



The Compassion & Care Connection

JANUARY 2016, Vol. 39 No. 1

Dr. Jerry Young, President, National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated (NBC USA, Inc.)

“ENVISIONING THE FUTURE EXCEPTIONALLY”

A Publication of the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated

Dr. Jerry Young, President, NBC, USA, Inc.

Rev. Leonard O. Griffin, Chairman, HMB

Rev. Gilbert Pickett, Sr., Executive Secretary, HMB



MID-WINTER BOARD MEETING
Birmingham, AL - January 10 - 14, 2016

ENVISIONING EXCELLENCE IN COMPASSION FOR THE HURTING



South Carolina Flood



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Greetings from Our Chairman



Home Mission Board Mission Statement

To promote Home Mission Ministry in partnership with the constituency of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. throughout the United States, Virgin Islands and Overseas U. S. Military related Ministries.

Home Mission Board Goal

To spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and advance the Kingdom of God in **Envisioning the Future Exceptionally in Caring and Sharing the Master's Mercy and Might.**

Home Mission Board Vision Statement

The Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. seeks to witness to the Mercy and Might of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God. We fulfill the vision through biblical messages, ministry and mission education. In keeping with our Master's Mercy and Might, we believe that Jesus Christ's ministry was restorative, reconciling, and redemptive by nature. This three-fold ministry is therefore holistic, dealing with every facet of human life. Our priorities for holistic ministry include the following foci: spiritual, mental, physical, social, finance and the environment. Only by addressing human life holistically can we be faithful in empowering others to realize the abundant life for which Jesus Christ died and arose.

We partner with the constituency of the National Baptist Convention, its State Presidents, District Moderators, Pastors, and other clergy to provide relevant resources. These resources are designed to assist in the establishment, and/or development of Home Mission Ministry in cooperation with churches across local, global, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic territories.



Rev. Leonard O. Griffin

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Ghost our Comforter, Teacher, and Guide! I thank God for the opportunity to participate in the work of the Lord through our National Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board (HMB). I again stand firm believing that we are the recipients of a tremendous testimony and testament of what God has done in and through The Home Mission Board! We remain resolved in standing on the outstandingly strong shoulders that paved the way for us, such as our past Executive Secretaries and Chairmen of The Board! We salute some of them, namely: Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart, Rev. Dr. Charles Mock, and Rev. Dr. Gilbert Pickett.

I believe we also owe a tremendous amount of appreciation and gratitude to Administrative Assistant Ms. Florence Jean Wright. Without her steadfast, fervent, faithful, dedicated, and excellent efforts much of our work would linger and lag behind! Sister Wright deserves praise and accommodation for her stalwart efforts! Please join me in encouraging and appreciating her!

We also give kudos to our Treasurer, Pastor Shawn L. Buckhanan for keeping us fully apprised of our stewardship of financial resources. We give thanksgiving to all of the present and past HMB Board members!

As we turn this corner in history, I believe that God is calling the HMB, under the vision and leadership of the Parent Body led by our vigorous and visionary President, Rev. Dr. Jerry Young, to carry the compassion of our Christ! We serve to answer the call to carry the compassion and care of our Christ to the vulnerable and needy around us. In Matthew 25:31-46, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are tasked with being a portion of the manifestation of Christ's compassion. Through our

heads, hands, and hearts, Christ reaches the lost, the unsaved, the homeless, the hurting, and the helpless! Like the advent and arrival of Jesus fulfilled a manifestation of *“the Word made flesh”*, we, through the HMB, strive to make the compassion, concern and care of Christ, flesh to those whose lives have been impacted by poverty, problems, pains, and predicaments beyond their controls!

A wise colleague, Pastor Aaron Brown of Unity Baptist Church, Eutawville, SC once said, *“God calls us to loving service.”* By this, Pastor Brown seems to say that our love, like God’s love, must be active, not static! The HMB has always intended to and labored to reveal the love, mercy, and peace of God. We will continue this great legacy of making the Word of God become flesh by actively spreading the love of God with compassion and care!

Throughout my life and Pastoral career, I have heard the expression — *“I would rather see a great sermon than hear a great sermon.”* While preaching is a vital aspect of Gospel work, when worship and preaching are completed, the sick, the homeless, the imprisoned, the downtrodden, and the recipients of injustice among us still need to know that our God is real beyond the walls of our splendid sanctuaries and Annual Sessions of the NBC, USA, Inc.!

Since our Annual Session in September, much has transpired in the world and on the soil of these United States! Among the many tragedies and turmoil that turned our stomachs sour, our HMB has been fighting the fight of faith to address those concerns that have been brought to our attention. Executive Secretary Dr. Pickett and I have both been in constant dialogue with President Dr. Jerry Young and the Office of Disaster Management through Rev. Dr. Joe Albert Bush. Such support resulted in a relevant, real, and reasonable response to *“The 1,000-year rain event”* that caused the historic flooding that paralyzed much of the coastal and midlands regions of South Carolina!

The Office of Disaster Management, on behalf of the NBC, USA, Inc. established a partnership with the American Red Cross (ARC) to channel relief and recovery resources to areas of need in several counties in SC! Supplies for feeding, clothing, and sheltering displaced families were provided by the ARC to several sites in some of the hardest hit areas namely: Clarendon County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Richland County, and Williamsburg County. Throughout the state of SC, coordinating the mission efforts was a

tremendous challenge! If not for the efforts of the President of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina (BEMC of SC), Rev. Dr. James Blessingame and the SC Home Mission Coordinator Rev. Samuel Fulmore, chaos would have prevented much-needed resources from being used and made ineffective in helping the hurting people of South Carolina. Through conference calls that included representation from The HMB, Office of Disaster Management, ARC, BEMC of SC, and local politicians, coordinated efforts were planned and executed.

