



The Compassion & Care Connection

JANUARY 2018, Vol. 45 No. 1

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

"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship" Jeremiah 29:11 and Corinthians 4:1-2

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

MOBILE, ALABAMA JANUARY 8 - 11, 2018



Crucial Mission



Critical Times



The Compassion & Care Connection

"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship"

Jeremiah 29:11 & 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Visit the Home Mission Board at
nationalbaptist.com

Home Mission Board
P.O. Box 2171
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

Our Mission, Goal and Vision	p. 1
Greetings from Our Chairman Rev. Leonard O. Griffin	p. 1
Executive Secretary Report Rev. Gilbert Pickett, Sr.	p. 3
Mission Competency: Crucial Mission for Critical Times Dr. Charles E. Mock	p. 5
Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the Poor Peoples' Campaign in 2018 Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith	p. 7
Fifty Years Later: Martin's Dream Assassins Dr. Charles E. Mock	p. 8
Western/Far Western Region Report Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan	p. 10
Illinois Report Sis. Wilma Jean Byrd	p. 11
South Carolina Report Rev. Samuel J. Fulmore	p. 12
Home Mission Board Quarterly Financial Report Statement of Receipts and Disbursements	p. 12
Contributions by State	p. 13
Schedule of Events	Back Cover

Home Mission Board Staff and Members

Officers and Staff

Rev. Leonard O. Griffin, Chair
 Dr. Michael D. Warren – Vice-Chair
 Rev. Gilbert Pickett, Sr., Executive Secretary
 Sis. Florence Jean Wright, Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary
 Rev. Shawn Buckhanan, Treasurer
 Sis. Wilma Jean Byrd, Assistant Treasurer/
 Illinois Area Field Worker

Regional Coordinators

Bishop Calvin C. Barlow Jr., Southwest
 Dr. William R. Boone, Southwest
 Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan, Far West
 Dr. Keith Ivan Jones - Southeast
 Dr. Robert L. Webb, Southwest
 Rev. Patrick H. Young, Northeast

Area Field Workers

Dr. Lee M. Bernard, Detroit & Vicinity
 Rev. Samuel Fulmore, South Carolina
 Rev. Eugene Henson, Memphis Area
 Rev. Shawn Vaughn, Indiana
 Sis. Patricia A. White, Pennsylvania
 Sis. Mary Elizabeth Williams, Oklahoma

Members-at-Large

Bro. Leno Blue
 Dr. William H. Foster, Jr.
 Dr. Geoffrey V. Guns
 Dr. Michael E. Jackson
 Rev. Asriel G. McLain
 Dr. Raymond A. Merriweather
 Dr. Charles E. Mock
 Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.
 Rev. Roy Terry
 Dr. Bentley Thomas
 Dr. Charles F. Thomas Sr.
 Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith
 Sis. Hazel L. Whitney

State Representative

Rev. Ossie C. Dockery



Home Mission Board Statement

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

Home Mission Board Goal

To spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and advance the Kingdom of GOD in *Envisioning Excellence in Compassion and Care.*"

Home Mission Board Vision

The Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., seeks to witness to the *Compassion & Care* 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 *Compassion & Care*, 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, financial 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 USA, Inc., 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.

Greetings from Our Chairman



Rev. Leonard O. Griffin

Greetings, grace, peace, and mercy to you from God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Ghost our Comforter, Teacher and Guide!

I give glory and praise to the God of the universe in whom we live, move, and have our being. I honor our NBC, USA, Inc. President Dr. Jerry Young. I give honor to all of the Officers of our National Baptist Convention, honor to our Executive Secretary Dr. Gilbert Pickett, our HMB Vice Chairman Dr. Michael Warren, and all of the HMB Family, as we gather for the Annual Mid-Winter Board Meeting Session in the City of Mobile, Alabama! I also am pleased to embrace the 2018 National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Theme: "Envisioning the Future Exceptionally through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship".

As we begin each New Year, we pause to say "thank you" to all of you who have supported this HMB missionary ministry! We are especially indebted to Rev. Dr. Marcus Cosby and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston, Texas and Rev. Dr. John Adolf and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Beaumont, Texas for their herculean efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey! We also thank those of you who sent supplies and moneys directly to these communities that are living examples of how GREAT our GOD truly is when the odds are stacked against His people!! We continue to pray for those who are still striving to recover from the impact and devastation exacted upon United States citizens in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico! We continue to covet your spiritual, prayerful, and

financial support, as your Home Mission Board seeks to show the Compassion and Care of our NBC, USA, Inc.

I must repeat myself in saying that we could not make the impact that we do without your stellar, steady, and strong-willed spiritual, physical, and fiscal support!! Because you allowed the Lord to move on your hearts to give, we have been able to be available to do the outreach that exemplifies that we are not just spouting a slogan of "Compassion and Care of our Christ!"

One of the supporting scriptures of our theme, which is "Envisioning the Future Exceptionally Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship," Jeremiah 29:11 reads: *"For I know the plans that I am planning concerning you," declares Yahweh, 'plans for prosperity and not for harm, to give to you a future and a hope.'*¹ Because I believe that we are living in crucial times, I believe these times dictate that we engage more fervently in the critical missionary methods communicated through Jeremiah's passage and Matthew 25:31-46! God wants all of us as His disciples to be prosperous and to embody the plans that He has for each of us. God indicated to us and instructed us with powerful and purposeful plans in Matthew 25:31-46 to serve this present age through meeting the needs of those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, lacking housing, imprisoned, or infirmed!

We must remember these words in Matthew 25:45, *"Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, in as much as you did not do it* to one of the least of these, you did not do it* to me.'* I encourage you to 'make room' in your ministry efforts and budget to support the missionary work of your HMB.

