

## Executive Secretary Report



*Rev. Charles E. Mock*

Giving honor to almighty God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to President Julius R. Scruggs, Vice President Jerry Young, General Secretary Calvin McKinney, other cabinet officers, Convention Ministry Officers, State Presidents and all other delegates to this 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention , USA, Inc.

I am pleased to make this 10<sup>th</sup> report as Executive Secretary.

Let me thank Dr. William J. Shaw for appointing me as Chair of the Home Mission Board.

Let me also thank Dr. Julius Scruggs, a President who has led us our convention with theological scholarship, moral character, ethical resolve and passionate commitment to our Savior. I consider my time with his team as one of tremendous Christian growth and social justice development.

I want to especially thank Pastor Gilbert Picket, Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Treasurers under my tenure, Dr. William Boone and Rev. Shawn Buchanan, our Assistant Treasurer, Sis. Wilma Jean Byrd, Dr. Charles Thomas our Ecclesiastical Endorser, Regional Coordinators, Field Workers, Board Members-at Large, State Representatives, and without a shadow of a doubt our Administrative Assistant, Sis. Florence Jean Wright.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank my wife, Jennifer for her support and commitment over these many years. Like all wives that are married to state and national leaders she has had to share me with so many others. For that I will always be grateful. In spite of the challenges and stress this brings on any give marriage we can say, fifteen years later, we are still together, alive and well.

For the last twenty-five years we have dedicated ourselves to creating a Home Mission Movement within this great historical convention.

There are great moments in ministry. But to have a Home Mission Movement there has to be intentional continuity from one administration to the next. What the Home Mission Board has been doing over the last 25 years through my predecessor Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. and yours truly in the role of Chairman and Executive Secretary is an intentional movement.

Dr. Stewart's fruitful years included a blueprint for the movement that focused on Evangelism and Emancipation. He gave us a great vision of what we were to do. I came along and suggested to our

Home Mission Board the inner disposition and energizing power needed to advance the movement. My gratitude to those for accepting my mission recommendations and the liberty to lead the movement through appropriate strategic planning, objectives and goals.

Under the sub-theme, *“Caring and Sharing the Master’s Mercy and Might”*, I am honored to report that for the last 15 years, five of which I served as the Board’s Chair and ten as the Executive Secretary, the Home Mission Board has done what it could. We did what we could under our nation’s troubling circumstances. We did what we could under local Church financial challenges during the worst economic recession since the great Depression. We did what we could during the challenging winds of adversity brought on by Katrina and a host of other Hurricanes time will not permit me to mention. We did what we could, in the midst of national church scandals that have added insult to the injuries brought on by national financial challenges and natural disasters. Through it all, we learned to trust in Jesus. Through it all we learned to depend upon His Word.

And so as I stand here this evening, I can stand against the background the familiar words of that great hymn of the church, *And Am I Yet Alive*. And am I yet alive, to see each other’s face, glory and praise to Jesus give for His redeeming grace. In the words of another great hymn of the church, I say on behalf of the Home Mission Board team, *may the work we have done speak for us*.

Fifteen years later we can say the Home Mission Board developed and passed on to President Shaw a blueprint for a national disaster response blueprint that served well the official plan now used by the Office of Disaster Management.

Fifteen years later, we added a template for an intentional social justice blueprint that connects the national convention, state Baptist convention district associations and local churches. This connection was designed to help us to leverage our power by working together on agreed upon responses to the injustice that characterizes so much of family and community life.

Fifteen years later, we developed a home mission manual that outlines the additional structure, policies, and ministries that are now a part of our portfolio of services. We developed user-friendly brochures that outline the work of the Home Mission Board.

Fifteen years later, we have challenged State Convention Presidents, District Associations Moderators and local Church Pastors to work with us and permit us to work with them in bringing our Master’s mercy and might to their mission initiatives in a commitment of solidarity with the Savior.

Fifteen years later, in light of changes within the national convention, and new initiatives of the Home Mission Board, we developed a template for the establishment of a Home Mission Board for State Baptist Conventions, District Associations and local churches.

Consistent with existing and new Home Mission initiatives and ministries we developed a Home Mission Board Program Manual and taught from it at the National Congress of Christian Education and at State Baptist Congresses of Christian Education.

Fifteen years later, the Home Mission Board became a key player in the 2008 and 2012 *Get Out to Vote Campaign*, co-laboring with the NAACP in its national strategy. Also, in conjunction with our social justice thrust we represented the National Baptist Convention President at key NAACP meetings. We

also helped to establish the *Interfaith Organizing Initiative*, an interfaith organization dedicated to increasing the viability of social justice ministry within the National Baptist Convention.

Fifteen years later, we added content to the Home Mission periodical to better tell our story of what we are doing in Missions across our national regions through our board Regional Coordinators and Field Workers.

Fifteen years later, we developed a partnership with the American Bible Society. Through this partnership we received thousands of Bibles free of charge which were distributed through our Home Mission coordinators to churches and families impacted by natural disasters.

Fifteen years later, under the inspired vision of Chairman Picket, and in response to what we heard preached by our convention Presidents, we established the Mission Train Stops. In every location our convention has met in over the last few years, we have partnered with our convention's pastors to bring our Master's mercy to those we are compelled to serve by virtue of our Master's Mission mandate as recorded in Matthew 25.

Our Mission Train Stops brochure reflects the good deeds we left behind, our mission footprint as a constant reminder we cared enough to share such as we have.

As I close out my tenure as Executive Secretary, I am so grateful for the opportunities for service afforded by my position and the support of this great Home Mission Board. I leave with fond memories of fellowship with the many contributors to our work: State Convention Presidents, the District Moderators and Local Pastors who opened their doors for me to enter and work with to our Master's glory.

I trust and pray that the work we are doing will continue and grow exponential through the continued support of our contributors. I pray that the next President of our National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. will permit the Home Mission Board to take on new responsibilities as one of its essential arms.

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