

LOTT CAREY Herald

Published by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention

March 2012



*“Touching
Lives
With
Transforming
Love”*

Annual Sessions Bolster Missions

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Lott Carey



Scott interviews Irene Suprya Steele, Director, Meenakshi Roof Over the Roofless Trust, in Memphis.

About the writer . . .

Donna L. Scott, a licensed attorney and retiring colonel in the U.S. Army, is looking for new adventures in communications. "Writing this article for *Lott Carey Herald* has renewed my muse," says Scott, who leaves active duty next month after an extensive career in the military. "Talking to people, telling their stories, putting their challenges in context, and relating all of it to God's plan provides the creative outlet I've been praying for, so keep watching for my byline."

Covering Lott Carey's 114th Annual Gathering in Memphis, Scott says, was an exercise in faith and wonder.

"It's not just a meeting," she says. "The energy, the sessions, the attendees, the speakers, the faithful, just everything was all about where we're going as an organization. It's about how we'll serve the Lord and spread the Good News throughout the world."

Scott's writing last appeared in the June 2011 LCH, which featured her journal on the Lott Carey Mission Schools in Liberia.

Scott received her B.A. in communications from Old Dominion University, a M.S. in Strategic Studies at the U.S. Army War College, and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina. A resident of Northern Virginia, she is a member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church.

Texting Provides One-of-a-Kind Giving Opportunity: By simply texting LOTTCAREY to 20222 on Monday, 9 April 2012 you can donate \$10 to support the Lott Carey Resurrection Monday Missions Rally—*Connecting the Resurrection of Jesus with the Mission of God Around the World*. The goal is to raise \$100,000 for Christian missions. Please contact friends, family and church members and urge them to participate.

Enhancing Missions, Vision Are Key Goals When Lott Carey Execs Meet: The Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention's Executive Board Meeting and Spring Mission Conference convenes 26-27 April 2012 at the Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Centreville Road, Centreville, Va.; Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor. Please visit LottCarey.org for registration information and hotel reservations, or call 202-543-3200.



"I hope everyone gets a chance to experience Lott Carey and the dynamic witness it presents through its ministry."

People are talking about Lott Carey and it's all good! (But you already knew that.)

Special Writing, Special Comments Confirm God Is Working

I overheard a conversation between two pastors who were attending the Lott Carey Convention for the first time a few years ago. The conversation went something like this:

"This is my first time attending this convention. What about you?"

"It's my first time, too. What do you think about it?"

"I like it. What about you?"

"I like it, too. It's different from the other conventions I attend. The thing that I like most is that it's the right size. It's big enough to do its work. It's big enough to meet new people. But it's not so big that it overwhelms you."

"I like the Lott Carey Convention for another reason. They stay focused on missions. That's what they're supposed to be about, and that's what they do. I like that."

Across the years, we have tried to keep the Annual Sessions focused and impacting, and you help to make that happen. The 115th Annual Lott Carey Convention meets in New Orleans, Louisiana 13 – 17 August 2012. You are invited to join us!

This edition of the *Lott Carey Herald* provides reflections from a first-time attendee, Donna Scott. Sister Scott participated in her first short-term missions assignment in 2011 to the Lott Carey Mission Schools in Liberia. Her journalistic experience led her to communicate unique insights in ways that helped so many others see Africa through her eyes.

We invited her to share stories and reflections from Lott Carey's 114th Annual Session that convened in Memphis, Tenn., during August 2011. We trust that these reflections from our last Annual Session—splendidly hosted by Dr. Gina Stewart, the Christ Missionary Baptist Church and a great network of churches in Memphis—will encourage you to join us for the Lott Carey's 115th Annual Session in New Orleans.

The purpose of our Annual Session is to inform and inspire people to invest in Christian missions around the world. Lott Carey missional leaders from around the world help us understand better our impact as we labor together for Christ. The Missions Education Program will provide classroom experiences to help us broaden and deepen our grasps of what it means to be on mission with Christ, in the Spirit, to God's world. Our networks



Dr. Goatley confers with Rev. Brenda K. Harewood, Director of the Pastoral Excellence Program, after the closing ceremony of 114th Annual Session in Memphis.

for women, men, youth, children, and pastors will continue to emphasize and expand service projects.