One of the ways that we at Morris Street Baptist Church seek to address the challenges facing our youth today is to engage 12-14-year-old females through a ministry called Social Butterflies. Once per week of the public school year, retired Educators and willing women from among our congregation meet for sixty to ninety minutes at Simmons/Pinckney Middle School to teach these developing princesses (some label them as 'at-risk'): self-respect, etiquette, hygiene, leadership, and responsibility. We are entering our sixth (6th) year of providing this ministry/program! Please note the recent

picture taken when I greeted the 2017-18 class of Social Butterflies at the school.

In speaking recently with Rev. Dr. Bentley Thomas, who Pastors a church and leads a mission in the US Virgin Islands, I learned that I could not overstate the vital need for all of us to do all that we can to help the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to rebuild! This crucial rebuilding effort is calling for Christians everywhere to step up, pray up, and lift up! I repeat these are crucial times! Help the HMB respond to the growing needs of our fellow citizens in these devastated areas!

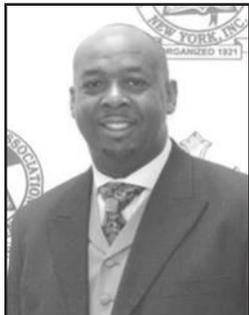
I look forward to the 2018 operations of the HMB! I solicit your prayers for us that we remain vigilant to the missionary work that God is calling us to do with the Compassion and Care of our Christ, as we strive to accomplish our critical mission in these crucial times!

Humbly submitted,
Chairman Leonard O. Griffin, BA, MDiv



¹ Harris, W. H., III, Ritzema, E., Brannan, R., Mangum, D., Dunham, J., Reimer, J. A., & Wierenga, M. (Eds.). (2012). *The Lexham English Bible* (Jeh. 29:11). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press. hh

Greetings from the Executive Secretary



Rev. Gilbert Pickett, Sr.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! To our esteem 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. Let us continue to keep in prayer, Dr. Calvin McKinney, who is not only a blessing to the HMB, but to the entire Body of Christ as well.

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. 2017 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 2017 namely the fundraising rally and worship service in St. Louis, MO; the Mission Day project in Cincinnati, OH and the numerous pastor's, 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 2017 Cincinnati, OH

The HMB once again has invaded the urban the center of one of the major cities in America – the Avondale Community of Cincinnati, OH, hosted by the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Floyd Walker, 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 Walker and the great people of Bethlehem 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 Cincinnati also afforded the opportunity to present two of God's finest pastor's/ preacher's. A special thanks Rev. Dr. Marcus D. Cosby, Pastor, Wheeler Ave Baptist Church, Houston, TX who was our rally worship service preacher and Rev. Dr. Jesse V. Bottoms Jr., Pastor, Beulah Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie, NY 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.

From Disaster to Deliverance – Executive Secretary Pickett Visits Florida and Texas

2017 has been a year of disaster and chaos with the devastating hurricanes that have ravaged Texas, Florida, U. S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to name a few. From Hurricane Harvey tearing through Texas in August, Hurricane Irma roaring through Florida in early September and then Hurricane Maria toppling the Caribbean just 10 days later, reminds me of the scripture from Job that says *"and while he was speaking, another also came"* (Job 1:16-18). I had the opportunity to travel to Florida September 18th thru September 20th. While in the Sunshine State, I went from Jacksonville, to Orlando, to Miami and back to Jacksonville meeting with moderators and pastors in the state. Thank God there was minimal damage to the Baptist churches of our convention. I want to thank the Florida General State Convention President, Rev. Dr. James Sampson; Moderator Michael Warren, Bethel Baptist Association; Moderator Johnny Barber, East Coast Association and Pastor Gaston Smith, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Miami, FL for taking the time out to personally meet with me regarding the status of the churches in the convention and district association. A special word of thanks to Pastor Robert LeCount, President of the Jacksonville Pastor's Alliance for giving me the



opportunity to address the pastors regarding the work of the HMB and Disaster Relief programs of NBC, USA, Inc. for any assistance that would be needed.

I also had the opportunity to travel to Texas, October 11th and 12th to visit the Wheeler Ave. Baptist Church, Houston, TX, Rev. Dr. Marcus D. Cosby, Pastor. The Wheeler Ave. church setup a distribution center filled with clothes, cleaning supplies and services for those who were devastated after Hurricane Harvey displaced thousands on August 25th. The distribution center was setup in the church's recreational facility. First Lady Audrey Cosby is the distribution



center Director. The staff includes their daughter Ashley Marie and Sis. Andrea Tucker. I praise God for Dr. Cosby, former member of the HMB, for continuing to be a mission minded pastor by showing an outpouring of love and support that he and Wheeler Ave. have given to the Houston community.

I wish to personally thank Rev. Dr. Joe Albert Bush, Executive Director, Disaster Relief, NBC, USA, Inc. for him allowing me to represent him in the state of Florida and providing travel and housing, as well as the Empire Baptist Convention of NY, Inc., former President, Dr. Ronald Grant, and current President, Dr. Carl Washington, Jr. for making it financially possible to travel to Texas. Thank you so much.

While in Texas I also had the chance to travel south of Houston to one of the most devastated communities, Port Arthur and Beaumont. Reported by former NBC Disaster Relief Director, Rev. Dr. Randy Vaughn, Pastor, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Port Arthur not only experienced devastation at his church, but he was also displaced from his residence. In spite of his personal dilemmas, Dr. Vaughn and Mt. Sinai have established a resource center that is staffed with American Red Cross and FEMA workers to assist the residents of the surrounding community.

The Home Mission Board has and is still in the process of helping churches throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands as well. We are assisting Bethel Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Bentley Thomas, Pastor, St. Thomas USVI and Frederiksted Baptist Church, St. Croix USVI, Rev. John Gilbert, Pastor. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Where Do We Go From Here?

