

THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

PROGRESSIVE

Voice

ISSUE NO. 3 - FEBRUARY 2015

Success In Virginia Beach

President Perkins Sets
PNBC on the Right Course

Missions on the Move

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Making Social Justice Actionable

PNBC'S 2015 Advocacy Agenda

The 2015 Midwinter Board meeting is behind us! It was a wonderful experience! The new format was appreciated by attendees and provided for a program that flowed smoothly.

MID-WINTER SUCCESS

in Virginia Beach

Praise God for a blessed week! I've received so much positive feedback that I'm encouraged. I want to thank all who attended, and all who have taken time to call, text, shoot me an email, or who filled out an evaluation form to let me know your thoughts and to share with me your suggestions for improving PNBC.

I also want to thank all persons who participated in sharing their thoughts about how to structure and implement the various program initiatives that were presented. Given what you have shared, we now have the fodder needed to develop our program and determine our goals and objectives in those respective areas. Thank you PNBC! You are great! Our presenters were simply excellent! It was evident that each of them had taken their assignment seriously, that they had not only studied, but prayed about the content of their presentation. As a result, we were not only informed, but inspired! One preacher called to say to me,

"After hearing all that preaching at the Midwinter meeting, I felt like preaching Sunday!" My response: "YES!" When people come to PNBC and return home, they should be on fire! God be praised!

THIS IS HOLY GROUND

All of that said, we still have a serious challenge. We must have enough churches contribute to PNBC on a monthly basis to sustain our operations. We have such a wonderful headquarters property and such a wonderful staff that it deserves to be sustained. This is holy ground. Nannie Helen Burroughs put this property in the hands of PNBC because she believed we would appreciate what she had spent her life trying to do and that we would continue what she had started. This is holy ground.

However, if we don't give on a monthly basis to meet our monthly obligations, at some point the bottom will fall out.

This is the point I am trying to impress upon you as urgently as I can. It has simply come to that! So I urge you, PNBC pastors and laypeople, if you have not visited our headquarters campus to see what we have and to see the daily operations at work on your behalf, take some time to do so. You will see what God has blessed us with and the great opportunity He has given us to be His witnesses in what I call "the capital of the world". I urge you brothers and sisters, give liberally each month so we can truly be used by God to do a great work.

THE DEFICIT ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN

I want to give a special thanks to Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood, Chair of our DEFICIT ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN, for appealing to us to contribute \$1,000 towards this effort.

During the Midwinter meeting week, you contributed \$24,000, and you pledged \$25,200. To date, \$47,050 has been collected as monies had been received prior to the Midwinter. Give yourselves a big hand! As wonderful as this is, it is a good little distance from our overall goal of \$300,000. As outlined in a previous newsletter, these funds are needed to eliminate past debts, take care of current obligations, and provide something for day to day operations.

Dr. Youngblood did not just make an appeal, he and the Mt. Pisgah Church of Brooklyn, NY gave \$10,000! He refers to himself as the "\$300,000 MAN"! This is his way of letting us know that he is committed to seeing this challenge through to victory. He will be in touch with you soon (if not already), to solicit your support. We need you to join this cause now! You can contribute online by going to our website (www.pnbc.org), by calling our headquarters (1-800-876-7622) to pay by credit card, or by mailing a check to PNBC headquarters indicating "DEFICIT ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN." We need your contributions TODAY!

CANCEL THE BLACK JESUS PROGRAM

I don't know if you have seen this program that comes on tv called "Black Jesus". If you have not, go to Youtube or Wikipedia to see clips of it and read about it. It is blasphemous!

The program casts Jesus as a dope smoking, uzi carrying hoodrat. And it gets more outrageous than that!

PNBC has launched a letter writing campaign to get this show off the air. First, it ought outrage all people of faith, but it ought especially outrage African-Americans because we have never had and do not now have anything or anybody but Jesus. We are a people of faith in Jesus!

This program is targeted to our children and youth. It subtly undermines their faith and says to them that Jesus is not to be taken seriously.

This is an opportunity for all of us to share in our social justice ministry. Go to the PNBC website (www.pnbc.org), click CANCEL BLACK JESUS and follow the simple instructions. More importantly, have your church members, family and friends do it and have your church members have their family and friends do it as well. Here is a simple, but important way to get a movement started and to exert our power!

