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## Spotlight on Que: Brother Quintin Antonio Baxter

By Jeffrey T. Smith

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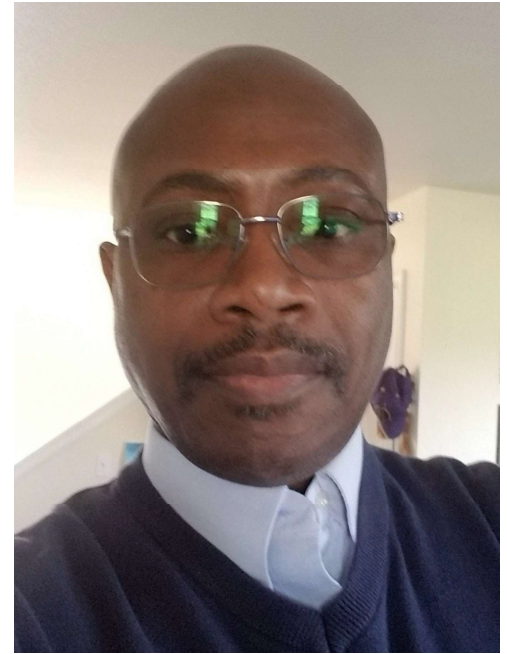
Brother Baxter is a spiritual and spirited man with well-defined qualities of charisma, humor, forthrightness, courage, and compassion. Baxter is imbued with a desire to help people regardless of their station in life; it's a gift he has had since growing up as a preacher's kid in South Carolina. Brother Baxter served honorably in the United States Navy, traveling to countries in Europe, England, Canada, the Caribbean, and North Africa. He lives nobly as an Omega Man, upholding the four cardinal principles on a daily basis to the benefit of others and demonstrates the fraternity's motto to enrich those he encounters. Here is a brief segment of Brother Baxter's story.

Brother Baxter was born and raised in Orangeburg, SC and oldest of four children with two brothers (Maurice and James) and one sister (Gwendolyn). Baxter's father, Reverend Willie James Baxter, was a Presiding Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and his dear mother, Sara J. Baxter was a homemaker; both parents are deceased. His father was a pilot and Baxter would often fly with him as a young boy. Baxter was active in high school, participating in sports and band; he played football (defensive back), wrestling (126 pounds), and marching band (head drummer). He was also a paid student bus driver in high school. Brother Baxter received a scholarship in music from South Carolina State University and was a member of the Marching 101 Band for two years.

Brother Baxter was initiated into the Lambda Sigma Chapter, Claflin University, SC on February 28, 2003 as 'Old Dawg' or number eight on a line of 19. In Denver, Baxter serves as the chapter's Keeper of Peace and he has supported the following committees and activities of Chi Phi: Golf Tournament; Voter Registration; Downing Street Clean-up; Paint-a-Thon; Memorial Service, Christmas Toy Drive, MLK Parade, Chapter BBQ, Achievement Week, and he is Membership Selection Program certified. Baxter has attended district meetings and Grand Conclaves. His aspiration for Chi Phi is for the chapter to become a larger entity within the city of Denver, a visual force of professional men providing hope and uplift to the underserved as well as those in need and support of self-determination or controlling their own lives.

Brother Baxter graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a minor in Criminal Justice, 2003. Baxter is currently enrolled and one class shy of completing a MBA from Claflin University. In 2004 while enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh's Masters of Social Work program, Brother Baxter survived a near fatal accident in which he was hit by an automobile while walking down the street to grab something to eat. He never saw the car that hit him, waking up two weeks later in the ICU on a ventilator. The attending physicians called Baxter a 'Miracle Patient' because of the two months ICU with a brain injury, right femur broken in four places, right shoulder rotator cuff, and a metal rod from his knee to the hip. He would spend another two months in rehab. Baxter's father would fly in every three months for two weeks to support him; Omega men would provide additional support to Baxter and his dad during visits. Incidentally, Brother Chip Boykin's prophyte, the late Brother Art Butler, helped Baxter mostly through presence and encouragement. Today, Baxter still has some memory challenges and other lingering effects of the accident including post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); he strives to live stress free, keeping life simple as much as possible.