The prayer breakfast, early morning prayer and praise services, and worship services will inspire us to give thanks for God's blessings in personal, family, and communal lives, as well as to stretch ourselves further for the cause of Christ to the ends of the earth.

Our mission blitzes on Monday for adults and through the week for our Youth and Hope (children) missionaries, as well as our opportunities for bringing offerings for missions will give us opportunities to invest during that week and beyond. We will also coordinate a time to give via our cell phones as we

invite members of the Lott Carey network and our churches not in attendance to participate in online giving for global missions. (Your Lott Carey family is trying to keep up with the times.)

Visit LottCarey.org and click the "Annual Gatherings" tab on the lower left side of the web site to register for the 115th Lott Carey Convention and reserve a room at the newly renovated Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans. Whether this is your first Convention or you are a long-time attendee, you will find Lott Carey is big enough to get the job done, and we promise to stay on task.

Grace,

David

David Emmanuel Goatley



Building Bridges to the Future

Lott Carey's global assignment and historic importance were clear when the world gathered for the 114th Annual Session in Memphis

Text & Photos by Donna L. Scott

The jazzy and soulful city of Memphis played host to the nearly 2000 delegates of the 114th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention this past August.

Famous for the legendary music of BB King and Elvis, the infamous Lorraine Motel, and flavorful barbeque, the historic city was the perfect backdrop for the energy and enthusiasm the delegates brought to the Memphis-Cook Convention Center.

A wide range of seminars, trainings and service projects were designed to inspire delegates to move forward. They built relationships and developed new ideas that will serve to advance the mission of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention — in effect laying groundwork that will serve as a bridge to the future. While sharing the word of God and spreading the love of Christ, new ideas and programs flourished at this 114th annual session and touched the hearts and minds of all those in attendance.

Providing prayer partnerships, technical and financial support, Lott Carey works alongside partner nations on almost every continent on the earth. Presentations from partners in Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Liberia, Nigeria, and South Africa highlighted the significant work of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, helping churches extend their Christian witness around the world. They further highlighted the need to continue working collectively and to seek support to help those in need or at risk from a wide range of social evils.

Led by Lott Carey President, the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Murray, the Annual Session provided divine inspiration and guidance. In his sermon, Rev. Murray reflected upon Luke 10:25 and presented “A Stop That Saved a Soul,” emphasizing that we are missional with an obligation to support our neighbors because we are, in fact, “our brother’s keeper.” And in the true spirit of Lott Carey, Dr. Robert G. Murray, President of Lott Carey, asserted, “We don’t stay within our own walls. We must go further. Our God is a stopping God, and so, sometimes, we must carry some communities and stop for someone along this journey.”

Rev. Murray noted the symbolic significance of convening at a site that overlooked the Hernando DeSoto Bridge that connects Tennessee and Arkansas. He observed that “this meeting, in this city, with this host has been a ‘bridge’ meeting.” Indeed, the 114th Annual Session boasted the first female Host Pastor, the first time the convention



Dr. Robert G. Murray, President of Lott Carey, addresses the Memphis gathering.

“We don’t stay within our own walls. We must go further.”

had been held so far west and the largest number of attendees in their 20s and 30s in its history. But most importantly, the session illustrated the pathway that a bridge represents for Lott Carey — the path to the future.

“We have come so far and have a long way to go with empowering people and global partners,” he said. “This is a global community and we are venturing into innovative options and opportunities that will provide other means to fund mission work.”

As Lott Carey crosses the bridge into new territory, seeking new technologies and ideas to move missions forward, the future will bring new challenges and new chances to continue God’s work.

For the Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart, Host and Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church, the convention served to re-energize churches and

expand the vision of what “Mission” means. By giving members the opportunity to observe, up close and personal, the impact Lott Carey has around the world, all found renewed purpose. Rev. Stewart reflected that the convention was “not just a meeting, but an opportunity for transformation of lives.” In this respect alone, the convention was a tremendous success.