FORWARD TO DALLAS

I can't believe how quickly Dallas will come! Please be prayerful that God will bless our planning and our session. This year each attendee 21 years and older must register (\$75 pre-registration, \$100 on-site registration) before they can take part in Congress classes or any PNBC division.

For the first time in history, those who take classes in our Congress sessions will have an opportunity to receive college and/or seminary credits. We have developed a partnership with Virginia Union University and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology to provide the opportunity for our constituents to receive a certificate that leads to a degree if that's their choice, as opposed

to simply receiving the card that has been given in the past. The opportunity to receive college or seminary credit for the Christian Education courses you take is not limited to the PNBC Congress, it applies to our Regional Congresses as well as our local churches.

For the opportunity to receive college or seminary credit through PNBC, there will be an additional \$15 charge to the Congress registration. A space will be provided on the registration form for you to check whether you want to participate in the college credit component of our Congress.

The week's program will be designed for families! There will be specific times for families to recreate. There will be age appropriate activities. Plan now to bring your children and young people to share in what I'm sure will be an exciting and inspiring experience.

We are attempting to build a Music Department for PNBC. Through the efforts of the Minister of Music of the Greater Christ Church, Detroit, MI, Mr. Eric Sanders, the Choir Director of Greater Christ Church, Detroit, MI, Mr. Marcus Holmes, Lady Murdean Fielding and Maestro Wayne Evans, we will be able to provide for our ministers of music, choir directors and choir members instruction and exposure to the latest in gospel music and praise and worship. From these sessions, music will be provided for our worship experiences and most of all we want to produce a PNBC CD to share our "joyful noise" with the world! Look forward to learning in the near future how you can participate.





KUDOS *What People Said About the Midwinter Board Meeting*

"The theme of working and worshipping together was evident in every aspect of the meetings this week".

"The program was succinct, clear and executed with grace and precision".

"Outstanding presenters. Very informative and helpful".

"The prophetic nature of this meeting has renewed my commitment to organized religion".

"This is the best winter board meeting I have attended as far as organization, clarity of vision and information".

"Overall the speakers were great. Dr. Perkins is doing an awesome job".

"President's package/booklet was excellent in highlighting his strategic plan. Very inclusive also".

"Hopefully what we experienced will be repeated at the annual session".

"My first midwinter. It was wonderful".

"The speakers' information was relevant for our time".

I want to salute the Reverend Dr. James Perkins, President, PNBC, Inc., and his tier of leadership for an effective, efficient and efficacious winter board meeting. This winter board meeting meeting has reignited "A More Excellent Way" in my spirit. Your presenters and lecturers, preachers/proclaimers such as Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Dr. Marvin A. McMickle, Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr., and Dr. Charles E. Booth to name a few, were meaningful and purposeful.

Dr. Perkins, as you continue to give leadership through your initiatives and objectives, with a convention working together, and God being our Helper; we can get back to the basics of the work of the Kingdom, as we continue to preach the gospel, winning more souls to Christ while being witnesses.

In the words of Rev. Dr. Marvin A. McMickle, "The Church has a Responsibility to say something, see something, and sacrifice something, for the sake of the gospel, speak out about the injustices of humanity, speak truth to power and fight for Social Justice."

The winter board meeting reminded me that PNBC is still relevant in the 21st Century and for centuries to come, even in the midst of declining attendance and participation in convention work.

I sense that President Perkins will push PNBC to think differently by using creative concepts with a different approach to ministry; as we go after generations who know not God and His church. As we move forward by "Preserving the Legacy and Continuing the Witness", I look forward to the shared ideas, thoughts and initiatives by President Perkins, the executive board, departments, regional leadership, laity, youth, young adults, ministers and the Pastors of PNBC.

Rev. Dr. Keith A. Ogden, Senior Pastor
Hill Street Baptist Church
Asheville, NC



MAKING SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIONABLE



By Rev. Kip Banks, Sr.



