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NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.
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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, NBC, USA, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. Dr. William B. Moore, Chairman

Rev. Dr. J. Wendell Mapson, Jr., Vice-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.

Our model for Missions is based on Partnership. As we reflect upon another year of Missions, there are many signs of hope, many points of lights. We have built The Rev. William B. Moore Community Center on the Suehn Mission in Liberia; taken short-term mission trips to South Africa and Swaziland; installed a new pastor at the Zion Baptist Church in Bluefields, Nicaragua, and the list goes on. Together we are forging great new partnerships. Thank you for your continued support. We are in this vineyard together. Together we have overcome great difficulties and together we will see our present problems through. To God be the Glory for the great things God has done! Please find the following as a summary of our stewardship.

Malawi

Working with our representative, Rev. Mackford B. Chipuliko, Dr. Moses Chinyama and Dr. Patrick Makondesha, we have implemented a new operating agreement with our mission station and affiliates in Malawi. The Foreign Mission Board now has a direct relationship with The African Baptist Assembly, Malawi, Inc. (ABA). The African Baptist Assembly encompasses the Providence Industrial Mission (PIM), The S.W. Layton Hospital, the training of pastors and the fellowship of churches all across the nation. Together the foreign mission board and the ABA will identify yearly priorities which the Foreign Mission Board will support, and the ABA will manage the operations.

One of the jewels of our mission activities in Malawi is The S.W. Layton Hospital. Time and erosion now commission us to make several repairs and upgrades to this facility. Along with the Tri-Church Committee led by our immediate past President, Dr. William J. Shaw, we send monthly financial support for medical supplies and a small medical team. We have been given a full proposal from the ABA in line with the national health standards of Malawi to upgrade our facility both in terms of infrastructure and personnel. **Several immediate needs such as small and medium size medical equipment will be handled by the Tri-church committee while the repairing of bore holes and water pumps will be facilitated by the foreign mission board.**

We thank Dr. Larry B. West, Chairman, and Dr. John Rhodes for arranging a series of meetings with USAID in Washington D.C. These conversations were engaging and fruitful, so much so we will begin the formal application process for the access to US government support which will address the larger capital repairs that need to be made upon the hospital infrastructure.

To support mission activities, our partners in Malawi engage in several entrepreneurial activities including operating a corn farm and mill, breeding cows, and continued expansion of farmland. We continue to look for ways to support these endeavors, as the adage is true: *give someone a fish, he eats for a day; teach him to fish—he eats for a lifetime!*

These efforts, while helpful now, need our increased support. The rebuilding of the S.W. Layton Hospital will be incremental and church partners will be solicited toward this end.

Moreover, we need to develop the income base of our brothers and sisters in Malawi through increased funding of their business activity as well as business training.

Liberia

Working with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, our church partners, the Suehn Alumni Association, and some external partners, we have been able to rebuild the Suehn Mission Station church and build a community center.

On July 15, 2014, we dedicated the Rev. William B. Moore Community Center on the Suehn Mission station. While structurally complete, our work is not done, **we need \$100,000 to satisfy our remaining construction balance, we need your help to finish!** Chairman Moore and Mrs. Pauline Moore were part of this delegation along with Rev. Terrence D. Griffith; Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, Pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC; Dr. James A. Thornton, Pastor of the Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY and Mrs. Beverley King, a member of the Salem Baptist Church. Prior to the dedication service, we led an installation service for the new pastor, Rev. Jallah K. Anthony, of Bethel Delaney Baptist church on the Suehn Mission,. Rev. Anthony is a Suehn graduate who also trained in the United States, before returning home. This Joint dedication and installation service was attended by over 200 guests, including Liberian national and regional dignitaries. Some of the cost of this trip was underwritten with funds from the Dr. Lewis Jordan Travel Fellowship. Dr. Jordan was the 3rd Executive secretary of The Foreign Mission Board. His family has now established this fellowship to take pastors to the mission field who have never visited our stations before.

As we know, the entire nation is under attack from the Ebola Epidemic. Our focus in Liberia now turns towards prevention and care. Over 1800 persons have died due to this disease, therefore during this annual session, we are asking pastors and churches to go above and beyond their annual foreign mission giving to raise **\$25,000 for Ebola in Liberia.** We will distribute food, medical supplies and sanitation equipment, such as bleach and hand soap, to over 3000 area residents where our mission station is located.