The HMB had a direct impact on fewer than three hundred (300) churches, individuals, and families through the Morris Street Baptist Church, Reverend Leonard O. Griffin, Pastor, which served as a Distribution Site. With the resources provided by the ARC partnership and other church and private donations, churches, individuals, and families received some of the following: bottles of bleach, buckets and mops, plastic tarps, leather work gloves, gifts cards of varying amounts up to \$40.00, chemical drying agents, hand sanitizers, clothing items, meals, diapers, and assistance with communicating with federal, state, and local agencies for governmental assistance!

The Recovery phase of the historic flooding event will be a long one. Entire Apartment Complexes were destroyed and/or significantly damaged! Residences were washed away from their foundations and/or flooded or became dangerously overrun with black mold! Businesses, roads, bridges, and even caskets were washed away in the wake of the powerful movement of the water! Many houses of worship could not open their doors for worship on Sunday, October 4, 2015! Many churches, including Morris Street Baptist, suffered some minimal damage like small intrusion of water up to damages to their respective roofs. Therefore, ongoing, committed, and sustained efforts are paramount!!

During the Annual Session of the Charleston County Missionary Baptist Association, Executive Secretary Dr. Gilbert Pickett visited and preached a dynamic sermon entitled: *“What to Expect If You Ever Expect to Be Used by God”* using Isaiah 6:1-8 as a sermon text. This sermon and Dr. Pickett were a tremendous blessing to our Association and enlightened those in attendance. The HMB was well represented. Moderator Dr. William A. Salley pledged continued financial support of the HMB!

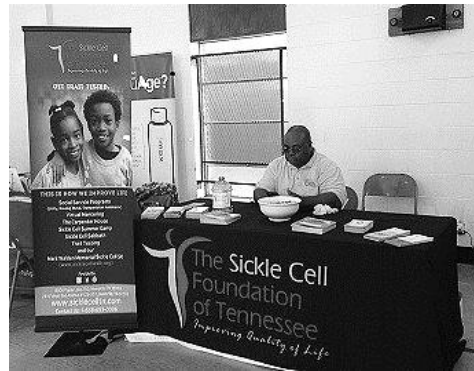
Permit me to take a few moments here to comment on the continued slaughter of the innocent through gun violence! Gary Smith is a concerned citizen of SC! He and many others are part of the effort to challenge municipalities to enforce stiffer penalties for those who exact pain on and slaughter of innocent citizens through gun violence! A grass-roots organization of a broad cross-section of the Charleston community and vicinity has formed. With this mission statement: "Galvanized by the Emanuel AME tragedy, we are an independent, grassroots group of South Carolinians working hard to close the gaps in laws that make it too easy for guns to fall into the wrong hands — while supporting the Second Amendment right of citizens to lawfully own guns," GUN SENSE SC seeks to partner with all who are concerned about the senseless violence that is plaguing every American community!

As a Pastor in the Charleston community, I joined forces with this effort and will support "Gun Sense Sunday" on Sunday, January 20, 2016 by discussing with our congregation the need for every voter to participate in the election process, by preaching a message around the need for peace in the world and around the need for prevention of guns being easily obtainable by the wrong people, and by supporting the efforts and mission of Gun Sense SC. At present, over fifty (50) or more Pastors, Religious, and Civic Leaders have pledged support of "Gun Sense Sunday!" Too many innocent citizens have been gunned down through the use of assault and automatic weapons. Such weapons are to be used by the military but are now too easily available to those with ill intentions!

On Tuesday, November 9 and Wednesday, November 10, I was privileged to represent the HMB to speak to the delegates of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina regarding the missionary efforts of the HMB and to share any updates on the progress being made with restoring the community following the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church shooting and following the flooding. President Rev. Dr. Nilous Avery, Officers, and Convention delegates received me well and pledged to support the efforts of the HMB in the future.

On Friday, December 4, at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church, I participated in "A Service of Remembrance" at the conclusion of a full day of panel discussions and presentations around a theme of "Moving From Crisis to Action: A Public Health Approach to Reducing Gun Violence" sponsored by a collaboration of The College of Charleston, Medical University of SC, Charleston Police

Department, and others. "The conference was hosted by Emanuel AME Church and featured public health, medical and legal experts, faith leaders, lawmakers and law enforcement officials." These panel discussions



centered upon recommendations for stemming the tide of heinous killing and violence that is consistently occurring across the country.

Finally, I zealously and ardently seek the continued financial support of our HMB by Pastors, individual members of congregations, churches, and those who share our values and support our mission to carry the compassion of our Christ. Without your donations, we would not be positively positioned to participate in the purposes of our God! Please consider giving a little extra if you are already a supporter. We hope and pray that you will decide to support this work so that God continues to use the HMB in Kingdom Building by Carrying the Compassion of our Christ!



Rev. Leonard O. Griffin, Chair
Home Mission Board
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
Morris Street Baptist Church
25 Morris Street
Charleston, SC 29403
843.697.1608 – Cell
pastorlog@gmail.com
January 7, 2016

Greetings from the Executive Secretary



Rev. Gilbert Pickett, Sr.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! To our esteemed President, Dr. Jerry Young, General Secretary, Dr. Calvin McKinney, and the entire Parent Body cabinet. Happy New Year to the delegates of our great convention.

