

## **REPORT ON THE DROUGHT IN SOMALIA OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT NBC USA Inc.**

URGENT PLEA to all State Presidents, National Leaders, Pastors and members of the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.

If you have been keeping up with news reports today, you would no doubt be familiar with the devastating drought that is currently taking place in East Africa. In addition to the drought, the people of Somalia are attacked by insurgents and rebels. Children are being killed in the presence of their families and those who are not slaughtered; die on their way to refugee camps.

The United States reports that over 11 million people are in need of food and shelter-the bare necessities of life. The refugee camps that were designed to house 90,000 now house over 400,000 men, women and children. Tens of thousands of refugees have fled south-central Somalia in hopes of finding food at camps in Ethiopia, Kenya and in Mogadishu, the Somali capital. Many of the children suffer from extreme malnourishment and other medical ailments. Additional reports reveal that a thousand refugees enter the camps on a daily basis, trying to escape the famine and the marauding of the rebels.

This devastation, although it does not directly affect us, cannot help but to touch our hearts. And, as Christians and leaders, it is our call to respond to this need. At this time, we do not have a summary of the needs, but with the numbers of affected persons involved in this famine being so great, it is without a doubt that the need is also great, especially when it comes to the lives of the small, innocent children involved.

The Office of Disaster Management and the Foreign Missions Board of the NBC USA Inc., are making this appeal to our convention so that we can do our part to assist in the movement to feed the people of Somalia. The massive numbers of people in this crisis are too great to ignore. These people, this nation will require our convention's prayerful concern and financial support.

We call upon our convention to prayerfully support the efforts of our Convention by providing financial resources that will help and assist our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world.

Our convention stands in great need of your assistance so that we might be better able to minister during this hour of devastation and tragedy. As many of you are aware of our present financial challenges, we are obligated to respond to this call for help. You may bring your gifts with you to our National Convention in Orlando, FL.

Those who submit support for this effort should make their checks payable to the  
**NBC USA Inc. Disaster Relief Fund and mailed to:**  
**BAPTIST WORLD CENTER HEADQUARTERS**  
**National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.**  
**1700 Baptist World Center Drive**  
**Nashville, TN 37207**

Submitted by,  
Rev. Randy G. Vaughn, Director  
Office of Disaster Management  
National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.

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