While deadly, we understand as with all emergencies, there is life after the storm; therefore, along with the Suehn industrial Mission we are drafting a plan for the rebuilding of the Suehn Industrial Academy. This school would be based on the principles of the former school, once led by the missionaries of old, such as Sister Josephine Minter, etc. We must address the stagnant economic depression felt by many Liberian citizens. Many within the 16-40 yr. old range are either grossly unemployed or underemployed. Our industrial academy must tackle this joblessness head-on by the impartation of skills, access and opportunity. The workforce areas we seek to engage include mining, engineering, hospitality and construction. Significant educational attention must also be given to address peace and reconciliation training. It remains our hope to combine these soft and hard skills within the youthful generation of Liberian.

Nicaragua

A few days before Thanksgiving, 2013 Chairman Moore, Rev. John Coger and I boarded a plane to Bluefields, Nicaragua where we installed Rev. Eli Simeon as the new pastor of Zion Baptist Church. Over 300 persons attended this standing-room only service, along with the mayor of Bluefields – who happens to be a member of Zion Baptist Church and a choir member.

We were able to tour all the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc churches in areas such as Awas, Haulover and Kukra Hill. While visiting our churches we noticed a shortage of hymnals and bibles. Upon our return, Dr. Eldridge Spearman and the people of the Mount Jezreel Baptist Church in Silver Spring, MD donated 100 Hymnals for Nicaragua.

Our programs in Nicaragua include a Baptist School which enrolls over 400 students. **Our school needs a total renovation; as well as the parsonage.** We need your help in this effort, as every Child in our mission school should have a standard level of instruction that gives them a fair chance in life. Our mission schools must be good enough for us to send our own children to.

Short-term mission teams, especially, layman teams, are needed to renovate the mission school. We also need money to repair the parsonage for the new pastor which is adjacent to the school. Right now the Pastor, his wife and teenage children have to live in a rented apartment.

To those who support missions year after year, Thank You! Because of you, not only do we teach and clothe the naked, 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 advancement. Programs which will continue long after we are gone. Programs that don't just give a fish for a day, but teach someone how to fish for a lifetime.

Yet churches have decreased their mission support, but 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!

Guinea

Guinea is in constant political transition. The mission staff and all the citizens live under very difficult and dangerous conditions; we must keep them in our prayers and know that your support is needed more than ever before. In addition to our church, bible clubs, which meet in the interior of the country, we also fund a health clinic that sees over 1000 people per month.

The political and economic instability continues to affect our ability to win souls for Christ. Therefore the need to **secure a permanent mission site is crucial.** Our missionary, Rev. Gwendolyn Traore has developed a proposal to move all of our mission programs to one location, which we would own. Right now we rent all the mission properties in Guinea, We need to be in possession of our own land! I've seen the land, Rev. Traore has proposed and we need you to support this most vital **property purchase.**

Sierra Leone

This West African Nation is the site of the Vine Memorial Baptist Mission. Rev. Henry A. Samuels leads the Mission station and has developed a full proposal that will revamp our programs and operations. We are putting together another multi church team that will be responsible for supporting this mission station. To date, The Rev. James Sterling Allen of the Vine Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia and The Rev. Nathan Johnson of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan are working with us as part of this team.

Like Liberia and Guinea, Sierra Leone is heavily impacted by the Ebola virus. We are now raising funds to send food, water, medical equipment and educational materials. These items will be distributed through our mission station.

Swaziland

I, along with Rev. Albert G. Davis, Jr. and 8 other persons, just returned from an 8-day mission trip to Swaziland. The National Baptist Mission of Swaziland houses a clinic as well as a primary and pre-school. Mrs. May Simelane provides stellar leadership here.

Our School is called the Premier School. During our visit I was informed that the Premier School is now ranked the 8th school in the nation, with all the students passing their qualifying exams. We have partnered with an educational company, called Primzone, LLC, to provide day-to-day leadership of the school and school staff. This allows us to put greater focus on the needs of our children as well as on our health clinic, particularly because Swaziland has a AIDS rate above 40%. We must address this epidemic with more time and resources. Additionally we are coming up with **a plan to reach more people through our clinic.** One initiative we will soon start is similar to the visiting nurse services we have here in the United States, where our clinic staff will go into the community to treat patients and dispense medicine.

One final word about our school. All the classrooms are new, having been constructed in the last 18 months. Additionally, we now have foreign language classes and are **working on a plan to create an exchange program for the children to go to school in the United States for 1 year while living with a host family.** These efforts will allow our School to become the best school in the country.

The Foreign Mission Board is purposed by God as the compassionate witness of our great Convention. You enable us to do what God has commanded: To Go into the world and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your confidence in us and your commitment to the cause of Christ. More than ever, our Mission Stations need you! More than ever, the World needs the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc! From Liberia to Swaziland, From Sierra Leone to Malawi, From Nicaragua to Guinea we are facing Ebola, HIV-AIDS, Poverty and numerous other challenges. Yet God is Able.

To God be the Glory.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Nicholas Stuart Richards
Executive Secretary