As we embark upon not only a new year, but also a new administration under the leadership of President Young, I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead of us. 2015 gave the HMB the opportunity to show our convention our commitment to being one of the outreach arms of our great body of believers. Though we can celebrate our accomplishments of 2015, namely: the fundraising rally and worship service in Detroit; the Mission Day project in Memphis and the numerous Pastors, churches and community organizations that we have assisted, we are moving forward with great expectation as it is time to ***Envision the Future Exceptionally!***

Mission Day Family Fun Fest 2015 Memphis

The Home Mission Board (HMB) once again has invaded the urban center of one of the major cities in America – Memphis, TN. At the Greater Middle Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. William McKinley Jackson, Pastor, the community outreach project included a cookout that fed over 300 people; clothing giveaways, medical screenings, free haircuts; gospel singing and much, much more. Many thanks to Pastor Jackson and the great people of Greater Middle Baptist Church. Thank you also to the people of the Mount Horeb Baptist Church of Corona, NY where I pastor, who came to help and serve alongside the dedicated Home Mission Board members.

Our experience in Memphis also afforded the opportunity to present two (2) of God's finest pastor/preachers that have major ministries in the Memphis

area. A special thanks to Rev. Dr. Frank E. Ray, Sr., Pastor, New Salem Baptist Church, Memphis who was our rally worship service preacher and Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Orr, Pastor, Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Southaven, MS who was our keynote preacher for the annual HMB Awards Luncheon. These two Men of God were used by God in an awesome way by preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Once again I say thank you.

While in Memphis, we also had the opportunity to recognize the work, love and passion of Rev. Dr. Eugene Henson, Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Memphis and Memphis Area Field Worker. Thank you Pastor Henson for the years of service and commitment you have given to our Board. To God be the glory for the great things He continues to do through you.

Where Do We Go From Here?

As we are excited about the possibilities that 2016 will bring about, we are looking forward to Tampa, FL in June and Kansas City, MO in September. We want and need your support financially so that the HMB can continue to do the needed mission minded work. Sowing into the work and ministry of the HMB is sowing into "good ground." Please consider making the HMB a part of your annual budget. Please consider becoming a contributor of our work.

I'm Grateful for the Opportunity to Serve

2015 afforded me to travel near and far for the cause of mission awareness. I was able to represent our board with preaching and presentation opportunities at: Bethel Baptist Church, St. Thomas USVI, Rev. Dr. Bentley Thomas, Pastor; Charleston County Missionary Baptist Association, North Charleston, SC, Rev. Dr. William A. Salley, Moderator; Thessalonian Worship Center (Baptist), Bronx, NY, Rev. Dr. Malobe Sampson, Pastor; Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem, NY, Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, Pastor, and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Dr. Donald D. Moore, Pastor just to name a few. I want to thank these Pastors, congregations, Moderators and District Associations for not only supporting us financially, but also believing in our work and efforts.

An Encouraging Word for 2016

In *Ephesians 4:1-3*, the Apostle Paul gives us an encouraging word to apply to our lives as we strive to be about our Heavenly Fathers business in the area of missions and outreach. Paul talks about how we should: **Act** – ¹*walk worthy of the calling with which you were called* **React** – ²*with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.*

Interact – ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

How we **Act, React** and **Interact** becomes a reflection of not just who we are, but also whose we are. It is imperative that we seek to become living epistles of the Word of God not just based upon our love of God, but also our love for the people of God. I've heard it stated on many occasions that *"people may not read the Bible but they will read you"*. Let us be conscious of the need to ensure that our conduct and behavior represents that of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The challenge is not our conduct and behavior after the *invocation* on Sundays, but rather after the *benediction*. There are many in this world who are lost and left out, and they are standing in the need of mature Christians to shed light on their dark circumstances. We can never be the mission minded workers that we need to be if we don't live up to the challenge and mandate of the Church to be ambassadors of Christ. We must seek to have a heart of love and compassion for all.

Once again it becomes our goal to:

- Follow the vision of our convention president, Dr. Jerry Young that he will institute for the work of the HMB.
- Continue to raise the necessary and needed funds to do the work of our board.
- Raise the awareness of the history and purpose of the HMB.
- Establish relationships with Regional Vice-Presidents and State Presidents in order to gain full support of said work.
- Encourage and support the work of our field workers, regional coordinators and board members in their local area and district associations pertaining to rallies as well as financial assistance to those who are in need.
- Continue to build upon the great reputation of the areas of outreach and assistance that we have done in the past. Namely, the Virgin Island Missions, Student Internship program and being second responders to the work of the Disaster Management Office, just to name a few.
- Work in a spirit of cooperation with other auxiliaries of our great convention in the areas of outreach, evangelism and social justice.

In closing, I am excited about the challenges that are in front of us. The men and woman, pastors and laity of the HMB are some of the most dedicated people that God could ever create. I thank God for their love and passion for this work and their commitment to lifting up the blood stained banner of Jesus Christ and our convention. We solicit your earnest prayers and financial support.

A Historic Global Invitation for Solidarity with People of African Descent



By Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith

On December 23, 2013, the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly proclaimed 2015-2024 as the **International Decade for People of African Descent** with the theme *"People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development."* At the center of this initiative is the promotion and protection of all human rights of people of African descent, the improvement of their well-being, and the recognition of their culture, history, and contribution to societies.

