

Executive Secretary Report

Home Mission Board

National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.

Charlotte, North Carolina

9/4/2013

To our highly esteemed President, Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, Vice President at Large, Dr. Jerry Young, General Secretary Dr. Calvin McKinney and the Parent Body cabinet; to Chairman Gilbert Pickett, Vice Chairman, Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, other executive committee members, Regional Coordinators, Field Workers and other Home Mission Board members, we greet you in the mercy and might of our Lord and in Solidarity with Him in ministry on behalf of the least, last and the lost.

I stand grateful for the continued confidence of President Scruggs and our Home Mission Board members as I stand to make this my 9th report as executive secretary.

I am pleased to share this stewardship hour with one of our partners in our Micah social justice mission, Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers the 3rd. Dr. Rivers has served with award winning distinction for his tremendous service, close to 40 years with the most important civil rights organization in America and the world, the NAACP. He presently serves as Vice President of Stakeholder Relations of the NAACP.

The Home Mission Board was invited to take a leadership role in a partnership with the NAACP in the election and re-election of President Barack Obama. Under the direction of President Scruggs, Dr. Nelson Rivers, Rev James Allen and Rev Amos Brown and yours truly on behalf of the Home Mission Board work successfully in a Get Out to Vote Campaign. To God be the glory for the results of this historic effort.

In concluding remarks to that campaign I underscored President Scruggs's belief that just because the election was over the relationship should not be over. Our national baptist convention and the NAACP will not agree on every domestic issue that calls for a response. However, what we do not agree on, should not trump what we do agree on.

There are some domestic issues on which we share common ground. Three of those issues have to do with health care affordability, education equity and mass incarceration in an age which Michele Alexander has called The New Jim Crow.

Last week, Wednesday in particular, hundreds of thousands of person heard legends of the civil rights movement reflect on 3 questions: Where we were, where we are and where we are going, 50 years later--chaos or community.

While Assad dumps chemical weapons on innocent adults and children in Syria, 50 years later, there are principalities and powers in national and state government, in congresses and on the Supreme Court who seek to dump Jim Crowish laws and policies on Black Americans, our elderly, our youth and other People of Color. Fifty years later they seek to take us back to 50 years ago.

The Home Mission Board has also been doing so reflection on where we have been, where we are and where we need to be.

Nine years ago we took the bold and courageous step of hiring the first full time executive secretary. It was our belief then, and 9 years later our continued belief, that we we will not be able to enter our preferred future as a mission arm of this convention, without a full time executive secretary.

I am pleased to report that 9 years later, we have developed a Mission composed of additional helps and services to our national Baptist constituency.

Nine years later, through our Mission Ministry of Helps and Services, we have provided financial assistance to over 150 churches or church outreach ministries. Most recently, through our Mission Day in solidarity with local churches and social service agencies, we

have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and given water to the thirsty. Through your contributions you have made possible Mission Train stops in Indianapolis, Indiana, St Louis, Missouri twice, Orlando, Florida, and Atlanta. And here in Charlotte, in partnership with Friendship Baptist Church, Mt Sinai and other Baptist Churches, we

have done likewise. What we have unloaded is food, medical services, school supplies, other social services, and evangelism outreach in a context of good old fashion fellowship and fun with entire families. Youth and adults have accepted Christ on sight.

Nine years later, through our **Ministry of Mission Discipleship** we continue to teach the Home Mission Program at the Congress of Christian Education, as well as, in State Convention Congresses of Christian Education. For example, I recently spent time at both the Congresses of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention under its President Rev. Dr. L. D. Tate; and the Congress of the United Baptist State Conventions of Illinois under President Matthew Miller. I am also thankful for the doors opened by the Home Mission Board members to District Associations.

We have developed a suggested format of a Home Mission Board Structure for State Convention Presidents and District Association Moderators so what we do on the national level can have a similar structure on the state and district levels.

Also, we are planning our second Faith, Family and Community Empowerment Conference for 2014. The twin themes to be lifted up are education and incarceration. Partners working with us will be educational institutions, the Department of Justice, the NAACP and our Convention's Prison Ministry and Justice Commission.

Nine years later, through our **Micah Ministry of Justice**, I will be recommending to our board a new initiative called the Community Empowered Pipeline to Prison. CEPP as a logical extension of our Dawning of a New Day Conference and our Faith, Family and Community Empowerment Conference of 2011 and the one planned for 2014.

CEPP is a community to prison pipeline of 21st century new Abolitionists dedicated to freedom retention of our youth, and restoration of freedom of the newly released from prisons.. We have potential children, teens and youth at risk for serious time behind prison walls or within the long arms of the criminal justice system.

CEPP is rooted in the soil of egregious statistics, situations and circumstances African American youth are faced with daily. CEPP is also historically grounded. It pays homage to the conductors of the invisible Underground Railroad as well as the very

visible Abolitionists of Slavery. CEPP will draw on the inspiration, motivation and values that served as the foundation of a movement that had as its goal setting slaves free.

In conclusion. 9 years later, your Home Miss[on Board thanks and congratulates our contributors, who in the midst of difficult financial decisions, have continued honoring the work we are doing. We continue to seek relationships and partnership with local pastors, moderators and state presidents. We believe we are indeed better together.

Please stop at the home mission board for free information on how we can partner together for the sake of the least, the last and the lost.

Nine years later, our prayer is that we will take with greater urgency the Lord's mandate as written in Micah 6. God tells us what He requires of us, "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before God." May we never confuse a requirement with an option.

Over 2,000 years later, Matthew 25 reminds us that when our Lord sits in judgment He will judge our worthiness to enter His kingdom. What we will be judged on is not how well we worshiped, not how well we sang, not how well we preached, not how big and beautiful our church building was, not by how many members we had, not by how big our church budget was or how prosperous we were. We will be judged by whether we saw Jesus in the face of the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the naked, the sick, and the prisoners of mass incarceration.

We heard all last week about 50 years later. I am glad to report that 9 years later, your Home Mission Board is caring and sharing our Master's Mercy & Might. We are expanding the definition of home mission.9 years later, we are doing justice.

Nine years later, we are preparing to visit prisoners, not just for a revival but for their re-entry and restoration to our communities.

If you haven't gotten on board the Home Mission Train, please get on board this Mission Train.

And please make a budgetary commitment during our annual stewardship drive this November.

Be a Mission Train Partner with us so together we can be better to the glory of our God.

Pray for us and for the Mission Train. I am now pleased to bring Dr. Nelson Rivers the III who will share in his own way what we must do in the face of great concerns that invite our divine attention.

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Greater self-esteem through greater Christ-esteem in 2013!