As we are excited about the possibilities that 2018 will bring, we are looking forward to Oklahoma City in June and Minneapolis 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.

Once again it becomes our goal to:

- Follow the vision of our convention president, Dr. 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 areas 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.

On October 29, 2017, Executive Secretary Pickett had the blessed opportunity of visiting with and preaching at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, CO,



Rev. Dr. Cleveland A. Thompson, Senior Pastor. The Emmanuel Church has been one of the top contributors to the work of the Home Mission Board for years. It was a blessing to not only meet and greet the great people of Emmanuel, but also say thank you to them for being a blessing to the Kingdom work of missions and a blessing to the

Body of Christ. What an awesome ministry, christ-like and courteous staff the Lord has blessed Pastor Thompson with. May God continue to bless and keep them in His care!



In closing, I am excited about the challenges that are in front of us. The men and women, 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.

Mission Competency: Crucial Mission for Critical Times



Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mock

These are critical times. So many people, things and institutions can be considered under emergency care. It's not hard to imagine our nation in the emergency room hooked up to various life-saving instruments. Where does one start? Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Hollywood, the Today Show without icon Matt Lauer, Congress without icon John Conyers, President Trump's inflammatory, judgmental tweets, Bill O'Reilly, the Justice System under Attorney General Sessions, the Republican Senate Tax Bill that rewards the wealthy and punishes the poor, or the launch of missiles by North Korea. I could go on! Critical Times!

These are critical times for churches! Amid the politics of intimidation and fear of repercussions, many church voices have chosen silence at a time when its voice needs to be heard more than ever. Conservatism and ultra-conservatism church voices seem to be winning the war of vocalization of what matters to God. Considering such chosen silence, I almost feel the need to launch a Black Church Mission Voice Matters Movement. Why? Because the civil rights voice that championed justice seems to have been drowned out by church voices that act as though God's will has only to do with who one marries, when life begins in the womb, a return to law and order and America first. As important as these matters are, they are not the only things that matter to God.

The last I looked what also matters to God is cultural truth, the humanity and dignity of all people regardless of color, creed and nationality, adultery, the

criminalization of certain people in the name of law and order, the ever-widening gap between the wealthy healthy and the worried unhealthy who do not know how they will afford the medical insurance needed for their children, the exploitation of people through slavery—in these days! And, what about the belief that government, like the family, is *of* God as a sacred institution designed for the advancement of truth, justice and righteousness? How do these values and principles stack up against a national and state government system that privileges money through procedures, policies and practices that cut against the grain of one vote for one and all?

In the face of the normalization of the abnormal, violations of moral and ethical values, the dehumanization and exploitation of women everywhere they work, an important part of crucial mission is an upgrade in our contributions to places hard-hit by disasters. I sought to do my part in this through a Pre-Thanksgiving Disaster Relief Service. We raised over twenty-four hundred dollars that has gone in support of Virgin Island Ministry under the leadership of Rev. Bentley Thomas. But, more than such upgrades are needed. Also needed are cultural competency workshops in mission ministry.

There is a call for cultural competency workshops in police departments, in media, in Hollywood, in Congress, etc., why not for local churches? These are needed to ascertain and, or measure mission effectiveness in critical times. Is it not time for a re-examination of our approach to mission ministry? Should church leadership do an analysis of what relevant mission looks like in times like these? Are we majoring in minors? Are we substituting deeds good for doing justice? Has the church lost or ever-understood the intersection of evangelism and prophetic mission? How much are we spending on mission and are our expenditures on purpose—connected to measurable goals that scratch where people are truly itching? To what extent are our dollars making an advance family and community development? Are we taking advantage of potential partnerships with city entities whose values, principles and goals are compatible with Christian faith?

A recent report tagged Erie, PA as the worst city in the nation for Black Americans is the source of my mission-centered questions. (*24/7 WALL St. The Worst Cities for Black Americans, by Evan Comen and Michael Sauter, 11/3/2017*). I, among others, took issue with some of the evidence that rendered such a judgment. However, even if our city is not number one, to be in the top 20 worst cities is a judgment that deserves dialogue. I was forced to examine in what way our church might unconsciously be a co-conspirator to the findings of this report.

I went to City Hall to attend a special meeting of religious and political leaders who decided to reflect on how Erie reached such an infamous status. The discussion was rich with well-measured responses, diverse perspective, common agreement on several issues and positive ideas on the way forward. The center of the discussion was Community Benefit Agreements.

Community Benefit Agreements are developed by the diverse stakeholders of any given community—voices that have not been given proper consideration for the development of their community. Contracted developers build without the input of many stockholders, especially those whose needs could be advanced if only their agenda items were included in a comprehensive vision for community development.

Critical times call for a re-examination of local church approaches to family and community needs. Important to any discussion on the way forward for families and communities is the voice of multiple church perspectives. Cultural competency in mission workshops are sorely needed if the future is to be far different than history.

Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Poor Peoples' Campaign in 2018



Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith

*In times like these, you need a Savior,
In times like these, you need an anchor;
In times like these, you need the Bible,
In times like these, O be not idle;
In times like these, I have a Savior,
In times like these, I have an anchor;*

Chorus

*This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One,
This Rock is Jesus, the only One;
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

This hymn, written in 1943 by Ruth Caye Jones and popularized by Mahalia Jackson in 1963 during the height of the civil rights movement, is a favorite hymn in many of our churches. The National Baptist Convention understands that times of conflict, war, national divisions, hunger, poverty, or relative peace or prosperity do not diminish the love and power available to us from God. *In Times Like These ... A new "Pan-African Christian Devotional Guide for Public Policy Engagement"* is a year-long monthly and weekly devotional guide written on the 50th anniversaries of the martyrdom of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Poor People's Campaign. The devotional guide, written by well-known Pan-African Christian leaders from the United States and abroad, provides inspiration and reflection for advocacy work to end hunger and poverty. The devotional writers include the Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart, the Rev. Dr. Charles Mock, and the Rev. Dr. James Blassingame from our "Convention." I also had the honor of serving as the

editor for the devotional. The devotional is written with the understanding that while Pan-African people are disproportionately affected by hunger and poverty, Pan-African people remain resilient and empowered by their faith. This devotional guide invites deepened relationship with and among Pan-African people and elected leaders in the mission to end hunger and poverty. Twenty-four national and global church partners, including the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. represented through 46 Pan-African church leaders and scholars from across the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa have contributed to this devotional guide and invite you to use it to help you advance this mission.