While this global invitation from the United Nations is most welcomed, people of African descent have been seeking promotion and protection of their human rights for many centuries. Take, for example, the slave revolts led by people of African descent in places like Charleston, S.C., where the martyred nine saints of Mother Bethel Church were fatally attacked this year. Also the uprisings of African slaves on slave ships during the trans-Atlantic slave trade and during Reconstruction, when African-Americans made significant political and economic gains after the Emancipation Proclamation, which were later pushed back by Jim Crow laws. In recent times, the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter movements are also examples. In each case, the faith of people of African descent and their youth have played important roles.

So what is the significance of the U.N.'s commemoration? Although the U.N. has historically been committed to human rights, the decade invites a specific, unified approach of solidarity within the African diaspora

and nation states where people of African descent are the majority, where they are not the majority, and where they do not reside. This includes wealthier nations, rising, developing countries, and poor countries that support the U.N. resolution. The decade is also aligned with the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address matters of equality.

Visit sustainabledevelopment.un.org/ to learn more.

Recently I was at the launch of the commemoration in the U.S. The event was titled *“Confronting the Silence: Perspectives and Dialogue on Structural Racism against People of African Descent Worldwide.”* Marlysa Thomas, the new Bread for the World Domestic Advisor for Policy and Programs, Specific Populations, was also there. She summarized the most prominent themes of the commemoration: **1)** the declaration that Black lives matter is a critically important assertion worldwide; **2)** engaging governments on the local, state, and national levels is crucial to seeking reform; **3)** racial profiling is a problem that plagues all societies globally; **4)** colorism is an issue that must be acknowledged in this initiative; and **5)** progress on de-racialization is possible and has already been made in different areas of the world.

In summation, the decade calls for global solidarity with specific issues that most affect people of African descent but that also link to effectively addressing universal issues such as hunger and poverty, lack of fair trade opportunities, full employment, inadequate resources to empower small holders of land, and lack of voice and participation. Bread for the World is committed to addressing these related issues that link to ending hunger. We invite you to join us at this momentous time.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is the National Senior Associate for Pan African Church Engagement for Bread for the World.

A Word of Thanks



William R. Boone D.Min.

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Helen and I would like to thank you for recognizing our contributions to our Home Mission Board over the past 21 years during our annual gathering in Memphis. I greatly appreciated Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. with his initial warm reception back in 1994. It has also been great serving with Reverends Charles E. Mock and Gilbert Picket Sr. Each of these men served as Chairpersons and Executive Directors.

Finally, I am also grateful for our new Chair, Reverend Leonard O. Griffin, Sis. Florence Jean Wright, our great Administrative Assistant, all current and former Ministry members and the great Midwest Regional Ministry Team of Dr. Bernard Lee, Reverend Roy Terry, Sister Wilma Jean Byrd and Sis. Mary Elizabeth Williams. My friend Dr. Claudia Flowers always talks about “it takes teamwork to make a dream work.”

Our “teamwork” has been reflected in our quarterly publication throughout the years. The Connection focus in the 90’s was on **Emancipation and Evangelism**. The focus until this publication has been **Mercy and Might**. Today we reaffirm our commitment to our National theme **“Envisioning the Future Exceptionally”** by authentically **caring** and being **compassionate**.

Thanks for allowing us to be a team member.

You are the greatest because you are not afraid to serve unselfishly.

Yours In Christ
William R. Boone, D.Min.

Rocking and Rolling Against Hunger: For Our Children's Sake



Rev. Charles E. Mock

In our celebration of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.'s wealthy, global contributions there are many areas of his legacy one can accentuate. One of the areas President Jerry Young and the Home Mission Board are accentuating is Hunger.

In an age of partnership ministry and outreach, an age in which there is an ever-growing insensitivity to domestic needs such as hunger, we are blessed to have key people in strategic places. In the field of business we know that location matters. President Young, Executive Secretary, Rev. Gilbert Pickett, Rev. Leonard O. Griffin and Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith are such persons.

Our National Baptist Convention, U.S.A, Inc. President, Jerry Young and President Ronnie Floyd of the Southern Baptist Convention in a recent interview by CNN agreed with a quote by Ronald Reagan who stated *"all great change in America begins at the dinner table."* To this agreement Presidents Young and Floyd added, *"great change can't happen unless someone sets the table for tough conversations. That's where the pulpit comes in."*

All great change begins with conversation-toward-action. Conversation without the intentionality to act is like rocking in a wonderful rocking chair: it gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere. Thank God the Home Mission Board is not just rocking, we are rolling?

We are rolling with the NBC, USA, Inc. Office of Disaster Management; rolling with the American Red Cross (ARC), as Chairman Griffin stated, *"to channel relief and recovery resources to areas of need in several counties in SC!"* We are rolling with the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina (BEMC of SC) under the leadership of Rev. Dr. James

Blessingame and the SC Home Mission Coordinator, Rev. Samuel Fulmore.

Thanks to Executive Secretary Pickett's strategic leadership locations, we are rolling with the Charleston County Missionary Baptist Association, North Charleston, SC, Rev. Dr. William A. Salley, Moderator; Thessalonía Worship Center (Baptist), Bronx, NY, Rev. Dr. Malobe Sampson, Pastor; Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem, NY, Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, Pastor, and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Dr. Donald D. Moore, Pastor and many other Moderators and Pastors across the states.

The Home Mission Board leadership not only wants to rock with you, we want to roll with you and you with us. Executive Secretary Pickett says it in more mission-centered terms when he encourages others to:

Act – "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"

React – with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love and

Interact – "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

After reading articles of the blockbuster movie, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," I reflected on the kind of difference churches could make through rocking and rolling with each other in strategic partnerships and fellowship. This movie is breaking all records regarding receipts. At the time of this article, 12/22/2015, it surpassed \$100 million in North America and \$250 million globally. In the first two days of its release it made over \$120 million. It will make well over \$200 million by the end of its initial rollout.

