



HOME MISSION BOARD WINTER BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT January 22, 2014

Executive Secretary, Rev Charles E. Mock
Birmingham, Alabama

We give honor to God, 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 & session of the National Baptist Convention Winter Board meeting,

Mr. President, delegates and faithful contributors of the Home Mission Board, on behalf of the Home Mission Board we are pleased to make this report. Since our September 2013 session we continue to focus our mission of caring and sharing through our Solidarity with the Savior. This mission is implemented through shared ministry through our Mission Train.

The Home Mission Board Mission Train is planning its next Mission Train stop to New Orleans in September of 2014. We have been in conversation with Rev. Gary Lee Curtis, Pastor of Second Mt Zion Baptist Church, New Orleans for our 6th annual Faith, Fun, Community Outreach Festival. Our Home Mission Festival includes collaboration, alliances and partnerships with such entities as State Conventions, District Associations and local Baptist Churches that are members of our convention. We combine our resources for maximum impact on individuals and families.

These Train stops have become a very valuable witness of our Baptist convention's loving-kindness and tender mercy to those who are struggling daily to put bread on their table and clothes on their children's backs while keeping heat in their houses and medicine in their cabinets. Your contributions are sorely needed at a time when many national congressmen and congresswomen continue their budget cutbacks, balancing the budget on the backs of the poor. These Train stops could not take place without the sacrificial contributions of our faithful contributors. We wish to thank our faithful contributors for making these Home Mission Train stops possible by your 2014 financial commitments.

The Home Mission Board also has diligently sought the creation of an atmosphere and environment for the development of local faith-based forums for vital conversations around justice, equality and fairness. An important part of our inspiration and direction is driven by President Scruggs' historical vision and leadership in social justice. We are grateful for his presence as a board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Since our September session, I was pleased to attend the latest NAACP Religious Leadership Roundtable held in Alexandria, Virginia in November of 2013.

The foci of the Religious Roundtable were the Affordable Care Act and Voter Suppression. Very valuable information was shared that shed light on the pros and cons of the HealthCare website things that we would not be able to pick up from media coverage. Please consult your NAACP website for detailed and more accurate information.

Additional good news is the NAACP has been endorsed by the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in 2013. Shavon Arline Bradley reported that one goal is to partner with Black clergy to enhance our presence and capacity as churches to address HIV as a social justice issue. Church healthcare leadership is encouraged to apply for NAACP grants for HIV/AIDS workshops and forums toward a more intentional outreach strategy in dealing with a disease that is devastating the health of the Black family in particular. The Home Mission Board endorses fully the NAACP's initiative called, The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative.

On the social justice battlefield the Home Mission Board is also planning to participate in the Interfaith Organizing Initiative around the intersection of Race and Criminal Justice. This is an issue of deep concern of number of Faith-based denominations. I have been a co-leader of a table of Interfaith religious organizations and partners that are determined to have a serious "conversation and commitment toward action" in the area of incarceration. Present strategic planning will lead to a convening in the spring of 2014.

Here is our campaign statement:

Through the collective and organized voices of Communities of Faith, faith-based organizing networks and other partnerships, the Interfaith Organizing Initiative is dedicated to a leadership role in reversing and transforming the crisis being called the Criminalization of Race: the criminalization of Black and Brown ethnic groups by unjust laws and policies of the criminal justice system (aka prison industrial complex). We envision and work toward safer and empowered communities, increased employment opportunities, and redeemed lives through an end to racial profiling and mass incarceration. Our future will be transformed by identifying and replicating best practices to resist mass incarceration, developing coordinated action strategies where possible, and gathering significant funding to support our organizing efforts.

We are excited and delighted about the growing conversation across our convention regarding incarceration as a social justice issue that challenges the church's missional response. For example, Dr. Anthony Kelly, Social Justice Director of the Greater Louisiana Baptist Convention, has taken this conversation to a deeper and higher level. Dr. Kelly has developed a template for doing social justice in the area of mass incarceration, including organizing for action to change public policy.

The Home Mission Board has developed a model for doing intentional, holistic missions within a District Association and within any given State Baptist Convention. We now have a model for doing Prison Ministry within the local church and within a District Association. In September of 2013 the HMB approved the first draft of a holistic Prison Ministry model called Church Empowered Pipeline to Prison. CEPP is a logical extension of our Faith, Family and Community Empowerment Conference of 2011.

CEPP is a Church-based community to prison pipeline of 21st century Christian Abolitionists dedicated to freedom retention of our youth, restoration and re-integration of newly released juveniles and adults from county, state and federal prisons.

CEPP is rooted in the soil of egregious statistics, situations and circumstances African American youth and adults 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 2014 we look forward to having social justice workshops and forums on the issue of mass incarceration that will include CEPP as one of a number of best practices that can reverse the pipeline to prison. We are seeking District Association, State Convention Presidents and local pastors to partner with us on these workshops to address the critical issue of mass incarceration. The theme would be: Moving from Prison Revival to Community Restoration, Reconciliation and Re-integration.

The scriptural foundation will be Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me." Also, Luke 4:18, "He has sent me to proclaim release to the prisoners," and Hebrew 13:3 "Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them."

These will be workshops on how we can effectively partner to receive our own youth and adults back home and to church through Jesus' gift of hospitality.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

- A. To provide resources and tools that enable more powerful evangelical and missional ministry to those returning from prison
- B. To promote a Christ-centered mission mandate through the lens of Reconciliation and Restoration
- C. To prepare pulpit and lay leadership for enhancing their Prison ministry to families impacted by the Prison Industrial Complex
- D. To provide clergy vital information and partnership models for more effective Prison ministry

Along with the above mentioned ministries we will continue to provide resources and financial assistance to as many churches as possible as contributions will permit.

We seek your prayers as we approach 2014 with greater determination than ever to be in Solidarity with the Savior through His Mercy & Might,

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