Brother Baxter is a veteran with 14 years of service in the United States Navy attaining the rank of Petty Officer Second Class. He served in the following commands and ships: USS Briscoe DD 977, USS Mount Whitney LLC 20, Commander in Chief United States Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT); Commander Second Fleet (COMSECONDFLT); Commander Submarine Base Kings Bay Georgia. Baxter's naval work assignments included: CMS Custodian, Service Record Vault Supervisor; Security Vault Supervisor; Operations Yeoman Supervisor; and, Lead Yeoman Independent Duty. He had an opportunity to travels to countries and the cities therein as listed: Bahamas; Belgium (Antwerp);; Canada (New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Nova Scotia); Cuba (Guantanamo Bay); Germany (Keel); England (Bath, London, Poole & Portsmouth); France (Brest, Cannes, French Alps, Monaco, Nice & Toulon); Haiti; Italy (Island of Capri, Naples & Sigonella); Ireland (Cobh & Cork); Netherlands



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(Amsterdam & Den Helder); North Africa (Morocco & Tunisia); Norway (Bergen, Trondheim & Stavanger); Portugal (Azores & Lisbon); Puerto Rico; Spain (Palma de Mallorca & Rota); and, US Virgin Islands (Christiansted, St. Croix & St. Thomas). Brother Baxter received a number of military awards and ribbons. They are: Armed Serviced Achievement Medal; Joint Service Achievement Medal (2 awards); Navy Achievement Medal; Navy Sea Service Ribbon (6 Stars); National Defense Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; and, Navy Good Conduct Medal (3 awards).

Brother Baxter has had a variety of professional jobs and occupations throughout his career: They are:

- **Community Liaison Specialist**, Rite of Passage, Watkin, CO; supports youth offenders with communications, mindset and behavior changes
- **Contact Representative**, Department of Veterans Affairs, Denver, CO; examined, developed, and evaluated relevant documentation related to the applications submitted for determination of claims
- **Sales Representative**, Orangeburg Automotive, Orangeburg, SC; advised customers regarding payment options and remained abreast of changes in pricing, leasing programs, different incentives, campaigns and tradeshow
- **Juvenile Correctional Officer**, Department of Juvenile Justice, Columbia, SC; provided care, custody, counseling, and control of juveniles, as well as exercised safety and security measures in an institutional setting
- **Case Manager**, Aiken Barnwell Community Action Commission, Barnwell, SC; registered and initiated participants into appropriate training activities, and developed work sites with the public and private sectors to match job interests of participants
- **Claims Examiner (GS6)**, CHAMPVA, Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Denver, CO; supported claims processing for eligible beneficiaries
- **Claims Security Examiner (CTE) (GS7)**, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, MD; developed, analyzed, adjudicated, authorized, and reconsidered difficult and complex claims for benefits made by claimants
- **Substitute Teacher (Arlington Elementary #234)**, Baltimore Public School System, Baltimore, MD; worked cooperatively with teachers, carried out lesson plans, and provided classroom management
- **Claims Assistant (WJB DORN Hospital)**, Veterans Administration, Columbia, SC; provided general administrative and customer service support to claims team members to facilitate efficient claims management
- **Youth Counselor**, Sheraden Presbyterian Community Church Youth Program, Pittsburgh, PA; developed and presented appropriate group activities daily introducing youth to academic and social experiences; also provided leadership and morale booster techniques within the camp
- **Teacher Assistant** (Howard Middle School), Orangeburg Consolidated School, District Five, Orangeburg, SC; worked with small groups of students reinforcing material along with enhancing communication skills, group skills, and social values

Brother Baxter is a member of the AME church however he does not have a home church in the Denver area. He enjoys golf, fishing, reading non-fiction books, listening to acoustic jazz instrumental music and traveling. Baxter has several aspirational endeavors: To pilot a plane, learning the intricacies of take offs, landings, and flying to a specific destination; to become a public/professional speaker; completing his MBA degree; and, to Scuba dive but not very deep. Brother Baxter has a commanding voice that elicits respect yet his common touch offers support. He has been blessed with a powerful testimony of living through adversity which will surely assist others in similar circumstances. May God continue to bless Brother Baxter and direct his paths accordingly.