When every church awakens *"The Force"*, what Dr. King called *"unconditional love,"* there's no telling what records in mission ministries we can break regarding hunger in America.

You may remember some of King's most memorable quotes:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love."

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve."

"You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

"There can be no deep disappointment where there is no

deep love.”

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

I especially love the last quote about love transforming an enemy into a friend because Hunger is an enemy. This is why the Home Mission Board is working with President Young in his effort to assist in the problem of national and world Hunger. We are doing so through conversations-to-action with Bread for the World under one of its staff members, Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith.

Hunger used to be the number one problem faced by Black Americans but it seems to have been trumped (no pun intended) by race-based violence: black-on-black violence and rogue-cops-gone-wrong, race-centered violence. However, no matter how you look at it, there is a direct connection between race, violence, and the poverty that gives birth to hunger. This trinity of evil has left our children as casualties of war against Hunger.

Executive Secretary Pickett, Chairman Griffin and Dr. Angelique Walker Smith are strategically located by virtue of their positions of power and authority. God’s grace has positioned them and the rest of us for such a time as this, national hunger, to leverage our knowledge, skills, vocational experiences and connections to make a National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. contribution to the national problem of hunger, if not world hunger.

Inspired by our Master’s felt mercy and might in our lives, and armed by mission mandates such as stated in Matthew 25:35, “I was hungry and you gave me no meat” it’s time to rock and roll! When we honor our Master’s mission mandate we are rocking and rolling with the Rock of Ages. Jesus is the One and only one who can roll away the figurative rock that seals the fate of too many children and families in a land flowing with milk and honey.

In 2016, let’s “awaken The Force!” Let’s not just get our rock on in church. Let’s get our roll on when we leave! Let’s rock and roll with Jesus -- the Bread of Life -- and end hunger as this nation has known it far too long!

Peace.



Update on Mother Emanuel AME Church Charleston, South Carolina

Rev. Leonard O. Griffin

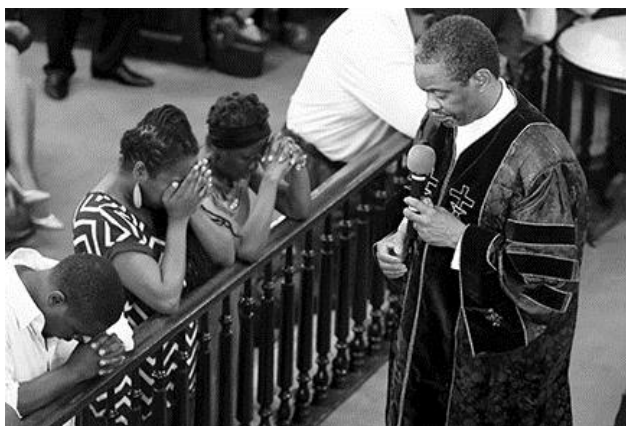


December 17, 2015 marked exactly six months since the day Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church was violated by hatred, racism, and violence by the alleged perpetrator Dylan Roof! During the week leading to this six month anniversary of this mass murder, the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC), Dr. Jacqui L. Burton, President, convened a three-day Consultation in Charleston around the Theme: “*The Healing of Our Nation: Race & Reconciliation A Cross-Racial Dialogue*”. The CNBC “is comprised of the national leadership of the eight largest historically African-American denomination that have a combined membership of over 20 million people and 30,000 congregations in the United States and the African Diaspora.” (Excerpted from the program booklet).

Thirteen nationally and internationally known Preachers, Pastors, Professors, and Speakers preached, lectured, taught Bible Study, and led the Panel Discussions throughout the three days. On December 17th, the Chairman of the CNBC, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, held a Press Conference flanked by nearly sixty Presenters and Attendees. He explained that this Consultation was a beginning of at least three years of strategic work to heal our nation of racism and hatred that divides within denominations, communities, ethnicities, and in worship! Through a ten-city approach, dialogues will be convened to bring the races together

through the medium of the universal church to foster conciliation and then reconciliation!

On Tuesday, December 15th, the CNBC Presenters and Attendees met for an ecumenical and Cross-Racial worship service. Senior Bishop John R. Bryant, A.M.E. Church, was the Keynote Preacher for this worship experience. Mother Emanuel A.M.E. was completely full, and a wonderful, dynamic, inspiring worship experience was the result!



Mother Emanuel continues to be led by the untiring leadership of Presiding Elder Dr. Norvel Goff. The congregation is slowly healing from these deep and demoralizing wounds! Worship services on Sundays and other days of the week continue to draw visitors from all walks of life. Of great interest is that a weekly Bible Study is taught by Rev. Dr. Brenda Nelson, who was slated to attend that fated June 17th Bible Study but was called away to attend to a matter at her home! She reports that the attendance is consistently in the ninety to one hundred range comprised of mostly African American members and Caucasian members of the community at-large! Rather than a "race war", a common Bible Study welcoming all races, ethnicities, and worshipers has resulted! But for the grace and power of God, people have found a means to come together!

Continue praying for this congregation! They, and the entire Charleston community, continue to need the undergirding of the power of God through prayer!



International Christian Fellowship for Mission (ICFM)



Sis. Wilma Jean Byrd

Greetings, in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Happy New Year and God be praised for a blessed Year. To our President, Dr. Jerry Young, his cabinet, Chairman, Rev. Leonard Griffin, Vice Chair, Rev. Dr. Michael Warren, to our illustrious Executive Secretary, Rev. Gilbert Pickett and to all of my co-laborers in Christ.