PNBC 2015 Advocacy Agenda

During the Progressive National Baptist Convention's (PNBC) Midwinter Board session in Virginia Beach, VA., Dr. Marvin McMickle, President of the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Dr. Raphael Warnock, Pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, Dr. John Mendez, Pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC and Rev. Jennifer Butler, President of the Faith in Public Life advocacy organization in Washington, DC, led us in a rich discourse on "How to Make Social Justice Actionable."

Dr. McMickle kicked-the-session-off with an in-depth theological reflection on the first chapter of the biblical book of Acts. He said that the African American Church has a responsibility to "Say something, see something, and sacrifice something for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

In a panel that followed, Rev. Butler, Dr. Menendez and Dr. Warnock shared in discussion about the imperative to make social justice actionable. Rev. Butler said that a social justice vision without a strategy is just a hallucination. She also indicated that in today's culture, if an advocacy or protest event is not captured on television or in the print media, then it didn't happen, and that PNBC must train its clergy and other leaders to become media savvy.

Both Dr. Mendez and Dr. Warnock talked about the core importance of freedom and economic issues to the Black Church. In a moving sermon, "When Profits Meet Prophets," Dr. Warnock said that God has called us all to be prophetic and to prophesy against the culture of greed and economic injustice that is so pervasive in our society. Dr. Mendez pointed out that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s movement was about battling economic injustice and that 2018 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign March on Washington and that the same issues resonate with us today.

Underscore the critical need for PNBC to address economic injustice was a recent news clip saying that the ultra-conservative Koch Brothers plan to spend \$900 million to influence 2015 legislation and the outcome of the 2016 elections. Following are key items on the 2015 PNBC Advocacy Agenda.

Advocacy Agenda:

Canceling the Black Jesus Program

Every PNBC member is encouraged to sign the petition to cancel this program which mocks Jesus and is demeaning to African American people. Please go to www.pnbc.org and click on the Black Jesus banner to sign the petition.

Addressing Economic Inequality

We must advocate with federal and state lawmakers to pass legislation that aims at eradicating poverty and lessening inequality. This includes supporting President Barak Obama's 2016 budget to make the rich pay their fair share and increasing infrastructure jobs, increasing the minimum wage and opposing cuts to the social welfare safety net including the Affordable Health Care Act, Food Stamps and the Women Infants and Children's (WIC) program.

Protecting Voting Rights

2015 is the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and we urge all PNBC members to advocate with federal and state lawmakers to end voter intimidation and suppression practices including photo ID laws. Also advocate for support for the Civil Rights Voting Restoration Act which would protect federal voting rights.

Combatting Police Brutality and the Prison Industrial Complex at the Federal, State and Local Levels

This includes advocating against state Stand Your Ground Laws, supporting Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform and the Smart Sentencing Act, which is likely to come up in the new 114th Congress, and reform of police practices.

Advocating for Educational Reform

We support President Obama's plan for free access to community colleges and urge you to advocate with lawmakers to address the disparities in education at the state and local levels. Support PNBC Advocacy Day. Dr. King was a policy advocate on behalf of legislation helping the poor. In the spring, PNBC will hold an advocacy day in Washington, DC and encourage advocacy on our key issues in state capitals as well.

Other issues include

addressing climate change, immigration reform, the Ebola crisis and the need to address state, regional and local issues as PNBC conducts its regional meetings nationwide. We also need all PNBC members to avail themselves of the social justice and advocacy training opportunities that will be offered at our regional and annual meetings and to plug in with PNBC through email and social media. Lastly, let us always remember God's calling upon PNBC to be that prophetic voice crying in the wilderness, lifting our voices on behalf of the voiceless until that day when justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream!

EBOLA VS. EVERYBODY

by Dr. James Victor



While the news continues to capture our attention with many stories, some of which are informative, some entertaining, and others simply useless, the mainstream media has proven itself to have a short attention span. While we are constantly flooded with information in 24 hour news cycles, very little is now mentioned about the Ebola epidemic still devastating parts of West Africa. Though new cases have not exploded as previously predicted, the crisis continues and PNBC will not forget! Through a strategic partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), PNBC wants to shine the spotlight during Black History Month on the emergency, especially its impact on children. As family systems break down with the death of one or both parents, over 11,000 children have been orphaned. In an effort to help families and children, PNBC has joined UNICEF in a campaign of compassion entitled I AM #STOPPING EBOLA. The aim of our partnership is to supply sanitation kits to communities and schools as they begin to reopen in Liberia, one of the hardest hit countries. Good science has demonstrated that proper hygiene is one of the most effective strategies in preventing the spread of the disease. The distribution of each hygiene kit, which contains gloves, masks, soap, chlorine, etc., will supply a Liberian family of three with the essentials for improved sanitation for six months. The cost of each hygiene kit is \$43; however, no gift is too small when assembled with other gifts.

