

*Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.*

## **Missions Ministry**

### **STAFF:**

Elder Dr. Joe B. Maddox, Director of Missions  
Rev. C. Danny Johnson, Assistant Director of Missions  
Rev. Dr. Brian E. Bartlett, Sr., Western Region (Memphis) Coordinator  
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Rev. E. Wayne Jones, Middle Region Coordinator  
Elder Dr. Tommie L. Mims, Eastern Region Coordinator

### **The Definition:**

The Board of Missions and the Board of Evangelism have been combined in principle, practice, and definition. MISSIONS shall include evangelism and is defined (for the purpose of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.) as "aiding (or helping) and evangelizing."

*It is meeting individuals and communities at their place of need and developing relationships for the purpose of enhancing opportunities to present the plan of salvation.*

### **Introduction:**

We are concerned that the African American church (as a whole) has not fulfilled its role concerning the "Great Commission." We believe that God has endowed us with our own culturally distinctive uniqueness and giftedness, born out of a history of slavery, oppression under Jim Crow segregation and the furnace of affliction; God has given us a word of redemption and a special sensitivity towards the Lost or Unsaved. Throughout the 1800s there was a considerable African American Foreign Mission's presence – especially in Africa. But for whatever the reason our efforts have diminished.

We are concerned that after several generations of obstacles our churches have greatly lost touch with the mandate to take the Gospel to the world and that our churches have little exposure to the spiritual climate of the world today.

God has placed the African American Church in position to have critical impact on world evangelization. In spite of difficult times and challenging conditions, God is providing resources to take the gospel to the world, allowing us to be like Joseph in Genesis 50:20 KJV, "*you meant it for evil against me but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*" Today the windows of opportunity are open for the church to evangelize and empower the poor, imprisoned, blind and oppressed of the world.

In order to take our place on the world stage, we acknowledge that a new way of thinking is needed. We cannot work in isolation. We must work together to be a unified force.

For this reason, we appeal to the Convention, Associations, and Churches to make a commitment to the fulfillment of God's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) by being intentional in our missional efforts.

Jesus said in Acts 1:8: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth"* (KJV). Jesus' focus in this text instructs us to be witnesses among those who are near and far, to those culturally similar and those culturally different.

Unity in the body of Christ is a part of our witness to the Kingdom of God. In the reconciling power of the Gospel, we encourage partnering with others where it is strategically wise for the glory of God in making His name great among the nations.

We see and value short-term missions. But we also need long-term relationships that would result in lifetime commitments to completing the Great Commission. We recognize a need for greater personalization of the Great Commission through lifetime commitments to missional service.

### **The Operation:**

The Board of Missions shall be the resource for missionary activities of the Convention. It is the responsibility of the Board to raise funds for missions and make recommendations to the President for distribution of those funds.

Applications, addressing the items in the list of criteria, are to be prepared in typewritten format and submitted to the Board of Missions for consideration. Because the President is promoting our working together, higher priority will be given to those pastors, churches, and associations that are collaborating in their missional activities.

In the President's efforts to promote evangelism, it is essential that missional activities include witnessing to the Lost as those activities are being conducted. We do not want to be labeled as a "welfare" agency but our efforts are to promote making disciples. We commit to work with our churches (upon request) to move to greater internal missional health for greater external victory.

Applications for funds are to be postmarked no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Board of Missions will collect and review the applications for the purpose of making recommendations to the President. The President or his designee will make announcement of the recipients at the business meeting of the Annual Session. The recipients will be responsible for making a written report to the Board of Missions no later than 30 days after the funded mission activity has been completed. The information will be used to compile and present missions reports at business meetings.

In the event members of the Board of Missions apply for funds the application will be presented to the President and his cabinet for consideration. Then upon hearing the recommendations from

the Board of Missions concerning other applications, the President will make decisions based on the merits of the applications.

### **Projects**

In 2013, The Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc. undertook a missions project specifically designed to assist the ministry of Dr. Gideon Makuthi, by gathering items that were shipped to Kenya, East Africa. Dr. Makuthi has a clinic and an orphanage at the Salama Missionary Baptist Church in Kenya where he serves as Pastor. They are in need of items for their clinic, orphanage, and their school.

In 2012 and 2013, approximately 400 churches in Kenya and 1800 in Uganda petitioned and were received to become members of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.

From 2010 – 2014, Convention members have been instrumental in planting four (4) churches in Kenya. One of the churches is named for our Convention: Tennessee Missionary Baptist Church.

Currently, plans are being made to send another container to Kenya with building materials for churches and bibles for pastors and parishioners.

### **Church Planting in Kenya, East Africa**



Tennessee Missionary Baptist Church – Kenya

(Churches often start under a tree until a building is built)



The Maasai Group at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church – Kenya



Orphans at Salama Missionary Baptist Church – Salama, Kenya

## Theological and Leadership Training in Uganda and Kenya



Students in Kenya



Graduating class in Uganda

**Funding:**

We extend the Macedonian call as did the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 8:1 by encouraging Convention members, through our churches, ministries and associations, to make a commitment to actively participate in "the grace of giving" by financially supporting missionaries and missions work of the Convention at home and around the world.

The month of May has been designated as Missions Month for the Convention. We appeal to you even now to start planning for Missions Month – the month of May. If we can get 200 churches to give just \$500.00, we can raise \$100,000.00 to be used for missions. We have the consent of the President to designate funds raised for missionary work.

We are committed to being transparent and intentional in reporting how funds are handled in all that we do. We intend to prioritize use of funds for three primary areas of consideration: (1) Missionary ministries; (2) Mission training materials; 3. Home Missions efforts.

**Conclusion:**

Statistics tell us that there are over 4,000,000,000 non-Christians on planet earth. We believe that God has called the African American Church to take its rightful place as a significant participant in His mission to reach all nations with the good news of His Son, Jesus Christ. Our participation is essential to God's plan to reach the nations. We therefore, commit to missions with a purpose in cross-cultural evangelism and discipleship.

Let us embrace our historical legacy that has equipped us for present day service. Let us prepare our local churches as the primary agent for fulfilling the Great Commission. Let the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc., by the grace of God, intentionally and strategically engage God's calling to the nations as an all-important commitment.

Finally, we need your help in compiling annual reports of the mission activities throughout our Convention, associations and churches. Please help us by providing a description of your mission activities by using the format provided in the Structures and Communications Handbook on Page 24 (Appendix K). We want to be able to share the overall work going on throughout the Convention and its supporting bodies.

We can be God's tool toward the redemption of persons and communities at home and abroad. We are called to become change agents in a world blinded by ignorance of God's gracious love toward us all. Won't you help?

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