Praise the Lord. Praise, O servant of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. Psalm 113:1-3.

Our goal and Mission is to fully discover Jesus Christ. Like the apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:10-11; *"I want to know Christ, yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."* We can never know Him enough, and each day is an adventure, a step closer to getting to discover the true power of His love.

To discover ourselves; we are complex beings, but the best individuals are those who are aware of who they are and how to use their strengths and weaknesses wisely; how to become better with each passing day.

To complement someone; Jesus says in Mark 12:30-31, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this; "Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.* With above attributes, we definitely hope to make someone happy and feel loved one day.

Compassion and Care



Sister Helen Boone

On October 10, 2015, International Christian Fellowship for Mission (ICFM) had a great need to sponsor a second STOP the VIOLENCE initiative in East and West Garfield area. Due to very high crime in Chicago, it is imperative for us to do as much as possible to save our children.

Communities in surrounding areas came together at Horan Park with food, various sports, table games, board games, X Box One Game Truck, speakers from various organizations, leaders, churches, pastors/preachers and most importantly, the Alderman to support our efforts. Our young people are lost and it is very true that it takes a village to raise a child. With many broken homes, we have to come together to help our young people gain success.

On Saturday, November 20, 2015, ICFM partnered with First Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Cornelius Parks. This was Chicago's first snow storm, 17 inches and what a glorious time we had in the Lord. We fed people from everywhere and the snow did not stop our efforts at all. God truly blessed our ministry collectively with all the food, bags of snacks to go, much love, fun, laughter and with a kindred spirit expressed in serving.



December 19, 2015, we will be feeding, giving toys, clothes and coats to all ages, we thank God for blessing ICFM to be a blessing to the least of them. This is our Goal and effort to keep hope alive. To God be the glory!



As the spouse of a Home Mission Board member, I have observed and participated in many of the ministry and mission opportunities provided by the Home Mission Board (HMB) of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. The new mantra of *compassion and care* has allowed me to reflect on one of many recent transformational services that have left an indelible imprint on me. This service set the tone as a witness to what the Home Mission Board has envisioned in accordance to what Jesus has taught.

On September 7, 2015, the Home Mission Board epitomized the concept of Compassion and Care at the annual **Family Fun Fest**, held at Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. Tangible blessings bore witness to the vision and goals of the HMB being carried out throughout the convention. Visible accomplishments demonstrated that cooperative effort through prayer and selfless dedication had culminated in exceptional service for Jesus Christ. Compassion and care used in isolation, could leave one wondering if there were relevance or a relationship between the two concepts.

Compassion has been defined as a deep awareness of the suffering of another accompanied by a wish to relieve it. Care has been defined as the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something. On one occasion, Jesus told believers to put compassion and care into action. In Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus said truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me. On another occasion, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-27). At the conclusion of the parable, Jesus' question was, now which of these here do you think seemed to be a

neighbor to him who fell among robbers? The answer was, *“He who showed mercy (compassion) on him.”* Jesus said to him, go and do likewise.

The Home Mission Board has demonstrated to show an even greater compassion and care for God’s people. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has stated that true compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar, it is

not haphazard or superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. On September 7, 2015, I, along with many others, witnessed *compassion and care* being poured forth with love through the cooperative work of the Home Mission Board.



The Compassion & Care Connection

National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. - Home Mission Board

All information verified against Bank statements

(Subject to audit by the NBC USA, Inc., Office of Finance)

September 12, 2015 through December 31, 2015

NBC Home Mission General Operating Account

Beg. Balance 6/1/2015

Month	Income	W/D & Debits	Checks	Service Fees	Subtotals	\$ 14,372.35
June	\$ 28,236.81	\$ (5,351.65)	\$ (19,912.36)	\$ (6.96)	\$ 2,965.84	\$ 17,338.19
July	\$ 1,975.00	\$ (3,648.31)	\$ (6,518.05)	\$ -	\$ (8,191.36)	\$ 9,146.83
August	\$ 7,951.19	\$ (3,236.67)	\$ (5,225.07)	\$ (15.00)	\$ (525.55)	\$ 7,619.03
Totals	\$ 38,163.00	\$ (12,236.63)	\$ (31,655.48)	\$ (21.96)		

End Balance \$ 7,619.03

NBC Ecclesiastical Endorser (Military Chaplains) Account

Beg. Balance 6/1/2015

Month	Receipts	W/D & Debits	Checks	Service Fees	Subtotals	\$ 14,484.15
June	\$ 5,142.40	\$ (98.00)	\$ (4,633.00)	\$ (20.94)	\$ 390.46	\$ 14,874.61
July	\$ 2,100.00	\$ (1,110.91)	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ (30.00)	\$ (40.91)	\$ 14,833.70
August	\$ 250.00	\$ (264.00)	\$ -	\$ (18.00)	\$ (32.00)	\$ 14,801.70
Totals	\$ 7,492.40	\$ (1,472.91)	\$ (5,633.00)	\$ (68.94)		

End Balance \$ 14,801.70

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan, BBA, M.Th.

