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February 20, 2013

Attn: All NBC, USA, Inc. Chaplains

The 2013 Chaplains Professional Development Institute:

Seminar # 1: SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT/SPIRITUAL MATURITY. This Seminar will provide definitions, resources, and insights on the subjects of Spiritual Development and Spiritual Maturity. Because the National Baptist Chaplain is responsible for the Spiritual development of the soldiers and families under his or her care, it is important for the chaplain to be aware of related resources available for spiritual care and development, as well as for the need and criticality for such an emphasis. In addition to definitions and resources, the seminar participants will look at how the ministry of spiritual Development is currently being performed, and how it can be improved.

Seminar # 2: SUFFERING IN SILENCE: This Seminar will take a look at how the pastor, chaplain, commander, supervisor, and other leaders who deal with high levels of stress, stress that can cause them to become self-destructive, to the point of sacrificing their careers and family relations or even committing suicide. The Baptist Chaplain, particularly the National Baptist Chaplain is often isolated from other Chaplains and may feel that they have no other place to go when personal crisis situations arise. The same phenomenon can occur with Commanders (at all levels), hospital administrators, or other persons who are professionally "isolated" from peers and who may experience the "loneliness" that occurs at the top of a personnel system. This Seminar will ask the Chaplain or Pastor to look at ways of recognizing such symptoms in themselves and in others, and will suggest ways for addressing the issue.

Attendance at The Chaplains Professional Development Institute is required of all chaplains endorsed through the Office of the Ecclesiastical Endorser of our Convention. Exceptions can be made for "operational necessity." Such exceptions must be coordinated in advance through Office of the Ecclesiastical Endorser. The Institute will be held in conjunction with the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, meeting in St. Louis, MO. (June 17-21). Please remember that the Office of the Endorser is Self-sustaining, with reliance upon your Annual Dues (\$250)/ and Offerings. Be Blessed and Be A Blessing!

Charles F. Thomas, Sr. *Ecclesiastical Endorser*