

Mid Winter Board Meeting 2014

Faith Based Development Initiative Report

To our President, Dr. Scruggs, to the Executive Team, to State Presidents, Board Members at Large, all Auxiliary Presidents and Representatives, to all Board and Commission Chairs, to all our Father's children,

What a joy it is to be involved in a work that is positioned to increase Churches, District Association and State Conventions', value in the States, Districts, cities and local neighborhoods they serve. Through the efforts of our National Directors and Assistant National Directors, our Convention's structure and model is being recognized as potentially the best model to assist government agencies in reaching the masses and getting things done on their behalf in both urban and rural America.

It is exciting to witness our National Director for Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Willie Gable and his Assistant National Director, Pastor Roderick Ware develop an Actions Coalition between NBCUSA, HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Community Development Actions Coalition, NUFI (National USA Foundation Incorporated), Churches and Neighborhood Works.

Dr. Gable, Dr. Ware and staff have established pilot projects in the following cities:

- Chattanooga, TN
- Oklahoma City, OK
- New Orleans, LA
- Shreveport, LA

The Churches along with the Coalition have identified projects within the Churches' Community and are busy developing business plans/plan of action and determining sources of funding!

The Members of The Coalition will be meeting this week in Birmingham to further solidify efforts and give additional direction. The vision is to have these pilot projects produce results that can be largely duplicated across the country.

It has been a productive year for our National Director to Health and Human Services, Dr. Michael Minor, his Assistant National Directors, Doris Lassiter, Bernard Montgomery, Janet Jamieson, Cynthia Murphy, Dessie Levy and Brandi Franklin. They have worked the Morehouse project and the HeiTech project while sponsoring the Faith and Health Conference during our Annual Session last September. The Health Team has established Health Ministry ongoing "Train the Trainer" locations in the following areas and/or entities:

- ❖ North and East Mississippi/Delta Gulf Coast
- ❖ Greater Louisiana State Congress
- ❖ Alabama Missionary Baptist State Congress/The Hope Network
- ❖ Calvary Baptist Church of North Jersey
- ❖ Lincoln Heights Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio
- ❖ Flint Michigan
- ❖ Memphis, Tennessee

The Health Team has been tremendously active with sharing information and participating in sign-ups on behalf of our Convention in partnership with Enroll America and the Affordable Care Act. Plans for 2014 include finishing the work with Morehouse and HeiTech. Establishing meetings with the Regional HHS in Dallas to discuss productive possibilities for the Congress meeting in June and continuing discussions and collaborative efforts with the American Kidney Foundation.

It has been a tremendous plus to watch our National Director to the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Ivory W. Lyles develop relationships with the Senior Staff at Agriculture. He has engaged people in the Cooperative Extension area, The Farm Service Agency as well as the National Resource Service. Dr. Lyles is looking to develop pilot projects that will serve as income producers for our constituents. He is working with the State of Arkansas looking at ways to get low income individuals producing fruit and vegetables. He is working with small farmers in two states to apply for USDA's value added producers grants. Dr. Lyles has also been engaging USDA's Strike Force Initiative around rural economics, growth and opportunity.

I am absolutely thrilled to report that we have made a new appointment. The Small Business Administration, given the right structure, can potentially be a great partner in the communities our churches serve. Dr. Eldridge Spearman, Senior Pastor of the Mt Jezreel Baptist Church in Silver Spring, MD has consented to be the National Director to the Small Business Administration. As the SBA looks to get more SBA guaranteed loans to small Businesses in underserved communities, Dr. Spearman will look into the possibilities of rather than channeling those loans through Banks why not direct those loans through our Churches' Credit Unions. Additionally as he sets up his team they will be available to assist Pastors and Churches in the fundamentals of establishing a member or community based Credit Union. Kindly see Dr. Spearman if you would like to receive the fundamentals of initiating a Credit Union.

Dr. Spearman has also Authored a book entitled, "The Miracles of God, The Mt. Jezreel Experience." It is an interesting read that will enlighten the reader. Should you desire a copy of the book, kindly get in touch with the Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD.

Our National Director to the Department of Education, Dr. Carol Mitchell and her Assistant National Director, Dr. Maxine Diggs are fully involved in challenging D.O.E. with improving the state of Education, particularly in Public Education throughout this country. Our children are being severely impacted due to low educational resources, non cultural competencies and non

awareness in their communities. In an effort to develop a more heightened strategy, we need to know more concerning programs and services that are already in place and working well in local and State Convention Churches. State Presidents, this is an area where you can invite persons who are interested in the education of our children to get involved. Our desire is to be front runners in the progress of Early Childhood Education. We want to maintain and increase the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc visibility with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. People within our churches are experts in this area, let's get them involved.

Dr. Be Louis Colleton continues his efforts along with his Assistant National Directors working with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Jerry McAfee continues to build credibility with his desire to create jobs for our young people within our communities. Dr. Bowyer Freeman continues his work with CFPB-Consumer Finance Protection Bureau.

Dr. Randy Vaughn continues his work with Homeland Security.

Dr. Alvin Love is working at Senior levels assisting with the signups for the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. John T. Rhodes is working with USAID and its work on Foreign Soils.

Our efforts with the Department of Justice worked by our National Director, Dr. Amos Brown, around the area of Voter Suppression and other social justice issues are front and center. Our attention to this detail cannot and will not wain for this year and beyond. 2014 is an election year not only for the Convention but also for our country. In September we talked about increasing our vigilance such that we would have people in place to watch for any and all potential changes in policies for voter registration, policies for voting and/or policies geared toward changing geographic voting locations. We are working with the NAACP in both gathering and reporting this info.

On Tuesday afternoon State Directors and their teams engaged in an information session on various potential projects. The session ended with a workshop on the Affordable Care Act and our efforts to get persons/families in need of Health Insurance to sign up.

Humbly submitted,

L. B. West

Dr. L. B. West
Chairman
Faith Based Development Initiative