"In an effort to help families and children, PNBC has joined UNICEF in a campaign of compassion entitled I AM #STOPPING EBOLA. The aim of our partnership is to supply sanitation kits to communities and schools as they begin to reopen in Liberia, one of the hardest hit countries."

Here's how you can help:

- During the remaining Sundays in Black History Month, take up a special offering for PNBC and UNICEF to purchase the hygiene kits (each kit is \$43) Send your special love offering, no matter how great or small, to PNBC Headquarters earmarked I AM #STOPPING EBOLA.
- Pray for the West African countries effected by ebola, especially orphaned children.
- Pray for the safety and well-being of health care professionals, teachers, and other front-line defense workers.
- Most importantly, Don't Forget! Our partnership with UNICEF does not negate our previous commitment with the African American Baptist Missions Collaborative; it only allows us to highlight a particular area of concern. In this instance, the partnership with UNICEF allows us to focus on the needs of children.

Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.
Director of Missions



STOP EBOLA



"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."
(Galatians 3:28, KJV)



Rev. Dr. Delores James Cain
Women In Ministry Initiative, Chair

BPROGRESSIVE

by Rev. Dr. Delores James Cain

While the issue of women in pulpit ministry may still be a debate in our country, denomination and churches, the Progressive National Baptist Convention seeks to put this issue to rest with a new initiative falling under the pastors division entitled, "Women in Ministry."

Thanks to our newly elected president, Dr. James Perkins, this issue has been brought to the forefront of the convention. During our Midwinter board meeting, Wednesday, January 21, 2015 was dedicated to this new initiative during the morning plenary session.

It began with a statement of purpose and rationale by Dr. Perkins and Rev. Dr. Delores Cain. Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson of the Allen Temple Baptist Church of Oakland California presented a theological and biblical foundation for the ministry. Dr. Thompson led us through a review of the sovereignty of God to call whom he chooses whenever he chooses. She reminded us how God never had a problem partnering men and women in ministry beginning in the book of Genesis with Adam and Eve. She used the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus and Elizabeth, the mother of John as carriers of the "word" of God. Her presentation was biblically sound and easily palatable to the position on either side. The presentation was designed to call us together as one body and to again blaze new trails in assuring equality and access to all as was done during our participation in the Civil Rights Movement and support of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The inauguration of the new initiative did not end with Dr. Thompson's presentation. Dr. Iva Carruthers, the general secretary for the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference was our morning speaker. She challenged us to forego some of the debates and to critically focus on the health and well being of our children, whose "blood is in our streets." Dr. Carruthers reminded us of the movement of black youth across America and around the world to raise the consciousness of American lawmakers and citizenry to secure justice for those blacks unjustly killed by policemen. She stood and taught as one having authority and the results was a prime example of how God can and will use a vessel of his own choosing, whether male or female.

As with all the new initiatives, an afternoon session was scheduled to share the goals of the ministry and to allow participants to have input into the development. The women ministers, deacons and pastors met that afternoon. The time was devoted to getting acquainted with each other and identifying some key ideas for delivery format and topics. The major concern for the women gathered was to avoid a ministry that is an adjunct to the convention and that relegates the ministry to a corner. Everyone desired that the initiative be integrated into the heart of the convention rather than a seminar only. We do not want a place where we meet alone but to assure that women are visible and actively involved in every aspect of the convention. We are planning for August and are looking forward to meeting in a specific forum to discuss mentoring, church planting, training and perfecting the gift of preaching. We are still in the development phase and elicit feedback from any and all that would like to participate and comment. It is an issue for which the time has come for our convention to once again stand up, stand out and stand for the lost, left out and left behind.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The history of the Progressive National Baptist Convention is rich and glorious as we can reflect back on the many powerful preachers who have been a part of this stellar organization. Names like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Gardner Taylor, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, Dr. William Augustus Jones, Dr. Charles Adams, and Dr. Harold A. Carter have influenced not only the church, but also their impacts have stretched to many aspects of society. The sensitivity to social justice has always been alive in PNBC. The urging of academic scholarship has been valued. This organization has sought to mobilize her efforts utilizing a New Testament model.

Great churches have stood tall in PNBC down through the years. Churches, who were on the front end of the curve in terms of inclusivity, seeking to utilize the gifts and talents of the whole body of Christ. For example, Deacon Elizabeth Adams served as Chair of more than 200 deacons at the New Shiloh Baptist Church of Baltimore, Maryland for many years and Dr. Carter often stated the importance of her serving, which led to New Shiloh being able to erect a wonderful temple of God in the center of the city. There were PNBC congregations who were not going to be constrained by any limitations in thought, as they realized that God couldn't be put in a box. There were PNBC churches that didn't vacate the city, because they were aware of the extreme needs. Churches who wanted to do more than just meet on Sundays. Churches who were willing to launch Saturday Church School Ministries in order to broaden the knowledge base of congregants without the limitations on time.

Yes, the history is very impressive, but we cannot exist if it were not for current investments. PNBC has given many men and women the opportunity to serve in many capacities. We stand on the shoulders of giants in the faith, but now is not the time to rest on our laurels. We must make a difference in 2015 and position ourselves for great things in the days, months, and years ahead. Here we are today with police brutality, voting challenges, and health care being placed under constant scrutiny.

My assignment is to get more churches to commit to the 1% ideal, as it is needed to maintain the daily operations of our headquarters in Washington, D.C. and to empower our leadership to do more in terms of ministry. Our president, Dr. James C. Perkins, has taken the reigns of our convention seeking to give visionary leadership that will not just stop with him, but positively affect Progressive National Baptists for many years to come.

Imagine how strong our churches would be if we could get more parishioners to tithe. Quite honestly, many

able to place the convention in your budget to make sure it is sustained for the present and positioned to do even more in the future.

How easy it is to stand on the sideline and criticize, but we're simply asking you to become a tangible partner with us and it can start now with your 1% investment. It can be received into our offices in many different ways. Monthly, quarterly, or yearly contributions can be sent in to our offices. Every church is fully aware that money and ministry go together.

I'm fully invested in seeing PNBC reach new heights [all to the glory of God], but it cannot be done without your financial participation. Yes, prayer makes a difference, but we also know that a stronger financial base will help us in so many ways. We cannot afford to have organizations like the Progressive National Baptist Convention to go the way of the world as many of us saw happen to the now defunct Bishop College of Dallas, Texas.

Decide today to become a part of our team, as we're stronger with you than we would be without you. Yes, we have the distinction that our convention was home to the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We owe it to ourselves to make sure that we do our part, as we know our forefathers did theirs. Our voice needs to be heard in an era that faces many challenges. No, we all can't get to the microphone, but we can all make sure that the electricity is on!



members do not understand what tithing is and that is unfortunate. Many of them think that just because "I give every week", it should be classified as a tithe, but of course that is not the case. The tithe is the tenth. It is not the sliding scale that some church members seem to point to. PNBC is not asking you to give a tenth as we only want you to share a 1% minimum. If all of our member churches embraced that philosophy it would position the Convention to really soar.

We're not here to insult your intelligence, but we simply ask that you would faithfully partner with us as we seek to do the work of the Lord. We ask members to tithe to God through the church. We preach that we are blessed by our faithfulness in giving, so it makes good logic to be

I can testify that when we send our finances toward positive causes and efforts, we have positioned ourselves for God to send even more blessings our way. This is a critical time in the history of the Progressive National Baptist Convention that we love and we want to do our part to make sure that the work continues to go on with vitality and energy. Your investment will enhance the work that your churches do locally and internationally.



*Dr. Henry P. Davis III
National Stewardship Director*



THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

DALLAS

**54TH ANNUAL SESSION
AUGUST 2 - 7, 2015**



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