Recommended Uses of the Devotional Guide

- Use this devotional guide weekly and monthly to explore its themes and sub-themes individually or collectively in and outside of your church. The themes reflect the calendars of the Christian year, the Pan-African church community, and policies that seek to end hunger and poverty.
- Use this devotional guide as a source for Bible study and worship when engaging the biblical texts, messages, and prayers to empower your advocacy to end hunger and poverty.
- Use the Pan-African historical highlights to deepen your understanding of the contributions of Pan-African people.
- Use the suggested songs from the Pan-African church community as an accompaniment to the other uses of the devotional guide.
- Use the questions as a source for advocacy and as an invitation to go to www.bread.org to learn about our Offering of Letters, Lobby Day, Bread for the World Sunday, prayer and fasting resources, the Hunger Report, Bread for the Preacher, legislative updates, and other resources.

Thank you for praying with us as we advocate to end hunger and poverty in times like these. The devotional guide will be available without a fee on our website www.bread.org by the end of the year. For more information about the devotional guide, please contact Angelique Walker-Smith at awalker-smith@bread.org.

Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is senior associate for Pan-African and Orthodox Church Engagement at Bread for the World.

Fifty Years Later: Martin's Dream Assassins *Dr. Charles E. Mock*

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In reflection on the domestic priorities for which King lived various thoughts crowd my mind.

I reflect on the assassins. A single bullet struck down this major African American icon of economic, political and social justice. His death was anticipated as a likely possibility given America's record for the elimination, one way or another, of persons perceived as a threat to the well-established and oiled narrative of America's greatness. Well-established ideological narratives proven profitable for high-seated establishmentarians in public and private places provide very limited space for dissenters. The best angels of democracy leave room in the margins for oppositional visions for America, this in keeping with democratic ideal called Diversity. King, like so many other iconic figures, suffered the assassin's bullet because he demanded more space than the polite margin in America's democratic experiment and love affair prosperity.

I reflect on character. How can any child of the sixties dare forget that virtually sacred dream line in many of King's speeches: *"I have a dream that one day we will not be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character?"* Fifty years later, would these words be reversed by King?

Under the Trump vision and administration, the old trickledown theory of some economic philosophies has made a major comeback thanks to the passage of Tax Reform legislature. It is here to stay, at least for the wealthiest persons that benefit the most from its passage. If trickledown was applied to the present rhetoric and behavioral realities of leadership in the White House and Congress, an argument could be made what matters perhaps more than ever is character.

Character has been defined, basically, as the product of one's moral, ethical, mental and social values and principles in decision making processes, actions and

behavior. What has and is happening at the top of the America's leadership pyramid is trickling down to the skirts of American citizenry. Consequently, the worse angels of human character formation are being galvanized. As we know all too well, the production results have proven quite divisive.

The alleged introduction and escalation of racial, ethnic and political dissension under President Obama has become child's play under our President Trump. His rhetoric, attitudes and behavior have given a green light to the old proceed-with-caution yellow light, releasing repressed voices and actions that divide rather than unify Americans.

I reflect on content. In what way might content matter for Dr. King? If I might speculate on what King would suggest as the major priorities of 2018 and beyond, perhaps it would begin with the reclamation of the content of human character. Fifty years later, for the most part, we are no longer being judged by the color of our skin, rather by the content of our character.

He might expand the definition of character by including the bargaining power of ones Skills. There was a time who you knew was as important as what you knew. Today, unless you work for your compassionate and merciful parent in their family business, you must bring something to the table that is worth trading in the market places of life. Dr. King opened the door that led into rooms where marketable Skills and knowledge could be mastered. What happens, however, when one chooses to bypass the requirements needed to enter the door that leads to degrees or skills development in a knowledge-based technical society? No matter who you know, the lack of content in one's market value will be reason for instant elimination.

Fifty years later, there has been an unprecedented unlawful divorce between morals and skills as essential elements in the content of one's character. American culture is raising a generation of non-reflective citizens where money-making skills for a business is all that matters. Once morals and ethics no longer matter, for example, self-conscious reflection on such concepts as a commonwealth, common core values, common rights,

etc., self-reflection dies a slow negative death. The Washington Post's slogan is *Democracy dies in the dark*.

I reflect on the value of human dignity. Fifty years later, given the diverse communication instruments, one would think we Americans would be more socially engaged in each other's wellbeing. Have you looked around lately? As Dr. King once opined, we are integrated bodies with segregated minds. We are closer than ever and yet miles apart in our understanding of one another. Foreign is now local, having become one with domestic affairs as a tech-driven, information society flattens global nations. In the process, we are forced to grapple with erosion of human dignity. Human decency and dignity are chopped away on the altars of mega-corporations. We citizens end up drinking addictive and enslaving beverages simply because they taste good and quench our immediate thirst. The casualties of our manufactured hunger and thirst are human dignity and decency.

I reflect on the Body of Christ. Fifty years later, what the Apostle Paul declared as one Lord, one Body of Christ, one Faith, one Baptism and one Spirit seem further than ever from truth. Favorite political ideologies have contaminated and challenged the Apostle Paul's "separation" question- "What shall separate us from the love of God?"- recorded in Romans 8:38-39, "*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Some sections of the Conservative Evangelical Church have gone as far as proclaiming President Trump as God's specially anointed sent by God to drain swamps and make America great—again! To each our own opinion. Granted! But, what might Dr. King say to 2018 Church leadership, which in some ways, mirrors the Church leadership of his Civil Rights Days? Would he say a bulk of today's Church leadership has majored in minors in its emphasis on church tithes as opposed to freedom, equal justice and mercy for those living in misery? What would he say in response to religious and political leadership that celebrates a Tax Reform package that leaves hanging on a limb 13 million people with-

out federal healthcare subsidies; hardworking, undocumented Americanized dreamers; children in need of the re-authorization of CHIP; and, to millions of men and women in jail hoping for early release thanks to National Justice Reform?

I reflect on assassins. I am reminded that a single bullet struck down Dr. King. More importantly, many bullets can and have struck down moral and ethical values such as freedom, truth, justice and equality. A single bullet can silence a prophetic proclaimer, but many bullets can silence a prophetic movement. Which is more important? the mover or the movement?

Joseph's brother said, "*let us kill the dreamer and see what happens to the dream.*" As long as Joseph was alive so was his God-given dream. We have inherited Dr. King's dream. As long as we are alive we have opportunities to keep King and his dream alive. Don't let the assassins of culture win. Worst yet, we cannot allow ourselves to become assassins that strike down and silence the dream!

LIFE

WEEK OF SHOCK

- ▶ Vietnam: Burst of Hope
- ▶ Convulsion in U.S. Politics
- ▶ EXCLUSIVE PICTURES
The Murder in Memphis

Martin Luther King
1929 - 1968

LIFE

APRIL 12 · 1968 · 35¢

Western/Far Western Region Report



Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan

*Blessings and Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.*

Our focus, since we left Cincinnati, OH in September undoubtedly has been Crucial Mission/ Crucial Times with the most recent repetitive impacts from natural disasters, ranging from hurricanes to earthquakes to horrific wildfires within our region, nation, and even worldwide. While responding with Compassion & Care to the natural devastation occurring, we also remained vigilant on the daily needs of our member churches by providing materials and resources to support Home Missionaries in our region.

I would like to thank Sis. Florence Jean Wright, your Home Mission Board Administrative Assistant/ Financial Secretary, for her continuous work this year in our region. She reports:

I attended and provided Home Mission information and resources to the following churches:

- Community Baptist Church, Henderson, NV
Rev. Sam Roberson, Pastor
- Greater New Jerusalem Church, Las Vegas, NV
Rev. James Rogers, Pastor
- Second Baptist Church, Las Vegas, NV
Rev. Dr. D. Edward Chaney
- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church,
San Bernardino, CA Rev. Dr. Michael Andrew Owens
- Distribution of Home Mission packets to be used in various mission programs throughout the region and nation

Lastly, I covered areas in parts of Nevada and California by attending Home Mission workshops, programs, and providing resources, to assist our National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., churches with their own local, district, and state programs, mission initiatives, and activities.

To maximize my efforts of support across the region toward recovery during these latest crucial and critical times, efforts were on communication to those already on the ground and providing resources and information that would represent Home Mission as a supportive second responder. For example, daily I can connect Pastors with other Pastors in their area that can provide the support, materials, and other resources to assist in the recovery. Working off the basis of it takes TEAMWORK to make the DREAM Work, collaboration has been one of our greatest successes over the past year.

As I close out 2017 with this report, I am reminded the work of a Home Mission Board Regional Representative cannot be done without our partners in ministry across the land and waters. Therefore, let me take a moment to recognize the states of this region that keep **Compassion & Care** in the forefront of the crucial and critical, as well as keep us prepared to meet the needs of the Home Missionaries throughout the US and Virgin Islands. God bless you Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Oklahoma, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Washington State, and Wyoming.

—Thank You!

Illinois Field Worker Report



Sis. Wilma Jean Byrd

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

Psalm 1:1-6

To our President, Dr. Jerry Young, Home Mission Board in its entirety and all delegates of this wonderful convention, Happy New Year and greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It gives me great pleasure and joy to share with the Home Mission Board the phenomenal work that **International Christian Fellowship for Mission** (ICFM) is doing in Chicago. I am truly thankful and blessed that God favored me and this organization to help many people in need.

ICFM, Annual Stop the Violence was a great success. We had great speakers, singers, games, game truck, sports, music and much food and fun for spiritual feeding.

ICFM work continues; Thanksgiving Holiday, we were a blessing for many. We fed hundreds and gave out baskets, turkeys and clothing to as many as we could, until storage was empty.

Lastly, but not least a “thank you” gathering for contributors, workers, friends and family for a Christmas thank you blessing. What a joyous and glorious time we had in showing how appreciative and grateful ICFM was with all the gifts given in support of helping others.



During the Christmas season, ICFM, fed those who were hungry, provided baskets, clothing, and many gifts from “Toys for Tots.” To God be the Glory, for all the wonderful things He has done.



South Carolina Field Worker Report



Rev. Samuel L. Fulmore

HOUSE IN A BOX PROJECT UPDATE

From September 2017 'til November 2017, the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc, partnered with Disaster Services Corporation-Society of St. Vincent DE Paul USA and successfully provided furniture to 28 families in South Carolina affected by the October 2015 flood and Hurricane Matthew for families who resided in Dorchester, Charleston, and Berkeley counties during the month of October 2017. Also, in November 2017, we were able to be a blessing to families in Marion County.

Special thanks to Rev. Bacari Brown pastor of Red Hill Baptist Church in Gresham, SC, Minister Shawn Gilchrist and Minister Ray Shawn Graham both of Mill Creek Baptist Church, Marion, SC and Ms Carolyn Johnson, SC Governor's Task Force for their assistance.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)



MID-WINTER BOARD MEETING

Mobile, Alabama

JANUARY SESSION 2018

Calculations – based on bank statements for 8/1/17 – 12/20/17
(subject to audit by the NBC, USA, Inc.)

General Operating Account

Beginning Balance
08/01/2017

Month	Deposits & Credits	W/D & Debits	Checks	Service Fee	Monthly Income vs Expense	\$ 2,509.87
AUGUST	\$ 13,571.49	\$ (4,468.29)	\$ (4,962.09)	\$ -	\$ 4,141.11	\$ 6,650.98
SEPTEMBER	\$ 44,910.50	\$ (8,179.86)	\$ (20,379.79)	\$ -	\$ 16,350.85	\$ 23,001.83
OCTOBER	\$ 20,696.00	\$ (2,820.95)	\$ (13,073.80)	\$ -	\$ 4,801.25	\$ 27,803.08
NOVEMBER	\$ 18,745.41	\$ (2,039.29)	\$ (7,117.69)	\$ -	\$ 9,588.43	\$ 37,391.51
DECEMBER	\$ 4,237.81	\$ (1,425.43)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,812.38	\$ 40,203.89
Totals	\$102,161.21	\$ (18,933.82)	\$ (45,533.37)	\$ -	\$ 37,694.02	

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan, BBA, MTS
Treasurer

Contributions by State August 2017 – December 2017

ALASKA

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Alonzo B. Patterson	Anchorage	AK	\$10,000.00
----------------------------------	-------------------------	-----------	----	-------------

ALABAMA

Aimwell Baptist Church	Dr. Michael Jackson	Mobile	AL	\$ 600.00
Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church	Rev. Dave Davis	Mobile	AL	\$ 75.00

ARIZONA

Bethlehem Baptist Church	Rev. Arthur Lee, Jr.	Phoenix	AZ	\$ 100.00
Dr. A. Porterfield		Sahuarita	AZ	\$ 50.00
Dr. A. L. Gaston	Rising Star Missionary Bapt. Ch.	Tucson	AZ	\$ 100.00
Dr. Emerson Turner		Mesa	AZ	\$ 25.00
Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.	First Institutional Baptist Church	Phoenix	AZ	\$ 500.00
First Institutional Baptist Church	Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.	Phoenix	AZ	\$ 4,000.00
Paradise Missionary Baptist Convention	Rev. Amos L. Lewis	Tucson	AZ	\$ 1,250.00
Rev. Shawn L. Buckhanan	St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church	Sierra Vista	AZ	\$ 100.00
Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Lee		Tempe	AZ	\$ 50.00
Sis. Geraldine Reed		Williams	AZ	\$ 100.00
Sis. Nell Brown		Williams	AZ	\$ 100.00

ARKANSAS

Dr. William R. Boone		Sherwood	AR	\$ 400.00
First Baptist Church	Dr. D. L. Richardson	North Little Rock	AR	\$ 600.00
Greater Second Baptist Church	Rev. David Featherstone	North Little Rock	AR	\$ 300.00
Pulaski Family Activity Coalition	Dr. William R. Boone	Sherwood	AR	\$ 750.00

CALIFORNIA

Beth Eden Baptist Church	Dr. Gillette O. James	Oakland	CA	\$ 500.00
New Hope Baptist Church	Bishop Sean Teal	Oakland	CA	\$ 1,000.00
Trinity Baptist Church	Rev. Alvin Tunstill, Jr.	Los Angeles	CA	\$ 2,200.00

COLORADO

Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Cleveland Thompson	Colorado Springs	CO	\$ 1,302.90
------------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------	----	-------------

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC)

Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith	Bread for the World	Washington	DC	\$ 500.00
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church	Dr. Derrick Harkins	Washington	DC	\$ 500.00

FLORIDA

First Providence Community Church	Bishop Russell Allen Wright, Sr.	Panama City	FL	\$ 200.00
Mount Olive Progressive Baptist Church	Rev. James Brown	Leesburg	FL	\$ 200.00

ILLINOIS

Canaan Baptist Church of Christ	Dr. Charles F. Thomas, Sr.	Chicago	IL	\$ 100.00
Emmanuel District Association	Dr. Russell B. Harris, Sr.	Chicago	IL	\$ 1,000.00
Second Baptist Church	Rev. Micheal Henderson	La Grange	IL	\$ 100.00
Silver Cloud Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Harry Singleton	Chicago	IL	\$ 50.00
Southwest Memorial Chapels, Inc.	Sis. Verlean Watson Swift	Chicago	IL	\$ 100.00
United Baptist State Convention	Dr. Keith McGee	Chicago	IL	\$ 1,000.00

MARYLAND

Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church	Rev. Eldridge Spearman	Silver Springs	MD	\$ 3,000.00
----------------------------	------------------------	----------------	----	-------------

MICHIGAN

Baptist Missionary & Education State Con. of MI	Dr. Wallace Mills	Detroit	MI	\$ 500.00
Bro. Garther Roberson		Ypsilanti	MI	\$ 200.00
Greater Community Church	Rev. Michael E. Seay	Detroit	MI	\$ 400.00
Greater True Vine Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Lee Bernard	Detroit	MI	\$ 200.00
Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Frank Robinson	Detroit	MI	\$ 100.00
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Walter Butts	Muskegon	MI	\$ 50.00
Neopolitan Spiritual Church	Rev. Kevin Linson	Detroit	MI	\$ 50.00
New Ebenezer Baptist Church	Rev. Wallace Mills	Detroit	MI	\$ 100.00
Right Way Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Delores Banks Harper	Detroit	MI	\$ 100.00
Sis. Carol J. Turnbough		Detroit	MI	\$ 100.00
Sis. Gwendolyn Charleston		Flishing	MI	\$ 25.00
Sis. Hazel O. Whitney		Dearborn	MI	\$ 200.00
Sis. Jannis Corley		Saginaw	MI	\$ 20.00
Sis. Leona Smith		Pontiac	MI	\$ 25.00
Sis. Rochelle Threlkeld		Flint	MI	\$ 20.00
Sis. Sharon M. Floyd		Saginaw	MI	\$ 100.00
Wolverine Baptist State Convention	Dr. Wallace Mills	Saginaw	MI	\$ 400.00
Wolverine State Baptist Convention Layman Div.	Dea. Michael Washington	Flint	MI	\$ 75.00

MISSISSIPPI

Brown Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Bartholomew Orr	Southaven	MS	\$10,000.00
---------------------------------	---------------------	-----------	----	-------------

MISSOURI

Dea. Charles W. Bateman II		St. Louis	MO	\$ 150.00
First Baptist Church	Rev. Tony P. Johnson	Liberty	MO	\$ 1,000.00
Mount Jezreel Baptist Church	Rev. Donald Hunter	St. Louis	MO	\$ 500.00
West Side Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Ronald L. Bobo, Sr.	St. Louis	MO	\$ 2,713.00

MINNESOTA

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	Rev. James C. Thomas	St. Paul	MN	\$ 2,000.00
---------------------------	----------------------	----------	----	-------------

NEW JERSEY

St. Paul Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Wilbur A. Whitehurst, Jr.	Atlantic Highlands	NJ	\$ 411.00
St. Luke Baptist Church	Dr. Kenneth D. R. Clayton	Paterson	NJ	\$ 375.00

NEW YORK

Greater Hope Baptist Church	Rev. James C. Blackburn	Buffalo	NY	\$ 120.00
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church	Rev. Evan D. Gray, Sr.	Arverne	NY	\$ 100.00
Salem Baptist Church	Rev. James Thornton	Brooklyn	NY	\$ 2,500.00
Sis. Dorothy Coleman	Grace Baptist Church	Mt. Vernon	NY	\$ 50.00
Trinity Baptist Church, Inc.	Rev. Naomi Tyler-Lloyd	Bronx	NY	\$ 10,000.00
United Missionary Baptist Association	Rev. Dr. Carl Washington	New York	NY	\$ 400.00

NORTH CAROLINA

Ebenezer Baptist Church	Dr. Leonzo Lynch	Charlotte	NC	\$ 1,200.00
-------------------------	------------------	-----------	----	-------------

OKLAHOMA

Chickasaw Missionary Baptist Assoc.		Ardmore	OK	\$ 153.00
Sis. Mary Elizabeth Williams		Ratliff City	OK	\$ 200.00
Sis. Mary Elizabeth Williams & Sis. Karen L. Thomas		Ratliff City	OK	\$ 232.91

PENNSYLVANIA

Baptist Fellowship Church	Rev. Winston D. Palmore	Harrisburg	PA	\$ 1,000.00
Community Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mock	Erie	PA	\$ 500.00
Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mock	Community Baptist Church	Erie	PA	\$ 2,400.00
First Baptist Church of Darby	Dr. Raymond A. Merriweather	Darby	PA	\$ 500.00
Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Dr. Donald Moore	Philadelphia	PA	\$ 2,000.00
New Gethsemane Baptist Church	Rev. Samuel Jordan, Jr.	Philadelphia	PA	\$ 1,000.00
Rev. Patricia Roane		Philadelphia	PA	\$ 5.00
St. Paul Baptist Church	Rev. James I. Jackson	Bethlehem	PA	\$ 3,012.41
United Missionary Baptist Church North	Rev. Chandra Williams	Philadelphia	PA	\$ 5.00

SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaverdam Baptist Church	Dr. O. T. Hill	Enoree	SC	\$ 100.00
Beaufort County Ministerial Alliance AKA BCMA	Dr. Abraham Murray	Beaufort	SC	\$ 200.00
Bro. Oliver T. Hill				\$ 100.00
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church		Andrews	SC	\$ 100.00
First Providence Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. Alex Pope, Jr.	North Augusta	SC	\$ 250.00
Lovely Hill Baptist Association	Rev. McKinley Ravenell	St. George	SC	\$ 200.00
Moncks Corner Baptist Church		Moncks Corner	SC	\$ 550.00
Morris Street Baptist Church	Rev. Leonard O. Griffin	Charleston	SC	\$ 687.50
Mount Canaan Association		Trenton	SC	\$ 500.00
New Ebenezer Baptist Church	Dr. Michael Ross	Columbia	SC	\$ 1,000.00
Royal Baptist Church	Rev. Issac J. Holt, Jr.	North Charleston	SC	\$ 500.00
Taw Caw Baptist Church	Rev. William T. Johnson	Sumter	SC	\$ 100.00
Women's Auxiliary of Chas City Baptist Association		North Charleston	SC	\$ 500.00

TENNESSEE

Greater Pleasant View Baptist	Rev. Eric D. Williams	Brentwood	TN	\$ 200.00
Castalia Baptist Church	Rev. Bassil Brooks	Memphis	TN	\$ 200.00
Castalia Baptist Church	Rev. Randolph M. Walker	Memphis	TN	\$ 200.00
Dr. Floyd Lacey		Hendersonville	TN	\$ 100.00
New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Donald R. Ester, Sr.	Memphis	TN	\$ 200.00
New Mount Zion Baptist Church	Rev. James Morgan, Jr.	Memphis	TN	\$ 100.00
Second Missionary Baptist Church	Bishop Calvin C. Barlow, Jr.	Nashville	TN	\$ 200.00
Stone River District Missionary Baptist Association	Moderator Elliott G. Webb, Sr.	Nashville	TN	\$ 1,000.00
Westwood Baptist Church	Rev. Barton Elliott Harris	Nashville	TN	\$ 200.00

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church	Dr. Bentley Thomas	St. Thomas	VI	\$ 650.00
----------------------------------	--------------------	------------	----	-----------

VIRGINIA

Chaplain Michael L. McCoy	National Chaplain Center	Hampton	VA	\$ 100.00
---------------------------	--------------------------	---------	----	-----------

UTAH

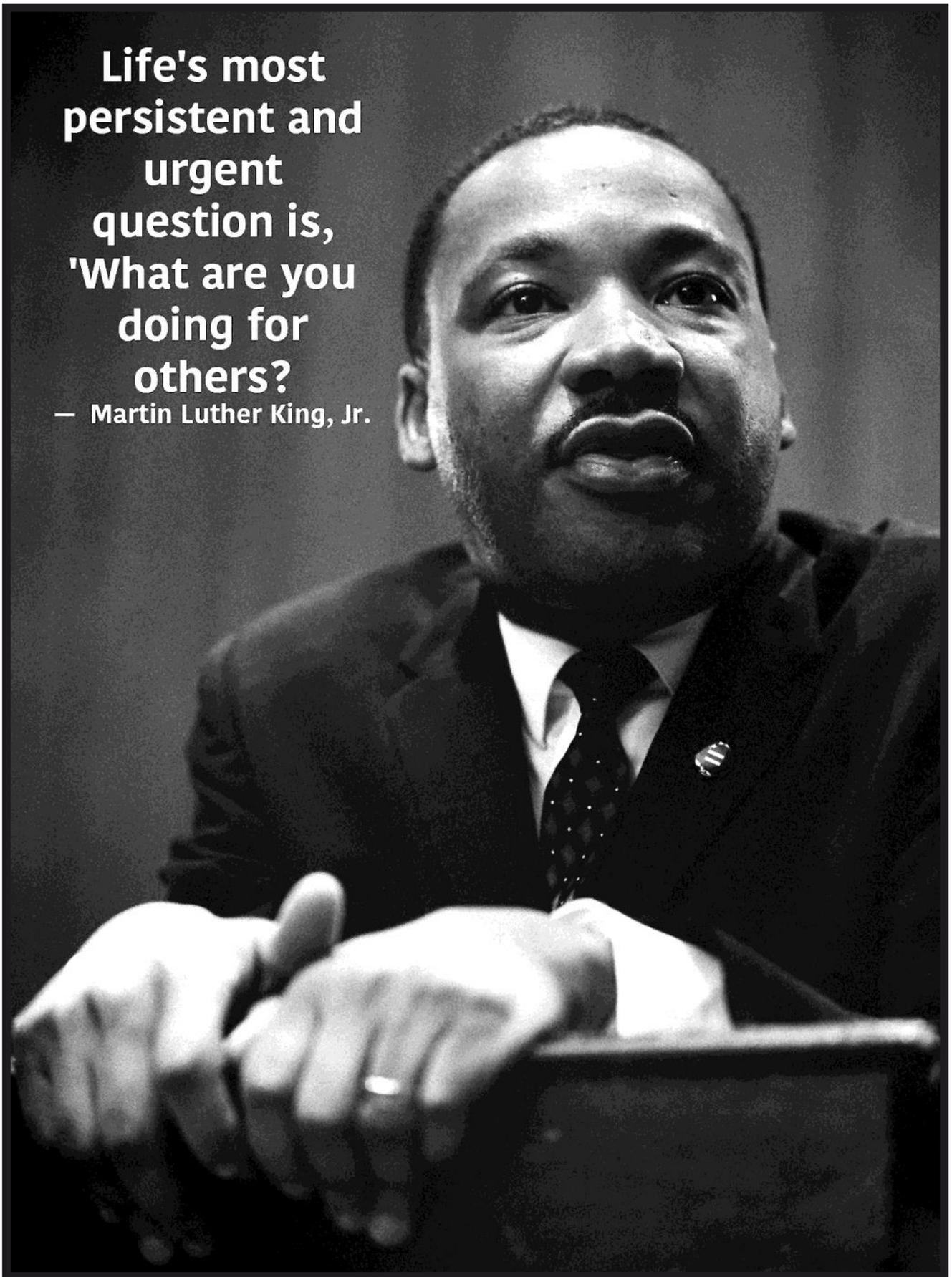
Calvary Baptist Church	Dr. France A. Davis	Salt Lake City	UT	\$ 1,000.00
CBC Pastoral Care	Dr. France A. Davis	Salt Lake City	UT	\$ 500.00

WISCONSIN

Bro. Albert & Lenora Brown		Milwaukee	WI	\$ 200.00
Sis. Gloria Games	Providence Baptist Church	Milwaukee	WI	\$ 500.00

**Life's most
persistent and
urgent
question is,
'What are you
doing for
others?**

— Martin Luther King, Jr.



**National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
Mid-Year Board Meeting
January 8-11, 2018 – Mobile, Alabama**



Mobile Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center

1 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602 / 251.208.2100

HOME MISSION BOARD + SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday January 8, 2018	Tuesday January 9, 2018	Wednesday January 10, 2018	Thursday January 11, 2018
<p align="center">Parent Body Full Board Meeting 2:00 PM Location: TBA</p> <p align="center">Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Program 6:00 pm Location: TBA</p>	<p align="center">Opening Parent Body Session 9:00 am Mobile Convention Center</p> <p align="center">HMB Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 am Location: TBA</p>	<p align="center">Home Mission Board Meeting 2:00 pm Location: TBA</p> <p align="center">Fellowship Banquet 6:00 pm Mobile Convention Center</p>	<p align="center">Closing Session 9:00 am Location: TBA</p>

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602 / 251.208.2100