At the Base of the Bridge

Situated in the shadows of the Hernando DeSoto Bridge, the view of it served as a beacon to the crossroads to the future. The 114th Annual Session inspired delegates to invest in Christian missions by providing training on the essentials of conducting missions. Delegates left with a renewed spirit, equipped to return to their home churches with the tools to teach others. The Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Senior Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church and Second Vice President at Lott Carey, sees the work of the convention as extending mission work beyond the church. He noted, “By doing mission work we become better Christians.”

Celebrating his 10th anniversary at the Annual Session, The Rev. Kenneth Cooper of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., was excited to teach his first class, “Missions Is Essential.” He echoed Rev. Waller, stating that missions work “grounds us” and remains relevant because it is

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“true to the call of Jesus, which is to go out to the outermost parts of the world to spread, show and live the gospel message.”

Partners and delegates arrived in Memphis with high spirits, eager to demonstrate the Lott Carey enduring values of partnership, stewardship and fellowship. After extending a warm welcome at the prayer breakfast, Women’s Auxiliary President Antoinette W. Winslow and guests came together to pray with and for the Lott Carey partner nations as each shared a little about their programs and goals. Immediately following the prayer breakfast, the missionaries hit the streets for the “Memphis Mission Blitz.” Hundreds of volunteers, young and old, branched out all across Memphis, volunteering over 1000 hours of community service projects in support of those in need. Projects ran the gamut from administrative support to feeding the elderly to cleaning and beautifying the community.

Delegates continued to find inspiration throughout the week as each morning began with a sunrise prayer and praise service that filled everyone with the spirit and motivation to start the day’s activities. Partner nations also presented sessions on key programs while identifying the cultural and societal challenges they face. The mission partners not only raised awareness and garnered support for educational programs and disaster relief, but also shined a light on the difficult challenges they face in fighting to maintain programs that combat HIV/AIDS, gang violence, and human trafficking. In addition, education classes trained delegates on the roles and functions of missions to equip them to go home and train others.

Youth Learn Leadership Skills

The Lott Carey leadership team also created a valuable opportunity to develop and mentor the youth attending the convention. As the adults attended seminars and presentations, the Hope Missionaries (ages 6-12) and the Youth Missionaries (ages 13-18) were immersed in the missionary experience. According to the Rev. Trevor Beauford of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Team Leader for International Youth Development, the goal of the initiative was to nurture the next generation of missionary leaders. While youth engaged in hands-on mission work they connected in fellowship with other young missionaries. And not only did they conduct community service projects each day, the youth also led a worship service and assembled a dynamic choir, demonstrating how even the young are powerful messengers of God’s word.

The children are our future and, recognizing the responsibility for developing a servant’s heart for missions, Lott Carey cultivated young hearts and minds in the spirit of service. To assess the impact of youth involvement, one only needed to speak to the children. Keonna, 9, learned that “Jesus is love and will always be there for you and provide everything you need.” When asked about their experience serving the elderly, Weddie, 8, said, “It was a good thing to do for other people because they



LaKeeyna "Kiki" Cooper, Lott Carey Board Member.

couldn’t do it for themselves.” And Michael, 7, said, “It makes me feel good to help people.”

Feasting in the Name of Jesus

Another highlight of the Annual Session was the Community Feast, which provided an opportunity for local guests to dine and fellowship with delegates. The Lott Carey family was honored to welcome guests from the Friends for Life Corporation, an organization that cares for those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. One guest observed, “I have never experienced anything like this before in my life.” While organizers from Project Homeless Connect acknowledged God’s hand in bringing us

The Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Second Vice President of Lott Carey and Senior Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

together in fellowship while engaging in what another guest described as a “life transforming experience.” The feast was followed by an invigorating musical concert that lifted everyone’s spirits to new heights as the audience rejoiced in the sounds of inspired and anointed voices ... all uplifting the name of Jesus Christ.

During the week, delegates and leaders worked closely with partner nations in formal and informal settings to develop a broader understanding of missionary programs and support requirements. Delegates received reports from the Board of Directors, Mission foci from partners, and programs throughout the week. From educational initiatives and emergency response missions to sessions on Anti-Human Trafficking, HIV and social welfare programs, in one week delegates were thoroughly immersed in details of the programs — both the success and all that will be required to sustain them in the future.