Home Mission Board Treasurer

Quarterly Contributions by State

September 12, 2015 through December 31, 2015

ALABAMA

Aimwell Baptist Church	Dr. Michael Jackson	Mobile	AL	\$	500.00
Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention	Dr. Vernon Swift	Selma	AL	\$	5,000.00
Christian Fellowship Baptist Church	Rev. Robert L. Webb	Livingston	AL	\$	325.00
Dr. Michael Jackson		Mobile	AL	\$	100.00
Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Gabe Davis	Mobile	AL	\$	100.00

ARIZONA

Bro. Claude E. Wiggins		Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	25.00
Bro. Franklin E. Dove, Sr.		Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	50.00
Bro. Jeffrey M. Baker		Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	100.00
Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.		Phoenix	AZ	\$	600.00
First Institutional Baptist Church	Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.	Phoenix	AZ	\$	5,000.02
Rev. Arthur L. Parson		Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	50.00
Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan		Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	50.00
Sis. LaVerne Jenkins		Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	83.00
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan	Sierra Vista	AZ	\$	142.00

ARKANSAS

Greater St. Paul Baptist Church	Dr. George E. Smith	Camden	AR	\$	150.00
Dr. William R. Boone		Sherwood	AR	\$	1,100.00

CALIFORNIA

Beth Eden Baptist Church	Dr. Gillette James	Oakland	CA	\$	200.00
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COLORADO

Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Cleveland A. Thompson	Colorado Springs	CO	\$	1,900.00
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DC (DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)

Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith		Washington	DC	\$	400.00
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church	Dr. Derrick Harkins	Washington	DC	\$	500.00

GEORGIA

Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Gregory Thomas	Register	GA	\$	250.00
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ILLINOIS

Dr. Samuel Hale	Zion Missionary Baptist Church	Springfield	IL	\$	200.00
Ecclesiastical Endorser	Dr. Charles F. Thomas, Sr.	Chicago	IL	\$	5,000.00
Messiah Temple Baptist Church	Dr. Keith McGee	Chicago	IL	\$	100.00
Rev. Charles F. Thomas, Sr.	Ecclesiastical Endorser	Chicago	IL	\$	100.00
Rev. O. C. Dockery	New Gideon Missionary Baptist Church	Chicago	IL	\$	100.00
Sis. Kimberly E. Thompson		Villa Park	IL	\$	50.00
Sis. Wilma Jean Byrd		Villa Park	IL	\$	100.00

KANSAS

Pleasant Green Baptist Church	Rev. Jarvis Collier	Kansas City	KS	\$	100.00
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MARYLAND

St. Matthews Baptist Church	Dr. Maxwell M. Washington	Temple Hill	MD	\$	500.00
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MASSACHUSETTS

Rev. Laura Ahart	United Baptist Convention	Boston	MA	\$	100.00
Shiloh Baptist Church	Rev. Gerald Bell	West Medford	MA	\$	20.00

MICHIGAN

Baptist Missionary and Ed. State Con. of MI	Dr. Wallace Mills	Detroit	MI	\$	1,000.00
Baptist Missionary and Ed. State Con. of MI Women		Detroit	MI	\$	100.00
Bro. & Sis, June Roberson		Ypsilanti	MI	\$	100.00
Corinthian Baptist Church	Rev. Roy Manning	Saginaw	MI	\$	200.00
Greater True Vine Baptist Church	Dr. Lee Bernard	Detroit	MI	\$	100.00
New Ebenezer Baptist Church	Dr. Wallace R. Mills, Jr.	Detroit	MI	\$	150.00
Rev. Homer Jamison		Sterling Heights	MI	\$	100.00
Rev. Maurice Stimage, Jr.		Detroit	MI	\$	100.00
Rev. Roy Manning		Saginaw	MI	\$	50.00
Rightway Missionary Baptist Church		Detroit	MI	\$	100.00
Sis. Alfreda P. Binion		Detroit	MI	\$	20.00
Sis. Barbara J. Davis		Flint	MI	\$	25.00
Sis. Ceylon Williams-Bettis		Saginaw	MI	\$	25.00
Sis. Hazel O. Whitney		Dearborn	MI	\$	200.00
Sis. Sharon M. Floyd		Saginaw	MI	\$	50.00
Sis. Tamela Washington		Clinton Twp.	MI	\$	100.00
Wolverine Baptist State Convention	Dr. Henry L. Fuller, Jr.	Saginaw	MI	\$	200.00

MISSISSIPPI

Bro. Thomas Wilson		Forest	MS	\$	100.00
Brown Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Bartholomew Orr	Southaven	MS	\$	7,500.00
Sis. Linda Jones-Woods		Terry	MS	\$	200.00
Sis. Christine Voss		Jackson	MS	\$	25.00
Sis. Bobbie Brady		Jackson	MS	\$	50.00

MISSOURI

New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Donald Hunter	St. Louis	MO	\$	300.00
West Side Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Ronald I. Bobo, Sr.	St. Louis	MO	\$	375.00

NEW JERSEY

St. Luke Baptist Church	Rev. Kenneth Clayton	Paterson	NJ	\$	500.00
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NEW MEXICO

Deacon Glen E. Chelf		Albuquerque	NM	\$	25.00
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NEW YORK

Abyssinian Baptist Church	Dr. Calvin O. Butts III	New York	NY	\$	2,000.00
Calvary Baptist Church	Dr. Edgar W. Howard	Haverstraw	NY	\$	100.00
First Baptist Church	Rev. James Taylor	Mamaroneck	NY	\$	250.00
Sis. Diane Scott		Corona	NY	\$	100.00
Thessalonian Worship Center	Rev. Malobe Sampson	Bronx	NY	\$	1,000.00

NORTH CAROLINA

Ebenezer Baptist Church	Dr. Leonzo Lynch	Charlotte	NC	\$	1,100.00
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OKLAHOMA

