

Report of the Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission  
to the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session Of The  
National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated



Praise to God, honor to our president Dr. Julius Scruggs, presiding officer Dr. Claybon Lea, board members, officers of the convention, and delegates of the 133<sup>rd</sup> annual session. The Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission submits the following report.

The Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission was established to address the devastating impact of incarceration on our nation and our families in particular. Currently the United States incarcerates over 2 million of her citizens, that is more than Russia and China combined. According to a Pew Center Report, the United States of America has more persons incarcerated than any other nation in the world (1 out of every 100 citizens). Over 40% of those incarcerated are African Americans. African Americans are more likely to be incarcerated for committing the same crimes for which others are given diversion. If your church is predominately African American it has been or will be impacted by incarceration. If you are a pastor you probably have a member of your congregation or a family member of a member that is currently incarcerated, recently released or on their way to incarceration. The Church must recognize the seriousness of this crisis and prioritize this area of ministry in our missionary outreach efforts. The incarcerated population is the largest mission field in our nation.

I want thank Dr. Scruggs for his support of this ministry. In January of this year, Dr. Scruggs and the Board of Directors expressed their support for this ministry that is commissioned to reach men and women, boys and girls, behind the walls.

- The PMCJC seeks to provide resources to NBC constituent churches.
  - Dr. Michael Smith will share with you the details concerning our luncheon following my report. All proceeds from the luncheon help the ministry to provide resources to NBC churches involved in prison ministry or seeking to begin a prison ministry.
- The PMCJC has reviewed two curricula for implementing Fatherhood training for inmates and we are considering developing NBC curricula.
- We are increasing our database of NBC churches involved in Prison Ministry.
- The PMCJC provides assistance to convention churches and convention members that are starting prison ministries.
- Through the class taught during the Congress of Christian Education the PMCJC is building a network of trained commissioners and prison ministry workers across the nation.
- I want to thank Dr. Scruggs for giving the PMCJC permission to reach out to our convention state presidents. Some state presidents have already responded. Each State president should have or soon will have received a letter requesting a designee within their state convention that will operate as a contact person for the PMCJC. This person will act as a liaison between the State Convention and the PMCJC.

Finally, Reverend Anthony Kelley resigned from the position of Executive Secretary in January of 2012 after more than 17 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission. Please join me in thanking Dr. Kelley for his commitment to the convention and to the Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission.

The Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission needs also your financial support. You can help this ministry provide support for the prison ministries of our convention and in so doing, help change lives and save families. Please visit our booth located on the front row in the Exhibit Hall.

Submitted Humbly

D. Grady Scott, Chairman  
Prison Ministry/Criminal Justice Commission  
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.