First time delegates were thrilled to be educated on the work of Lott Carey and practical ways to grow in their missions ministry. Even more, many of the convention delegates and volunteers have made the Lott Carey experience a part of their lives. LaKeeyna “Kiki” Cooper, a dedicated volunteer for the past 10 years, now serves as one of the youngest member of the Board of Directors. Touched by her Lott Carey experience and wanting to get more involved, Kiki has traveled to South Africa, Ethiopia and Italy in support of different initiatives. She has also worked as a volunteer coordinator for the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, is a member of the

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Women's Empowerment Team, and has worked with the International Youth Department for four years. Kiki exemplifies the dedication of the Lott Carey volunteers who seek to advance God's work through missions.

The Annual Session concluded with powerful messages from the Lott Carey leadership and partners, challenging delegates to grow with the organization as it moves forward to do God's work.

Where the Bridge Leads

With thousands of delegates, one could imagine how such an enormous undertaking as the 114th Annual Session could easily run awry. But under the gentle and focused leadership of the experienced Lott Carey staff, each day was seamlessly executed without a hitch, filled to the brim with presentations, sermons, and mission projects. In some environments, such a large group with such a broad range of ages might have found it difficult to come together and work so harmoniously. However, when you are led by the spirit of Christ, the ability to work and fellowship together for the greater good came naturally for everyone.

One of the highlights was the participation of the partner nations. Each representative shared the many accomplishments from the last year, as well as the challenges of the future. The partners have tremendous undertakings that address significant problems facing their communities. As they shared their vision for the future, the need for the support from the Lott Carey family became even more apparent. And even though each program has made great progress, there is still more work to do.

The stories were awe-inspiring. Some were heartbreaking. One of the biggest challenges facing each partner is the ability to generate financial resources to achieve their mission. As the need increases for spiritual and ministerial growth, educational support and reform, and social welfare programs that lead to the eradication of societal ills, so too does the need for increased support from dedicated and committed spiritual and financial partnerships. Each partner provided a glimpse of their goals and the significance of their partnership with the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention as they close the gap between us and work to complete the bridge to the future.

Focus: South Africa



A former Lott Carey staff member, Dr. Yvonne Best Motaung, is the Principal-Elect of the Baptist Theological College of South Africa. She credits her 10-year tenure at Lott

Carey with building the foundation that enabled her to step forward and consider accepting the position in South Africa. By transforming her understanding of the role of the church in the world, she now sees that "God is everywhere in



The Hope Missionaries engage in an arts and crafts project as part of their closing program.

places you never imagine, doing wonderful things."

Located in Soweto, the Baptist Theological College of South Africa has an enrollment that ranges from 75 – 100 students. Having previously served on the Board of Directors for Baptist Convention of South Africa, Dr. Motaung will now oversee of the college, faculty and students, as well as manage the finances and budget, administration and academics.

"God has delivered and empowered us so that we cannot afford to not do the same around the world," says Dr. Motaung. "We haven't overcome everything, but we have been blessed and because we are blessed, we need to go out and bless others." Her vision for the future focuses on renovating facilities, building the faculty and staff, and recruiting new students. With an emphasis on professional Christian development, Dr. Motaung has several goals: improving the facility so that it is an institution that reflects God's presence in the community by ensuring the institution embodies excellence in education, and cultivates a presence that serves as a beacon educational leadership and excellence in the community.

Emphasizing that Lott Carey is a unique mission agency, Dr. Motaung notes that it does not go anywhere without being invited. "We go in the spirit of partnership and empowerment." By allowing partners to identify their needs, Lott Carey supports their self-empowerment to follow the path God has set for them. Dr. Motaung further notes that cultural sensitivity is vital. "We must recognize that we are guests in their country and not impose our val-



The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Best Motaung, Principal-Elect, Baptist Theological College of South Africa.

ues and methods, but be receptive to what they're doing and be sensitive in what we say and do... we are here to help, support, and empower."

Her advice to others considering mission work abroad is to let go of their fears and "to step out... we lose God's greatest blessings when we doubt (His) omniscience." Dr. Motaung continued, "God will fulfill his purpose in your life if you let him... and Lott Carey has been shown to exemplify God's heart, transforming the lives of men, women and children in tangible ways that enhance self-esteem, self confidence and gives hope and shows compassion."