Sister Mary Elizabeth Williams		Ratliff City	OK	\$	100.00
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PENNSYLVANIA

Evergreen Baptist Church	Dr. Guy Campbell	Palmyra	NJ	\$	1,500.00
Foreign Mission Board	Dr. William B. Moore	Philadelphia	PA	\$	500.00
Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Dr. Donald Moore	Philadelphia	PA	\$	1,250.00
Community Baptist Church	Rev. Charles E. Mock	Erie	PA	\$	600.00
New Gethsemane Baptist Church	Rev. Samuel Jordan, Jr.	Philadelphia	PA	\$	1,000.00
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Rev. Cedric H. Jones, Jr.	Philadelphia	PA	\$	3,000.00

SOUTH CAROLINA

Cherry Hill Baptist Church	Dr. James H. Copley	Conway	SC	\$	250.00
Ebenezer Baptist Church	Rev. Joe Singleton	Williston	SC	\$	200.00
First Providence Baptist Church	Rev. Albert James	North Augusta	SC	\$	200.00
Friendship Baptist Church	Rev. Michael Glenn	Spartanburg	SC	\$	300.00
Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. William A. Salley	Charleston	SC	\$	200.00
Joshua Baptist Church	Dr. Robert Grove	North Charleston	SC	\$	200.00
Lovely Hill Baptist Association	Rev. Dr. McKinley Ravenell	St. George	SC	\$	200.00
Morris Street Baptist Church	Rev. Leonard O. Griffin	Charleston	SC	\$	375.00
Mount Canaan Association	Rev. Albert James	Trenton	SC	\$	500.00
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. James Blassingame	Sumter	SC	\$	100.00
New First Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Albert "Chick" Morrison	Edisto Island	SC	\$	200.00
Oakman Branch Baptist Church	Rev. Ivory Tucker	Walterboro	SC	\$	200.00
Old Macedonia Baptist Church	Rev. Limuer Myers	North Augusta	SC	\$	100.00
Rev. James B. Blassingame	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Sumter	SC	\$	100.00
Rev. Leonard O. Griffin		Goose Creek	SC	\$	100.00
Royal Baptist Church	Rev. Isaac J. Holt, Jr.	North Charleston	SC	\$	300.00
Second Providence Baptist Church	Dr. Albert M. James	North Augusta	SC	\$	500.00
South Carolina Fellowship	Dr. Michael Ross	Charleston	SC	\$	250.00
St. Matthew Baptist Church	Dr. Clinton Brantley	Charleston	SC	\$	100.00

TENNESSEE

Annesdale Cherokee Baptist Church	Rev. Dwight Montgomery	Memphis	TN	\$	300.00
Bishop Calvin Barlow, Sr.		Nashville	TN	\$	100.00
Bro. Carl & Sis. Everlean Greer		Memphis	TN	\$	50.00
Castalia Baptist Church	Rev. Randolph M. Walker	Memphis	TN	\$	200.00
Lowbar Publishing Company	Bishop Calvin Barlow	Nashville	TN	\$	100.00
Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Kenny L. Anderson, Jr.	Columbia	TN	\$	200.00
Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. J. L. VanBuren	Memphis	TN	\$	100.00
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church	Rev. Basil Brooks	Cordova	TN	\$	300.00
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood	Dr. James L. Netters	Memphis	TN	\$	200.00
New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Donald R. Ester, Sr.	Germantown	TN	\$	150.00
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Joe B. Maddox	Knoxville	TN	\$	100.00
New Mount Zion Baptist Church	Dr. Luther R. Williams	Memphis	TN	\$	100.00
Second Missionary Baptist Church	Bishop Calvin C. Barlow, Jr.	Nashville	TN	\$	300.00
Spruce Street Baptist Church	Rev. Raymond Bowman	Nashville	TN	\$	100.00
Westwood Baptist Church	Rev. Barton Harris	Nashville	TN	\$	200.00

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Virgin Island Ministries, Inc.	Dr. Bentley Thomas	St. Thomas	VI	\$	100.00
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VIRGINIA

Dr. Keith Jones	Shiloh Baptist Church	Newport News	VA	\$	4,700.00
Second Calvary Baptist Church	Dr. Geoffrey Guns	Norfolk	VA	\$	1,750.00
Shiloh Baptist Church	Dr. Keith Jones	Newport News	VA	\$	1,750.00

WISCONSIN

Providence Baptist Church	Rev. Andrew Johnson, Jr.	Milwaukee	WI	\$	800.00
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Mid-Winter Board Meeting
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
Dr. Jerry Young, President
“Envisioning the Future Exceptionally”

January 11-14, 2016 Birmingham, AL
Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex
2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North, Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone: 205.879.7400

Home Mission Board’s Office and Meeting Room – Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, Room 421
4th Floor, 2101 Richard Arrington Blvd. North, Birmingham, AL 35203

Schedule of Events - Home Mission Board

Monday, January 11, 2016

2:00 PM Parent Body Board Meeting
7:00 PM Convention Musical

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM Home Mission Board Executive Committee Meeting
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, Room 421, 4th Floor

9:00 AM Opening Ceremonies
Welcome Program
Plenary Sessions

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Home Mission Board Meeting
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, Room 421, 4th Floor

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

9:00 AM Plenary Sessions

Thursday, January 14, 2016

9:00 AM Plenary Sessions

June 20-24, 2016 – National Congress of Christian Education
Tampa Convention Center, 333 South Franklin Street, Tampa, FL 33602 – 813-274-8511



South Carolina Flood Assistance

