



The Foreign Mission Board  
National Baptist Convention, USA, INC.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Presented September 4, 2013

Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, Convention President  
Rev. Dr. William B. Moore, Chairman  
Rev. Nicholas S. Richards, Executive Secretary

To Our President, Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, Vice-President at Large Dr. Jerry Young, General Secretary Dr. Calvin McKinney, Regional Vice-Presidents, Convention Officers, and you my brothers and sisters. It is my great honor to provide my first annual report as your Executive Secretary. I would like to thank our convention President, Dr. Scruggs, the Foreign Mission Board Chairman, Rev. William B. Moore and all Board Members for the privilege to serve in this esteemed post.

The model of Missions we now seek to create is based on Partnership. Wherever we can, The Foreign Mission Board will work with a national government, local community groups, our National Baptist Convention churches and auxiliaries and external partners. This 5-tiered approach is our definition of Partnership! This new model allowed us to build a church and community center on the Suehn Mission Station in Liberia. Partnership is at work in Liberia and is spreading to mission stations all over the world!

In the 9 months since assuming this position, I have visited much of our work in countries such as Liberia, Malawi, Swaziland and Guinea. Many challenges remain on the mission field, and we have a significant need to improve the quality of services we provide to best reflect the strength of our great convention. We need every church in the convention to be a mission church! Missions is at the center of the Gospel and it needs to be the center of what we do as a body of Christ.

To those who support missions year after year, Thank You! Because of you, not only do we teach and preach, clothe the naked and feed the hungry; but we are now working together with our African and South American brothers and sisters to develop programs that lead to true development. Programs which will continue long after we are gone. Programs that don't just give a fish for a day, but teaches someone how to fish for a lifetime.

Yet churches have decreased their mission support and we need you to come back! I need you to start Giving Again! We are gearing up for an exciting and new season of missions and we can only do this together!

### **Malawi**

As a result of a two-week mission trip to the Providence Industrial Mission (PIM) in July, 2012; a committee was formed to create a guidebook for short-term mission trips. This committee is led by our former convention President, Dr. William J. Shaw. This publication is the reference for all churches seeking to partner with The Foreign Mission Board and support the various programs on the mission field. We anticipate a working document by December 2013.

We would like to thank the following persons for their work on the committee: Dr. William J. Shaw, Dr. Donna Lawrence Jones and Rev. Cedric Hughes Jones.

**Malawi** {continued}

In August of this year, one of our Board Members, Rev. Terrence D. Griffith, took a small delegation of Pharmaceutical industry officials to visit the health programs in Malawi. We will be working with new partners, to bring resources in the forms of medicine and equipment to our health programs in Malawi. With us today is Dr. Moses Chinyama, Chairman of the Executive Committee of PIM, who will provide a brief update on the conditions of PIM, the S. W. Layton Memorial Clinic, The Primary and Secondary Schools and some general remarks on the African Baptist Assembly.

**Nicaragua**

Nicaragua is the site of much rebirth and renewal. We are beginning several conversations regarding the leadership of this station. We continue to enjoy the great relationship we have with Mr. Clayton Gordon Moody and look forward to our continued work together.

Our programs in Nicaragua include a Baptist Schools which enrolls over 400 students at the pre-school, primary and secondary levels combined. Currently we need additional office space for the school principal and staff. Our students need updated English textbooks and computer equipment. Every Child in our schools should have a standard level of instruction that gives them a fair chance in life. We must create schools that are good enough for us to send our own children to.

We also need partners to repair the parsonage which is adjacent to the church and school. Several rooms require immediate attention. In addition to new leadership, we need to have adequate housing for the mission staff. Please consider partnering with us on this program. We need textbooks, support for more staff, and we also need more churches to work with us engage in short-term mission trips to visit this people country and people.

**Guinea**

I visited this country in April. Our missionary Reverend Gwen Traore and her husband , Brother Musa Traore have a very difficult but rewarding Job. They are both here with us. Some observations of my trip include the share scope of our programs. In addition to our Heath Clinic, we provide French language training. Many Guineans speak their tribal language but all business is conducted in French; so in order to secure a job and engage in business transactions you must speak French. The Foreign Mission Board is addressing this issue. Every Day, 10-15 adults come to our mission station for French classes. Many of the students are parents with children and already have jobs, but are looking to make a better life for themselves and their families, so they come to these classes to learn the language to take control of their futures.

### **Guinea {continued}**

Guinea is in constant political transition. The mission staff and all the citizens must live under very difficult and cautious conditions. We must keep them in our prayers and know that your support is needed more than ever before. Right now we rent all the mission properties in Guinea, We need to own our land! I've seen the land we should buy and we need \$100,000 to do it! LETS DO IT.

### **Sierra Leone**

This West African Nation is the site of Vine Memorial Baptist Mission. Rev. Henry A. Samuels, who leads the Mission station, is working with me on a full proposal that will revamp our programs and operations. I look forward to reporting the findings of this proposal during the Mid-winter Board meeting in January 2014.

### **Swaziland**

The National Baptist Mission station houses a clinic as well as a pre-school which was expanded to include a primary school. Mrs. May Simelane provides stellar leadership here and I witnessed this first hand during my visit a few months ago.

We have partnered with an educational firm, Primzone LLC to provide the day-to-day leadership of the school and school staff. This allows us to put greater focus on our health clinic, particularly because Swaziland has a AIDS rate above 40%. We must address this epidemic with more time and resources.

One final word about our school. We have created foreign language courses, 6 new classrooms, and a school store for the children. We are in regular contact with the Primzone leaders to provide guidance on how our school should operate and together we create an educational environment that is on track to be one of the best schools in the country.

### **Liberia**

This is our most recent success story. In November 2012 I boarded a plane to Liberia. I, along with our chairman Rev. William B. Moore, Dr. Frank D. Tucker and 7 others were there to put partnership into action. Words cannot describe what happens to a country and a people after suffering through 14 years of civil war--brothers fighting brothers and sisters fighting sisters. Everything we saw in Liberia was affected by war. And when we got to our Suehn mission station, we saw the same thing: War.

We left Liberia with a plan to rebuild our church and community center. In January 2013, during the Mid-winter Board meeting, we talked about the church rebuilding at Suehn and you responded with pledges over \$120,000.00. I am here to report that because of you, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, The Suehn Alumni Association, and

some external partners, WE HAVE REBUILT THE CHURCH AND HAVE BUILT A BRAND NEW COMMUNITY CENTER! ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.

THIS IS PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION: THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, WORKING WITH NATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCHES AND AUXILIARIES, A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS. 5 PILLARS OF PARTNERSHIP. AND, IT WORKS! IN 7 MONTHS WE REBUILT A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTER.

I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN FOR ALL THE WORK HE PUT INTO THIS PROJECT. ALL OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS CAME TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS.

A special Thanks also goes to Deacon Ernest Wright from Bright Hope Baptist Church. Deacon Wright designed the church and community space, he worked with our contractor in Liberia to get us the best pricing. Thank you! We are \$70,000 away from meeting our obligations in Liberia so we can move on to the rest of the mission station buildings!

Deacon Wright will give you an update on where we are on this building!

We are making the gospel real. We are making the gospel come to life. We have been given the task to take this gospel to every nation and every land. To every people and every tongue.

To President Scruggs, and his Cabinet, To Chairman Moore and Vice-Chairman Mapson, To the Members of the Executive Committee, to Mrs. Collins and Ms. Owens, to every Pastor and Every Member, God Bless You. God Bless our great convention which has been given the Great Commission. Let us work like never before.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Nicholas S. Richards  
Executive Secretary  
Foreign Mission Board  
National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.

