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The term oratory is defined as the art of public speaking; expressiveness or skill in making speeches to the public; or public speaking marked by the use of a forceful vocabulary.

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest is divided into the following three stages for contestants; (1)-your local church selects the highest place winner - one from each division; (2) the winners from the churches proceed to their District or Associational level, where the highest place winners are selected - one from each division; and (3) the winners from the District or Associational level for Division I: Preparatory, Division II: Junior and Division III: Senior proceed to the State level where the winning contestants are honored. In addition to the Senior first place winner being honored at the State level, he/she will then proceed to compete in the National level.

### **CONTESTANTS AFFLIATION:**

1. Contestants who compete on the State level are representatives of the Associations, **NOT** their local churches; therefore, all contestants must be affiliated with an Association.
2. Each Association is allowed one representative for each division: Preparatory, Junior, and Senior.

All contest must be a member in "good standing" in their local church, as well as in their Districts/Associations. The Congress representative fees for each association is \$400.00. The Congress asks that the representation fee be paid by June 2022. (Keep in mind that a portion of the assessment fee of \$400.00 for churches and associations is used to fund the Oratorical participants monetary awards, trophies and National Congress Expenses). Thank you for your cooperation with this financial matter.

### **QUALFICATION FOR CONTESTANTS**

1. The oratorical contest is open to all young people in grades 6 to 12 in the year that the contest is being held. Example: a contestant must be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade as of July 1, 2022. Junior division must be entering grade 9 as of July 1, 2022. Seniors who will graduate from High School as of July 1, 2022 are not eligible to participate. The senior must graduate June 2023.
2. The contestant must prepare a speech on one of the official topics from their division.
3. Students entering the contest that have been called into Ministry may participate with the understanding that their speeches must be an oration, not a sermon or sermonette.
4. ALL SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED.