Lott Carey Honors the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
with International Conferences in Rome, Italy to Commemorate the
40th Anniversary of His Assassination

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April 4, 1968 was a tragic day for the world. It was the day that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. King has become a symbol of human freedom and civil rights around the world during the last four decades. We can often hear reverberations of his speeches or songs that represented the U.S. civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s wherever people are resisting oppression and injustice around the world.

Lott Carey has had a unique privilege of partnership with our Italian Baptist siblings around the 40th anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination. The following articles reflect something of our participation in International Conferences that are celebrating the life and legacy of King in Italy. We thank God for these opportunities to emphasize his continuing global impact.

...he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That’s a new definition of greatness... it means that everybody can be great because everybody can serve.

— Martin Luther King Jr.
Martin Luther King, Jr.—A Legacy for Peace

Speech delivered by Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley at the City Hall of Rome, Italy on November 1, 2007

Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that people had the power to defeat oppression through nonviolent means. His conviction that nonviolence was an effective strategy for victory was counter cultural half a century ago. Nonviolence is still a counter cultural concept at the beginning of the 21st Century. Those of us who believe in nonviolence as both an effective and the most constructive method to win fairness and justice for oppressed people today live in opposition to the prevailing cultural views in many parts of the world.

We live in a world that is too often characterized by violence. Those who have relative advantages too often seem to glorify aggression and hostility. They further proceed to justify brutality and cruelty as they seek to secure their places of relative advantage and sometimes domination over others. The most vulnerable people in our communities, our countries, and our world are victimized by physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence, and cultural violence. They are inflicted with violence against their minds, violence against their bodies, and violence against their souls. Even more frightening, the entertainment industry around the world markets games and movies and music that glamorize violence and abuse. Words and images are infecting a whole generation of impressionable young people with the message that violence is exciting and thrilling and a source of amusement and, sometimes tragically, worthy of imitation. The bloodshed and carnage that too many of the poor and marginalized around the world have to endure should be an affront to those who claim to value life and respect humanity. So how should people who are committed to justice fight for fairness along with and on behalf of those who are subjected to repression?

Nearly 40 years after the violent assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., a drum major for peace, nonviolent opposition to oppression and tyranny is still the best approach for lasting peace and justice. In the tradition of King, peace is a positive force. It is not simply the absence of tension, confusion, or war. Peace brings justice. Peace brings good will. Peace brings community.

“It must be emphasized,” King said, “that nonviolent resistance is not a method for cowards; it does resist. … Gandhi often said that if cowardice is the only alternative to violence, it is better to fight. He made this statement conscious of the fact that there is always another alternative: no individual or group need submit to any wrong, nor need they use violence to right that wrong; there is the way of nonviolent resistance. This is ultimately the way of the strong [person]. It is not a method of stagnant passivity. The phrase ‘passive resistance’ often gives the false impression that this is a sort of ‘do-nothing method’ in which the resister quietly and passively accepts evil. But nothing is further from the truth. For while the nonviolent resister is passive...
in the sense that [one] is not physically aggressive toward [one’s] opponent, his [or her] mind and emotions are always active, constantly seeking to persuade [the] opponent that he [or she] is wrong. The method is passive physically but strongly active spiritually. It is not passive non-resistance to evil, it is active nonviolent resistance to evil” (A Testament of Hope, pp. 17 – 18).

Those who yield to the temptation of using violence in the struggle for justice impose on future generations the consequences of this decision. The results include ongoing expressions of resentment and hostility. Future generations will be caught in the dangerous and swirling currents of retribution, retaliation, and destruction. Unborn generations pay the price for the choice of violence made by previous generations. How often do people use hateful and hurtful words and deeds against others for no other reason than that they have been taught to hate and hurt by the generations before them? The alleged causes of the original tension between individuals or communities no longer are relevant in the same ways. Neither do they hold the same significance for life and living in the present. The original offenses may have been horrendous, but how does continuing to fuel violence today for transgressions of the past bring resolution for today and restoration for tomorrow? How do violent responses for fresh injuries and evil-doing resolve hostility today?

Nonviolence as a method for overcoming evil has proven successful. Among the reasons nonviolence makes sense as a strategy for overcoming injustice and oppression is that nonviolence does not confuse who the enemy is. King and those who used nonviolence as their method for attaining justice did not see people who perpetrated evil as the enemy. People who perpetrated evil were themselves victims of societies that taught them that evil was good and that violent suppression of others was an acceptable strategy to protect the privilege and power of the few. The nonviolent method for justice employed by the civil rights movement that King led did not try to humiliate or overpower the opponent. Their goal was to win the friendship and understanding of the opponent. The nonviolent resister sought to attack evil systems rather than people who were caught up in evil systems. The struggle for King was not between people with different commitments, it was a struggle between justice and injustice. It was a struggle between light and darkness. Nonviolence, they believed, could end with reconciliation and the creation of a beloved community that valued righteousness and ensured justice for all. The result of successful implementation of nonviolent resistance to unrighteousness and injustice today will move communities toward living harmoniously in multicultural societies, alleviating poverty, and ensuring peace.

Nearly 40 years after the violent assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., a drum major for peace, nonviolent opposition to oppression and tyranny is still the best approach for lasting peace and justice.

King grounded his commitment on nonviolent resistance, which demanded courage, discipline, and focus, on the love of God toward creation. He was inspired by God’s self-giving love to the world for the good of the world, and this was his motivation for embracing nonviolence. He knew, however, that all people did not understand God as he did. For them, he argued:
“[N]onviolent resistance “is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice. Consequently, the believer in nonviolence has deep faith in the future. … It is true that there are devout believers in nonviolence who find it difficult to believe in a personal God. But even these persons believe in the existence of some creative force that works for universal wholeness. Whether we call it an unconscious process, and impersonal Brahman, or a Personal Being of matchless power and infinite love, there is a creative force in this universe that works to bring the disconnected aspects of reality into a harmonious whole” (A Testament of Hope, p. 20).

We live in a world that is increasingly moving toward greater globalization. Technology available to individuals around the world and access to rapid communication is making possible better information and integration of people in previously unimaginable ways. Satellite technology, fiber optics, and the Internet enable us to be more aware of what is occurring around the world than ever before. The constant images of devastation and humiliation provoke more and more people to respond violently. But I remind you again, violence will not end violence. Hatred will not end hatred. And King would have us remember that you are not my enemy, and I am not your enemy. The enemy is injustice. The enemy is oppression. The enemy is manipulation. The enemy is exploitation.

So many technological advances of our time seem to be used most effectively by those who seek to humiliate, dominate, and annihilate others whom they perceive to be threats. It seems that these advances are further used to communicate messages of hate, fear, and distrust. But another option is possible.

What might happen if people committed to harmonious multicultural community, alleviating poverty, and making peace took advantage of 21st century technology and globalization to collaborate for nonviolent resistance to injustice? Can you imagine the power of hundreds of millions of people aligning themselves strategically to be advocates for peace and justice around the world? Suppose we insisted on housing and access to health care for all the people. Suppose we demanded quality education and employment opportunities for all the people. Suppose we decreed that we must not exploit natural resources but that we must practice responsible and sustainable stewardship of the earth. Suppose we stood against exploitation of women and children and the aged and the poor. Suppose we committed ourselves personally and in community to nonviolence as both a method to ensure peace and justice in the world and as our personal principle for living. And suppose we collaborated with people around the world through creative use of words and images and technology to create a grassroots movement for good.

Suppose we fed our minds and hearts and lives to “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, and whatever is commendable” (Philippians 4:8). If we had the courage to do so, harness the winds of justice and could turn the destructive floods of violence in our communities, the devastating hurricanes of injustice in our countries, and the tsunami storms and evil in our world, and could hasten the day when we “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream” (Amos 4:24).
God’s Unfolding Experience for Me

Andrea L. Mahone

I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve in Italy. Wow what an experience. What an awesome move of God. This was an experience that hit me more, once I got home, than while in the mist of things. The thing I valued most about the King Conference and my work as a peace builder was the unseen. I could feel the hand of God moving, but have yet to see the rewards of it. Some things were moved, broken or released while we were there.

The most valuable treasure I received from the Italians was their commitment to God. Their passion renewed me. The absence of phones, television, and radios gave me a new strength in prayer. The hardest point was the greatest moment of excellence. Not speaking Italian made the communication so draining. Still I could understand the significant stand they were taking. The conference needed our support more than our understanding. Our presence there had a great impact on their faith and belief.
Some of the Italians have sacrificed a lot to become Baptist. We take so much for granted. I met a lady that was denounced by her family for leaving the Roman Catholic Church. I cried as she told me her story, because I struggle with giving up TV to seek God, or to pass up a meal. She suffered for God. I watched as her son grew ill in the church service, but it meant so much for them to be there. The dad ran to the pharmacy and retrieved medicine that made him better in minutes. That to me is God honoring their determination to be in His presence. No big fuss was made, but they stuck together as a family to stay.

I pray that my presence showed the love of God. I never imagined that God would allow us to share our trials and tribulations with each other. Pastors are never treated like normal humans. People always want to unload but never uplift. So I really enjoyed my time with them. If the Catholic Church in Rome were to ever fall, the Italian pastors will have a harvest that is bigger than what they could possibly think or imagine.

As for me, this trip will be constantly unfolding through revelation. I am so grateful, so grateful for the opportunity. I look forward to God unfolding what comes next.

**Moment of Excellence...Some Meaning to Me**

*Sandra Quick*

What I valued most about the King Conference was the unity of purpose. There were red and yellow, black and white people on one accord to celebrate Dr. King’s legacy. We were there to promote civil rights and social justice for all people, while working towards reducing poverty. Even though the conference was targeted towards Baptists, it was also ecumenical in its vision of bringing other believers into personal involvement. It was a wonderful atmosphere and made me feel connected to people around the world.

Listening to the presenters at the Friday session where my team served in an Italian Baptist Church helped to give me perspective on where this movement is going. Those talks inspired me to get more involved. My team shared our testimonies with two congregations and community.

As Peace Builders, we were ambassadors of not only America, Baptist believers and African Americans, but we were seen as everyday common folk who just want to serve and help each other. There was a connectedness that was planted. We trust God for the increase.

There was a divine appointment for me that was not related to the conference, but one which God had ordained. This appointment was with a sister who shared her hurts and confided in me for healing. I was able to minister to her and provide some pastoral counseling. The encounter was brief, yet she said made a significant impact in her life. I have since followed up with her and plan to stay in contact.

One moment of excellence came while I was teaching Biblical peacemaking with Pastors from Italy, Scotland and Africa. I was using the Italian version of Peacemaker Ministries’ “Responding to Conflict Biblically” brochure. Pastors Sandra, Emmanuelle and Nunzio expressed a desire to use the materials and were glad to have an Italian version. Also the “Open Fist” exercise that I conducted with them really made the personal point of the need to first
look at our own conflict issues before we can look at someone else’s, “Get the log out of your own eye”.

At the opening session, while we held hands and sang in both English and Italian, “We shall overcome.” That was inspirational. Anna, Marco and Dudley’s personal attention was GREAT!

Several people asked me, “Do you think you made a difference in the short time you were there?” I responded, “Were mountains moved? No. But were mountains shifted? Yes!” People understood that in order to make a difference, the first step is to change the way people think and interact with each other around a common purpose. For that, we made a difference. From our hosts’ comments, I believe they were inspired and thrilled with our interest of their struggle to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a predominately Roman Catholic culture. We better understood their struggle.

As I have shared with New Salem Baptist Church’s Mission Department, my Care Group, family, friends, and the Mohican American Baptist Women’s Retreat participants about the Italian Baptist struggles, they have agreed to pray specifically for them. That WILL make a difference. I am inspired to be more actively involved in foreign missions and look forward to my next missions assignment.

Bella Italia! My NAACP Journey to “Beautiful Italy”

Stephanie L. Brown

There are few places in the world that have the allure, influence and beauty like the country of Italy. This is especially true for the capital city of Rome – perhaps the most treasured and historic city in the world. As a member of the NAACP delegation to Italy, I was honored to both experience Italy’s history and culture, to discuss civil rights, and to share the history of the NAACP with the Italian people.

On October 26 to November 3, 2007 a team of “peacebuilders” representing the NAACP and the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society traveled to various cities in Italy to conduct conflict resolution trainings with Italian high school students. From Nice to Grosseto to Milan, members of the team had an opportunity to immerse themselves in Italian life through the lodging and hospitality that was provided by host families.

In addition to the trainings, the delegation participated in an international conference in Rome, Italy to promote the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hosted by the Unione Cristiana Evangelica Battista d’Italia and Lott Carey, the conference served as a resource for helping contemporary Italians advance peacemaking, live harmoniously in a growing multicultural society, and work to alleviate global poverty.

The conference also featured original videos of King’s speeches, panel discussions by notable international speakers, testimonies of people involved in the human and civil rights struggle, and a gospel concert by the Fountain Baptist Church choir of Summit, New Jersey. Additionally, it was truly an honor to see our very own Rev. David Goately, Ph.D., Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Carey and member of the NAACP National Board of Directors and Roslyn Brock, Vice-Chair of the NAACP National Board of Directors, as prominent speakers and presenters during the conference.

Although members of the peacebuilding team had wonderful experiences in their individual cities, I am positive that my placement in Grosseto, Italy was the premier assignment and location! The hospitality and knowledge provided by my host pastor, Rev. Elizabeth Green, was truly a wonderful experience. While I was very overwhelmed at first by the inability to communicate with others due to the language barrier, Elizabeth (a Baptist minister from England) and her congregation member Claudia, made my time in Italy extremely comfortable. On the Sunday of our trip, Elizabeth’s church hosted a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program with Rev. Herbert Ayers, a German minister from northern Italy, as the keynote speaker. During the service, Rev. Ayers spoke about Dr. King’s legacy and its relevance to various social justice issues today.
Samantha, my accompanying NAACP representative from Virginia, also had an opportunity to grace the audience by singing traditional “negro spirituals,” and I spoke on how Dr. King has influenced the work I do with young people in the NAACP.

The next day, Samantha and I presented our training session to over 100 high school students from Claudia’s school. During our presentation we asked for volunteers to do a short skit to demonstrate conflict between students. At first, they were all a bit apprehensive, but five brave souls eventually came forward and did an excellent job with the assignment. The students became very engaged and noticeably grasped the purpose of the lesson. It is quite interesting the things you often take for granted. We were later informed that in the Italian education system, students don’t typically engage in interactive education. Unlike American education best practices that emphasize student-centered teaching and learning, Italian schools seem to emphasize teacher-centered lecture-style learning. We also learned that the students go to school six days a week from 8:30am to 1:00pm. Needless to say, our lively presentation, in spite of the language barrier, was the hit of the day, and we felt totally embraced by the students.

The most eye-opening aspect of the day, however, was the immense knowledge about world issues that the students clearly possessed. The students also showed an interest in knowing what they could do to get involved in addressing problems and working towards solutions. I even had two girls approach me and ask if the NAACP was only for people of color because they wanted to help and join the Association. Of course I told them that we were an organization that consisted of people of all colors, but in reality, the NAACP is very much a homogeneous organization that has strayed far from its diverse foundation. In my opinion, if the NAACP is truly going to address adequately issues affecting people of color, we must be an organization of diverse races, cultures and classes.

Traveling through Rome felt like a walk in the best pop-up, history book you could find. The living history preserved in the remnants of Rome’s colossal buildings and monuments was awesome yet unbelievable at the same time. Amazingly, our trip to Rome concluded with a powerful forum on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King; hosted in the Sala Protomoteca Campidoglio (Rome’s City Hall). The hall, a breathtaking testament to the artistry and ingenuity of Rome’s forefathers and citizens, was the perfect ending place for our trip to Rome. For in the backdrop of City Hall stood the great Colosseum ruins—a forum that once showcased tournaments of barbaric human brutality. But in the foreground, a multicultural group of people from across the globe were discussing ways to progress the struggle for humanity and equality in the world. Without a doubt, I will forever be changed and grateful for my life-changing, motivational journey to bella Italia—the eternal city!
MLK Award for Human Rights Recipients Honored

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Italian Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy (UCEBI) and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, USA, in agreement with the City Administrations of Birmingham, Alabama and Rome Italy, and with the prestigious Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, present:

Persons and associations will be awarded who in recent years have distinguished themselves in upholding the rights of minorities, in the propagation of the culture and practice of non-violence, and in the struggle against poverty. Preference will be given to persons and associations not known well to the public at large and to those who have made explicit reference to the message and/or the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. in presenting their activities.

The award consists of a symbolic gift, a parchment scroll, and a monetary check. The award ceremony will take place within a commemorative event in Rome on 4 April 2008. The award committee consists of Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for Lott Carey, Dr. Franca Eckert Coen, a Delegate of the Mayor of Rome for the Policies of Multi-ethnicity and Interculture, and of three Representatives of UCEBI.

The aim of this award presented by UCEBI and Lott Carey is to offer visibility to as many as are committed to the practice of peace, to the defense of human rights, and to the culture of non-violence. We also aim to actualize the message of peace and human solidarity that is rooted in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, and is carried out in history by women and men who, like Dr. King, live with consistency, humility, and often anonymity—the way of discipleship that is a mark of hope for all people.

King’s Life Illustrated a Blueprint for Humanity

Source: The King Center, www.thekingcenter.org

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. This devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and around the world.

Dr. King’s concept of “somebodiness,” which symbolized the celebration of human worth and the conquest of subjugation, gave black and poor people hope and a sense of dignity. His philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and his strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and reordered its priorities. His wisdom, his words, his actions, his commitment, and his dream for a new way of life are intertwined with the American experience.
Hope Missionary Day—Operation Inasmuch: Mobilizing Believers in their Community

By Cheryl Chappin

The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, inasmuch as you have done such things for the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done the same for me.’ — Matt 25:40

Operation Inasmuch took place at The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square on September 15, 2007. It was with much joy and anticipation that we all gathered to fulfill the pronouncement made by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in Matthew 25:40.

Churches from as far as Pittsburgh, came together to glorify God in this endeavor, all done to the Glory of God!

We started early in the morning and were dispatched to our various sites with glad hearts and willing hands. This event is spearheaded by the Lott Carey Missionary Society and Tonga Peterson was at the helm. The projects included the following:

• Packages for the Troops
• Preparing bag lunches for distribution to neighborhood centers
• Preparing hot meals at DC Central Kitchen
• Packaging laundry cleaning supplies
• Working at Watkins Park to clean and beautify the park
• Preparing lap blankets for residents of the nursing homes
• Visiting nursing homes and working there and sharing God with the residents
• Packaging food at the SHARE warehouse

Here are some excerpted comments by some of the participants:

‘Thank you for allowing me to serve with Hope Missionary Day. I am honored and very appreciative for the opportunity. I will get more involved with Lott Carey. Please let me know how I can do this.’ — Vonda Patterson

‘Our assignment was daunting, but we attacked with good spirits and willing attitudes. As we worked in God’s creation of nature (at Watkins Park) there was even time for God to minister to us and remind us of parts of His Word. Overall it was a great day, under blue skies and gentle breezes. God is Good!’
I extend thanks and gratitude to The Sanctuary family and especially the transportation ministry who arrived early, stayed late and adjusted graciously to the changing nature of their assignments with pleasant demeanor and spirits of service.

‘Thirteen persons went to the Bradford Oaks Nursing Center and changed trash can liners, worked in the kitchen, folded laundry, served lunch and shared the Word of God. One resident was even taught Romans 10:9.’ — Sheila Brown.

‘My group put together packages for the troops. We had three types of packages: an entertainment pack (with DVDs and snacks), packs for males and packs for females with items such as socks, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste and toothbrushes. The children were especially excited about being fair when assembling the packages.’ — Willisa Ricks.

I was part of the group that prepared lap-blankets for the elderly. The children in my group were really excited and each table tried to see who could finish their blankets first then went on to help the other tables. I loved doing it because I knew that someone would be a little warmer come winter. I also learned a new skill that I am now utilizing with my family.
Operation Inasmuch’s Christmas Fellowship at the Ronald McDonald House

By Tracy L. Jones

Operation Inasmuch continued through the month of November when youth visited the residents of Millennium Health in Forestville, MD on Sunday, November 18, 2007 and delivered lap blankets made during Operation Inasmuch activities held in September. The residents were overjoyed! In addition to the Millennium Health facility, lap blankets were also provided to residents of Bradford Oaks in Clinton, Maryland on Sunday, December 30, 2007.

Saturday, December 15, 2007, members of the Lott Carey Family fellowshipped with families residing at the Washington, DC Metropolitan area Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides a safe, affordable, home-environment, for families battling the urgent medical needs of their children, who are patients at nearby Children’s Medical Hospital. Many of these families come from near and far to seek the best medical services available for their sick children. The Ronald McDonald House allows these families to have a home-away-from home. Many families stay for a few weeks, others may have to stay for many months.

The Lott Carey Family provided the residents of the Ronald McDonald House with a scrumptious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. In addition, the House has a special “Wish List” to help provide for the needs of the families during their stay. Items brought to the house from the “Wish List” included, laundry products assembled during Operation Inasmuch, toiletries, items to stock their pantry, and refrigerator.

The Ward Family from the Eastern Shore of Maryland had just arrived after Mrs. Ward had given birth 12 days before to a beautiful baby boy, when they found out her son had been born with an undetected heart condition. During our visit, Mrs. Ward said her son had just had surgery on December 6th, and was doing exceptionally well. They would be going home within the week.

The Sherrad Family from West Virginia, had been there for a few weeks after the birth of their newborn son who had been born prematurely. Unfortunately, the Sherrad’s stay at the House will be extended until at least February 2008; however, their son was also doing remarkably well.

The afternoon was filled with great fun and the Lott Carey Family looks forward to fellowshipping with the Ronald McDonald in the New Year!
LAKE CHARLES, La. — With resignation, anger or stoicism, thousands of former New Orleanians forced out by Hurricane Katrina are settling in across the Gulf Coast, breaking their ties with the damaged city for which they still yearn.

They now cast their votes in small Louisiana towns and in big cities of neighboring states. They have found new jobs and bought new houses. They have forsaken their favorite foods and cherished pastures. But they do not for a moment miss the crime, the chaos and the bad memories they left behind in New Orleans.

This vast diaspora — largely black, often poor, sometimes struggling — stretches across the country but is concentrated in cities near the coast, like this one, or Atlanta or Baton Rouge or Houston, places where the newcomers are still reaching for accommodation.

The break came fairly recently. Sometime between the New Orleans mayor’s race in spring 2006, when thousands of displaced citizens voted absentee or drove in to cast a ballot, and the city election this fall, when thousands did not — resulting in a sharply diminished electorate and a white-majority City Council — the decision was made: there was no going back. Life in New Orleans was over.

Now, they are adjusting to places where the pace is slower, restaurants are fewer, existence is centered on the home, and streets are lonely and deserted after 5 p.m., as in this city in southwest Louisiana. These exiles, still in semi-limbo and barely established in a routine, describe their new lives less in terms of what it now consists of than of what they left behind.

“I told them, ‘I love turtle soup.’ People here go, ‘What’s that?’ ” said Pauline Hurst, a former therapy technician at a New Orleans hospital who settled here after her home was destroyed in the post-hurricane flood.

Dreadlocks, accepted in New Orleans, might mean a reservation at a fancy restaurant is suddenly “lost,” as in the telling of one exile here. A burst of gunfire might mean an instant police response rather than none at all, as in New Orleans, in the amazed recounting of another. Late-night cravings mean the IHOP rather than the famous Camellia Grill; going to work means hourlong trips on country roads, rather than, say, a 10-minute hop across the Industrial Canal from the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans.

Warily, they praise the quiet, the friendliness and the absence of crime.

“It’s the country, but it’s—lovely,” said Barbara Shanklin, a retired city bus driver who has settled 50 miles to the southwest of New Orleans in a Terrebonne Parish hamlet, Gray. Still, Ms. Shanklin added quickly, “I miss New Orleans.”

The precise calculus that went into these painful choices was complex, a mix of emotion and reason, in the telling of former New Orleanians. They voted in 2006 clinging to a hope of return, and in some cases a desire to protect decades of black political gains by returning an African-American, C. Ray Nagin, to the mayor’s office. They voted in 2006 clinging to a hope of return, and in some cases a desire to protect decades of black political gains by returning an African-American, C. Ray Nagin, to the mayor’s office. But while 113,000 voted in May 2006, only 53,000 did last October.

The mirage of the old, comfortable life in a city of densely woven neighborhoods... sometimes dangerous street life, and inviting po’ boy sandwich shops contrasted too sharply with the grimmer present-day reality of New Orleans for these exiles.
sandwich shops contrasted too sharply with the grimmer present-day reality of New Orleans for these exiles.

The old house was gone. The neighborhood was empty. The friends were missing. The job had vanished. Rents were high, when you could find them. Murder had returned (with about 200 victims so far this year), even if many of their friends had not.

And the city seemed frozen in its half-ruined state, strangely alien and unfamiliar. The current population remains stuck at somewhere between 200,000 and 280,000, far below the pre-hurricane level of 450,000. These exiles do not see the New Orleans that has picked itself up; instead, they see the one that remains largely destroyed.

Away from the city, a less threatening existence awaited: blander and demanding adjustment, yet less oppressive. The quiet of languid country-town streets was deemed preferable to the absolute silence of whole abandoned blocks. Outside New Orleans, it was easier to deal with the still-fresh trauma of being homeless and losing “everything,” as several put it.

“In the beginning, I thought I might go back,” said Ms. Hurst, who came here with her sister and 88-year-old mother, also chased out by the hurricane, and lived with them for five months in a single large room at St. Mary’s Missionary Baptist Church. They now work at the church, which has become a regional relief center for storm evacuees.

The 2005 flood, Ms. Hurst said, turned everything in her home at the edge of the Broadmoor section of New Orleans “black, purple and green,” as though somebody had “just put everything in a blender.” Yet the city had not relinquished its grip on her, and she voted in the 2006 New Orleans election, at a special polling place in the white-columned Calcasieu Parish courthouse here.

Voting for the familiar New Orleans candidates was an act of normalcy. But that election, once over, did not magically conjure up the old New Orleans. Going back was a jolt.

“Everything was gone,” Ms. Hurst said. “All that was gone—community, friends—scattered. You feel like, when you go there, you’re walking into a strange country. It’s just totally different. It just feels like you’re in outer space.”

Each return visit to New Orleans brings sharp reminders of what was lost. “It hurts me, every time I go back,” said Ms. Hurst’s sister, Cynthia Jones.

Others spoke of being alienated from their old surroundings.

“There is nothing to go back to,” said Renee Roussell, whose husband found a job as a manager at a casino restaurant in Lake Charles.

Sylvia Young, a former public school teacher in the Lower Ninth Ward, now works as a mental health counselor in La Place, just up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. Her old school and job are gone.

“I go, and I get depressed,” Ms. Young said.

She drove to New Orleans to vote in 2006. “I thought for a minute I could possibly move back,” she said—but not this year.

“When I go to Gentilly,” Ms. Young said, “and I see my son’s school is not back, and the house we lived in is gone, and the house next door to Tammy and...
them is gone. Everything is just gone. It’s either torn down or partially being rebuilt or just nothing done to it at all.”

But, in the accounts from people who left New Orleans after the storm, the missing or ruined physical landscape is barely half of it. Even more absent now is the human landscape—the network of friends, relations and acquaintances that often, in New Orleans, helps compensate for fragmentary families and neighborhoods that can be dangerous. Life in the city takes place outside the home as much as inside; now, that would not be possible.

“It’s not New Orleans to me,” said Ms. Shanklin, the retired bus driver in Terrebonne Parish. “And I find myself asking, Where are all the people? I see all the empty houses, and I knew once there was people in all those houses.”

“Where are the people, you know? Where are the people?” Ms. Shanklin said. “It’s like somebody threw a bomb on it.”

Now, she lives in a trim little house that Habitat for Humanity built in a curving subdivision of similar dwellings definitely unlike New Orleans. The town of Houma is nearby, but there are fields all around, and it is quiet enough to hear birds. New Orleans noises—police sirens, traffic, honking car horns, children, hip-hop music—can be conjured only with difficulty. At night, Ms. Shanklin boasted, she opens her window and listens to the cows in the pasture.

But a year ago, she had a nervous breakdown and spent 10 days in the hospital. She missed New Orleans.

Ms. Roussell, in Lake Charles, said, “If anybody asks me where I’m from, I say New Orleans. It’s not easy to let go. But why go back home, when nothing is what it used to be?”
Each year hundreds of Christian youth convene on the campus of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina for a week of missions learning and missions serving. The Lott Carey Summer Youth Seminar nurtures young people to be responsible citizens of the world, leaders among their peers, and future leaders in broader communities. The Seminar draws young people principally from churches in the Northeastern, Mid-Atlantic, and Mid-Western United States for learning through small group activities, study sessions, and community service. We are intentionally trying to reach additional regions of the country as well as to begin including some international youth participation. Special guests in recent years have included young people from Toronto, Ontario, Canada and from Lafayette, Louisiana.

We believe that young people in the United States need to learn how their actions impact other parts of the world. Lott Carey helps young people to understand that our geographic distance from other places in the world does not exclude us from responsible activities such as conservation, recycling, not wasting food, etc. Ignoring crises in other countries does not make one safe at home. Our actions have far reaching effects as we live interconnected with sexual/relationship/domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, poverty/hunger/homelessness, juvenile crime and incarceration, etc.

Learning to be productive and responsive world citizens, peer leaders, and future community leaders is aided through collaboration with numerous partnerships: Shaw University on whose campus students live and meet; area churches that help us reach into the community through planning, supervision, and transportation; and institutions through whom seminar participants do community service. Among our recent collaborators for service learning have been:

- Habitat for Humanity—Raleigh
- Habitat for Humanity—Durham
- Garner Nursing Home
- Raleigh Rehab/Nursing Home
- North Carolina Food Bank
- North Carolina Gleaning Network
- Central Children’s Home (Oxford)
- Ronald McDonald House
- Poke Prison
- Wake County Prison (Raleigh)
- Community Soup Kitchen (Durham)
- Capital Environmental Trail
- Lincoln Health Center (Durham)
- From Jesus With Love Distribution Center
- Helping Hands Mission
- Harvest House

Registration materials for the 54th Annual Youth Seminar are available online at www.lottcarey.org or by contacting the Lott Carey international office at 202.543.3200 or lottcaret@lottcary.org.
President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf says the fallen first female Associate Justice of Liberia Amb. Angie Elizabeth Brooks will be remembered for her advocacy to liberate colonized people around the world.

The President noted that Madam Brooks’ unyielding commitment and resolute dedication to freedom from colonialism sparked debates within the United Nations and the larger international community over the right to self-determination.

Reading the panegyric of the late Liberian Diplomat, President Johnson-Sirleaf sorrowfully noted, “She championed the cause of independence, and that gave her voice to the politically silent and provided a bacon of hope to all those who believed in the natural right to political freedom.”

The President said, “Liberia, Africa and the entire world can be proud of Madam Brooks-Randolph’s strong unyielding spirit.” President Johnson-Sirleaf said Amb. Angie Brooks’ impressive academic records and political achievements are marched by her incredible compassion adding, “Not only did she excel in all that she did, but also assisted those around her by selflessly giving back to the community.

She said Mrs. Brooks-Randolph served as an example for all people from every continent to believe and have faith that through hard works one can accomplish his or her goal. President Sirleaf noted that the late Mrs. Brook-Randolph inspired an entire nation while remaining humble.

Turning to the hundreds of mourners who turned out to grace the home going of the fallen Liberian female diplomat, the Liberian leader declared, “Today, we can carry on this legacy by marking Liberia a stronger and more inclusive democracy, for when we work together, progress together, the spirit of Angie Brooks lives on.”

On the other hand, the Chief Justice of Liberia, Jonnie Lewis, remembers the late Angie Brooks-Randolph as someone who made use of every opportunity that came her way. “She was an educator, a diplomat, an astute lawmaker and a model of African women,” Justice Lewis pointed out.

Lott Carey Family Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Dr. Angie Brooks Randolph

e Dr. Angie Brooks Randolph, Former Superintendent of Lott Carey Baptist Mission/Liberia, Former Consultant, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention/USA, a Lott Carey Alumna, and Former President of the United Nations General Assembly died in Houston, Texas where she had been residing. Her body was brought to Liberia and was given a State Funeral attended by Government officials and the President of Liberia.

Dr. Jeremiah W. Walker, Superintendent of Lott Carey Baptist Mission/Liberia was requested to deliver the Funeral Discourse during which time a tribute on behalf of Lott Carey family was made. As a further tribute for the invaluable services rendered Lott Carey, the student body and faculty lined the route leading to the place of interment as the body was carried to the cemetery in the settlement of Virginia.
Preview to Lott Carey’s 111th Annual Session
August 11-15, 2008 in Rochester, New York

Dr. James Cherry, Host Pastor

The 111th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention will convene August 11-15, 2008 in Rochester, New York. The purpose of Lott Carey Annual Sessions is to inform and to inspire people to invest in Christian missions around the world. Registration to attend the Session and hotel reservation material is in the back of this edition of The Lott Carey Herald. Delegate registration and hotel reservation can be made at www.lottcarey.org.

There are many opportunities for people to engage for the cause of global missions during the week. Highlights include:

• Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship for delegates
• Missions Service Projects that include: home renovation or construction; service in feeding and clothing ministries; visitation and worship opportunities for people who are confined to institutions; and like
• Community Feast with homeless guests and Musical Concert
• Early Morning Prayer and Praise Services
• Missions Education Institute
• Worship and Witness services with inspirational music and preaching
• Missions Enrichment Program for youth and children

The 110th Annual Session convened in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 13-18, 2007. The event, held just days before the second anniversary of hurricane Katrina’s landfall that devastated the lives of millions of people in the Gulf Coast region of the United States, brought missionaries and ministers to New Orleans from nine countries as part of Lott Carey’s ongoing hurricane response strategy of “helping people rise again” in the region.

Lott Carey delegates provided more than 2,100 hours of community service that included: re-shaping the homes of current residents; cleaning up neighborhoods; gutting hurricane damaged houses in preparation for renovation; painting an elementary school; planting flowers and trees; helping construct a new home; visiting residents in nursing homes; and sorting and distributing food to people in need. Children delegates, ages 3 to 6 sorted over 4 tons of food that translated into more than 6,000 meals for people in need.

Lott Carey’s Annual Session informs and inspires people to invest in Christian missions around the world through prayer services; missions education classes for more than 1,000 delegates; presentations by missional partners in Canada, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa; and worship services. The foreign mission society generated four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) for Christian missions around the world in addition to the volunteer service impact in New Orleans during the week.

Further, bringing the Convention to New Orleans had a significant economic impact of over one million dollars ($1,000,000) for the city which particularly benefited people who work in the hospitality industry. The New Orleans Marriott Hotel, for example, where the majority of delegates stayed, did not have a convention for several weeks in the summer. The job creation for the hotel personnel helped sustain families who are living among economic fragility.
The hurricane response strategy has included supplying Relief Centers where evacuees stayed in the days and weeks following the storms; funding Resurrection Centers that provided pastoral care ministries, social service assistance, mental health counseling, and child development programs in six cities across the region for 16 months following Katrina; mobilizing scores of volunteers to the region; providing legal services to evacuees; community redevelopment support; job skills training and job placement; and coaching for pastors serving in post-Katrina contexts.

**Lott Carey’s Mission**

The Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention helps churches extend their Christian witness to the ends of the earth. We execute this mission in the following three ways:

- **Health**
  - Prevention
  - Restoration
  - Reproduction

- **Education**
  - Alleviation Poverty
  - Empowering Women
  - Building Civil Societies

- **Ministry**
  - Evangelism & Discipleship
  - Leadership Development
  - Facility & Building Maintenance
INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete one (1) registration form for each individual who will attend the convention. The personal registration fee entitles you to: a delegate kit, the convention program, annual minutes, annual report(s), delegate badge, one 1-year subscription to the Lott Carey Herald Magazine, and enrollment in the Mission study course.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

E-mail address (if any): _________________________________________________________________________________

Please check (√) one:

- Clergy
- Laymen’s League
- Women’s Auxiliary
- Young Adult (ages 18-35)
- Youth (ages 13-17)
- Hope Missionary (ages 10-12)
- Hope Missionary (ages 6-9)

Please circle one:  MR.  MRS.  MS.  REV.  DR.

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________ State: ____________ Zip Code: _______________________

Telephone Number: ________________________________ (day) _______________________________________ (evening)

Church Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________ State: __________ Pastor: ________________________________________________

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT:

NAME: _________________________________________ TELEPHONE: ______________________________________

Is this your first time attending the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention?  ❑ YES  ❑ NO

Did you attend Mission Study Class in 2007, New Orleans, LA?  ❑ YES  ❑ NO

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PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:  
LOTT CAREY BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION CONVENTION  
111TH ANNUAL SESSION  
220 I (EYE) STREET, N.E., SUITE 220, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002  
ADVANCE PERSONAL REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 1, 2008
Hotel Reservation Form
11th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention
August 11-15, 2008 • Rochester, NY

This form must be returned to:
DePrez Travel Bureau, Inc.
Greater Rochester Visitor’s Association Housing Desk
145 Rue de Ville
Rochester, NY 14618
(877) 478-2111 Fax: (585) 442-8934

You may also submit this form electronically to pwhitcomb@depreztravel.com. If you fax this form, please do not mail original.

Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served space available basis. Please photocopy this form as needed, using one form for each room you are trying to reserve. Reservation requests will only be accepted on this form, and must be received by July 10, 2008. After that time, your request will be processed on a space availability basis. All changes and cancellations must be in writing to DePrez Travel by July 10, 2008. You will receive a written confirmation of your assigned hotel directly from DePrez Travel Bureau. Please read this document carefully as it will contain information unique to the hotel being confirmed. Number your hotel choice in order of preference with “1” being your first choice. Circle your room type/price:

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* Prayer Breakfast (Monday) as well as 5:30am Prayer Services (Tuesday-Friday)

Please Note: Confirmation will only be mailed to the address below:

Last Name: ______________________________________________ First Name: ______________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________________________ State: ___________________ Zip: ____________________________
Day Phone: ______________________________________________ Night Phone: _____________________________________________
Day Fax: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Arrival Date: _____________________________________________ Departure Date: ___________________________________________
Church Name: ____________________________________________ Pastor’s Name: ___________________________________________

If multiple occupancy, please list additional people’s names, (please note, we will mail confirmation to the first person only):

Person 2: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Person 3: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Person 4: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Special Requests: __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Your credit card guarantee: ___________________________ Exp date: ___________________________ (Number must be exact or your reservation will be forfeited) (Card must expire after August 2008)

Name (as it appears on card): ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

If submitted electronically, considered a phone order, no signature needed

If you have used a credit card to hold your room, no charge will be made in advance. If you do not check into your hotel on your scheduled date of arrival, your reservation will be a no-show and you will be billed the first night’s room and tax.

☐ If I have not filled in a credit card guarantee, my check for $110.00 (payable to DePrez Travel) is attached to process my form. I understand that my confirmed hotel will apply these funds to my room.

PLEASE NOTE: DEPREZ TRAVEL CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR TAX EXEMPT FORM or PURCHASE ORDER. YOU MUST PRESENT IT TO YOUR HOTEL AT CHECK-IN.