



October 13, 2009

Shalom to you, my friend!

Here is the latest information for those attending the National Shalom Summit, October 28-31, in Columbia, SC.

Online registration ended on Oct 14, but we will have a late registration table set up at the Summit for daily registrants.

We reached our goal of 250 registrants! This include 30 *Youth for Shalom*, 15 Community Developers Associates, and 10 program presenters and resource persons. Together, we will focus on the theme of *"Stepping Up To Shalom" – Seeking Systemic Change through Community Development.*

A complimentary hotel shuttle is available for the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center for those with advance reservations www.radisson.com/columbia, phone 803-731-0300, fax 803-731-4892. Our local host committee also will be at the Columbia airport to greet Shalom ministers with the sign **"Welcome Shalom Summit"**. Vans will be available to take you to the Radisson.

An informal gathering and networking time on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm in Ballroom A, is planned by the local host committee. *Quiet Storm*, an excellent jazz trio, and *Mike Goodman*, a popular comedian, will help us start the Summit with some fun and relaxation. Although dinner is on your own, light snacks and soft drinks will be available in the Ballroom.

The planning committee has worked hard to design two worship services, three networking opportunities, four general sessions, and stepping up workshops. The Opening Plenary will begin at 9:30am on Thursday morning. Following greetings from Mayor Bob Coble, Bishops, local leaders and special guests, the Opening Worship service will commence with Bishop Gregory Palmer preaching. The Summit will end on Saturday at 12:30pm after the closing worship with Bishop John Schol preaching and commissioning ministers of Shalom. The Campaign for Shalom will be referenced and a pledge offering taken during the service.

The full program schedule is attached to this welcome letter and posted on the Shalom website: www.communitiesofshalom.org <http://communitiesofshalom.org/summit.html>

We've added to the program brief remarks by Tanya Bennett and Jayda Jacques of *Nine Strong Women*—a new shalom team featured in the Sundance documentary "Brick City" about the Mayor's war on drugs and gang violence in Newark, produced by Forest Whitaker. We will show a 10 minute clip of

this highly acclaimed series on Thursday night after the keynote address by Bishop Joseph Sprague.
<http://www.sundancechannel.com/brick-city/> (The group starts their Shalom Training on Saturday).

Special exhibits and display tables featuring Shalom sites, products, and resources will be in Ballroom B, beginning Thursday morning. Each Conference or Regional Center has been offered a display table to showcase the Shalom sites and opportunities for ministry in their area.

The Shalom Host Committee and the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center staffs are eager to welcome participants to Columbia. Many of you will be attending, and I look forward to seeing you and/or your representatives at the end of the month.

Personally, I am very excited about this National Summit. There seems to be much attention and momentum. I hope this encourages your heart as well.

Shalom/Salaam/Peace,

Michael J. Christensen, Ph.D.
National Director, Communities of Shalom Initiative