Focus: Liberia



During the Women's Auxiliary breakfast, the Rev. Emile Sam-Peal, Superintendent of the Lott Carey Mission Schools in Liberia, provided an overview of the schools.

Thankful for the blessings, prayers and support received since his appointment four years ago, Rev. Sam-Peal encouraged everyone to be more active in missions and to commit to facilitating quality education for the children.

The mission of the Lott Carey Mission School is to provide quality education for children (grades 9–12) in a safe, nurturing and caring environment. With 580 students in Brewerville and 183 in Bopolu, the School is determined to overcome the challenges it faces in order to foster a better learning environment, invigorated by faith and God's

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“Touching
Lives

Photo
Gallery
Pullout



Convention Host, the Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart, (in green T-shirt) with Lott Carey partners. Dr. Stewart is Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis.

Annual Sessions Bolster Missions

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An Opportunity to Refuel, and Transform

*Youth Choir offers
praise during Youth
Emphasis Service
at the 114th
Annual Session.*



Conference attendees and guests enjoy food and fellowship at the Community Feast.



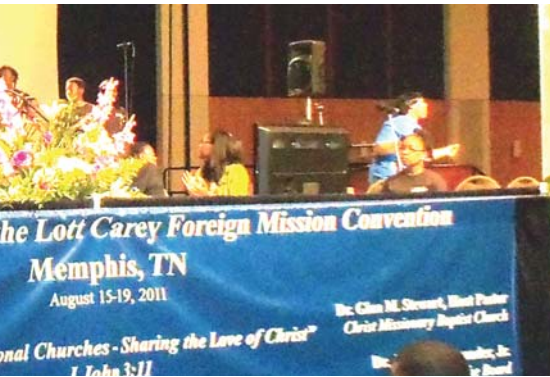
*Writer Donna Scott (second from right) hangs out with Lott Carey officials
and attendees.*



Convention attendees at the closing ceremony.

Focus on Missions in Lives

Lott Carey



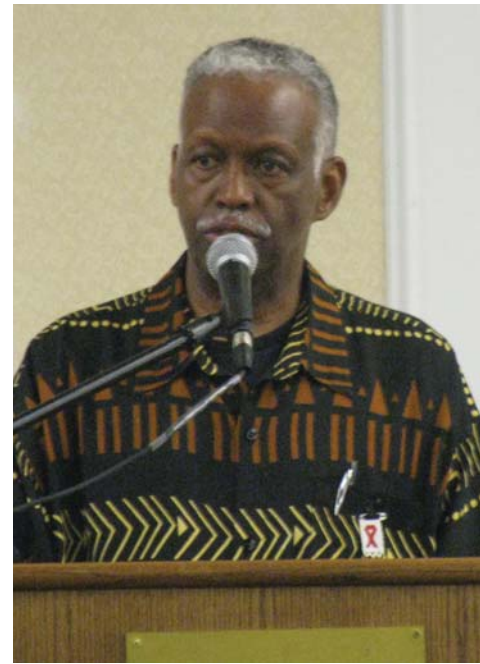
Hope Missionaries model dresses made for the "Pillow-Case Project," designed to help peers in impoverished countries.



Hope Missionaries design a poster on disaster preparedness after taking a safety class.



Barbara Crump, Program Coordinator for the Lott Carey Women's Auxiliary, teaches a Missions Education class.



Dr. Robert G. Murray, President of Lott Carey, delivers closing remarks.

Your prayers & donations are
making a world of difference.



Pray for us. Donate online.
LottCarey.org

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grace. Through renewed and increased partnerships, the Lott Carey Mission Schools will be able to reach their fullest potential of service.

According to Rev. Sam-Peal, the Lott Carey Schools offer the students the best educational opportunity in the country in terms of well-rounded academics and emotional development thereby preparing the students to be fruitful and productive citizens. Decimated in the 2003 Liberian Civil War, the campuses struggle to rebuild facilities and increase enrollment. Despite these challenges, the dedicated faculty and staff constantly strive to improve academic programs while nurturing students. Rev. Sam-Peal cites top three goals: provide functional academic spaces; continued professional development and training for the faculty and staff; and provide technology on campus in the form of computers and Internet access.

