



Life Changing Faith's **“The drive behind the dream of Martin Luther King”** **Oratorical Contest Rules 2014**

The paramount purpose of the Oratorical Contest is to foster, promote, and reward the study/ understanding of the drive behind the dream of Martin Luther King and his impact on American history. The Contest is intended to inspire high school seniors to employ critical thinking skills to cast new light on the drive necessary to impact historical change.

Eligibility – Contestants must be enrolled as a senior in a Frisco, Little Elm, McKinney, or Plano public high school, accredited private high school in one of these districts, or State-approved home school in one of these districts and be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

Application –Essays must be received not later than 5:00pm on Thursday, December 12, 2013. Completed applications may be hand delivered by appointment to Life Changing Faith 7185 W. Main Street Frisco, TX or emailed to angelia_pelham@tx.rr.com. For appointment deliveries, please call Barbara Washington in the church office at 214-387-8040. Any Contestant who wishes to withdraw from the Contest should notify Life Changing Faith at (214) 387-8040 before Friday, January 06, 2014.

Scholarships – Life Changing Faith awards Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 for First Place and \$1,000 for Second Place. The Scholarships are to be used to pursue education beyond high school at any accredited college or university in the United States. Funds will be disbursed for tuition or any other bona fide educational expense upon graduation and after providing proof of college acceptance.

The Primary Oration – All contestants will deliver a prepared oration described as follows:

- a. Topic – The Oration must be on “The drive behind the dream of Martin Luther King”.
- b. Length – The Oration must be a minimum of six minutes and may not exceed eight minutes. Should a Contestant speak less than six minutes or more than eight minutes, he/she will be assessed a penalty of one point for each minute his/her Oration is over or under the allotted time. In an effort to help Contestants stay within the time limit a one minute warning will be given, denoted by a red light, at the seven minute mark. Once a Contestant exceeds eight minutes the light will be turned off and a penalty will be applied. In addition should the Contestant fail to speak on the topic he/she will be assessed a penalty of up to ten points.

Originality – All Orations must be the original work of the Contestant and based on the preliminary essay submission. Quotations of more than 10 words must be attributed to the original author. Should the Contest Chair determine after the Contest that a Contestant awarded a Scholarship committed a substantial act of plagiarism that Contestant's Scholarship shall be rescinded and adjustments will be made in the placement of and Scholarships awarded to affected



Contestants. What constitutes a substantial act of plagiarism will be determined in the sole discretion of the Contest Chair and such determination shall be final.

Aids Not Permitted in Oration – Contestants may not use audio/visual aids, electronic devices, or props and may not be prompted during any Oration. Contestants may utilize the speaker's stand and microphone that will be provided.

Review of Notes During Orations – Contestants may refer to their own written materials prior and during an Oration. Contestants may not be in possession of any electronic device at the Contest venue.

Rules Interpretation – Questions as to the meaning, application, or interpretation of the Contest Rules should be directed to the Contest Chair. Any questions as to the application or interpretation of the Contest Rules that may arise on the day of the Contest shall be resolved by the Contest Chair and such resolutions shall be final.

Judges – Life Changing Faith goes to great effort to ensure that all Judges are impartial and knowledgeable about the relevant topic. All Preliminary Round will be judged by at least three Judges. The Final Contest will be judged by a minimum of five judges. Judges shall render their final decisions independently of one another and without consulting with other Judges or any other person. The decision of the Judges as certified by the contest chair is final.

Tabulations – The Contest Chair will appoint Tabulators whose responsibility it will be to review the Judges' Official Score Cards to be certain they are fully tabulated and signed before being submitted for final Tabulation. Judges' Official Score Cards will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the Contest. Judges' Official Score Cards become the property of Life Changing Faith.

Contestants with Special Needs – Contestants with special dietary requirements or individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the contest chair at angelia_pelham@tx.rr.com well in advance of the contest date so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Appearance – Contestants should be neat and well groomed and attired so as to demonstrate respect for the Judges, the audience, the subject matter, and the proceedings. Formal business attire is appropriate, but not required. Business casual attire is acceptable. Uniforms and clothing bearing the insignia of any entity or organization are not permitted. Contestants should be mindful that clothing, hairstyles, cosmetics, or jewelry that distracts listeners from a Contestant's message may have the unintended effect of reducing the contestant's score.