He encourages church mission teams to come to Liberia to observe and experience the future of the nation first hand. "By seeing the institution, hopefully churches will commit to increasing support to the school."

To fully appreciate the impact of the Lott Carey



The Rev. Emile Sam-Peal, Superintendent of Lott Carey Mission Schools in Liberia.

Mission School on Liberia's future leaders, one only has to ask the students. Princess G., a 2011 graduate from Brewerville and aspiring doctor, says, "Education enables me to understand who I am, who I was, and who I am to be." With such profound thinking running rampant at the school, the future can only be bright.

Prior to becoming the Superintendent, Rev. Sam-Peal was affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance as a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Baptist World Aid. The Baptist World Aid is the compassionate arm of the Baptist World Alliance, supporting three areas of ministry: Relief, Development and Fellowship assistance.

Focus: India



Established in 1997, the Meenakshi Roof Over the Roofless Trust (MRORT) serves "the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of fellow human beings and to be an advocate for justice and loving province in the lives of those who are hurt due to poverty, discrimination, ill health and ignorance."

The trust has made a commitment to Christian social services ministry working with the various cultures within the region to include Hindus, Muslims, and tribal groups. Without focusing on faith, the Trust aims to "serve the spiritual and emotional needs of our fellow human beings..." And with Lott Carey's help and encouragement, MRORT has been able to continue its journey as an advocate for justice and making an impact on the lives of those affected by the ravages of poverty, ignorance and discrimination.

Founder and Director of MRORT, Irene Suprya Steele, is a wonderful example of how Lott Carey touches lives at home and abroad. While attending Ohio State University, Mrs. Steele became friends with a Chinese student that was sponsored by Lott Carey. As a result of that friendship, she met the late Rev. Dr. Wendell C. Somerville, then Executive Secretary (and later Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus) of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. As a result of that meeting, Mrs. Steele became a scholarship recipient from Lott Carey. After receiving her master's degree in Social Work from Howard University, she returned home to India to where she extended Lott Carey's global reach by establishing a social welfare program.

Mrs. Steele encourages Lott Carey friends and supporters to visit South India to experience the

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Women's Auxiliary President Antoinette W. Winslow, center, with Lott Carey Partners from South Africa, India, and Ethiopia.



The table was spread and Conference attendees and guests enjoyed the Community Feast.



Hope Missionaries were enthusiastic and faithful as they delivered meals to elderly.

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difference that can be made by mission work. MRORT desires to expand and increase services although it faces increasing challenges in providing training and access to tools to assist those in need. In addition, MRORT seeks to increase the number

of homes provided for the needy. Thus far, with Lott Carey's support, they have been able to build 36 homes. On the horizon, MRORT plans to build wells for life sustaining water in four tribal villages, provide families with livestock, provide children with bicycles as a means to commute to school, and build a Christian Outreach Church.

With an emphasis on sanitation, agriculture, health and education, MRORT strives to implement developmental programs and educate partners on the needs of developing communities. By increasing support to such programs, MRORT will increase awareness, especially in the non-Christian communities where the need for evangelism is present.

Focus: Nigeria



which works to bring people to Christ and to expose the natural potential God has put in them. Located in the state of Akwa Ibom, this "Land of Promise" boasts three schools and 54 churches with more than 80 ministers—one of Lott Carey's largest outreach programs.



The Rev. Kenneth C. Ebong, Superintendent, Lott Carey- Nigeria.

A product of the Lott Carey school system, the Rev. Kenneth Ebong serves as the Supervisory Administrator and Superintendent for the Lott Carey Mission – Nigeria,

With his long personal connection to the program, Rev. Ebong has witnessed the growth and development of Lott Carey within and beyond his own region. The greatest accomplishment has been the provision of quality education for rural schools. With that in mind, the mission plans to develop a state-of-the-art institution that will include a nursery, primary and secondary schools. In addition, the school will expand its curriculum to include technical (commercial) and vocational programs.

The school also contributes to economic growth for the community. About 200-300 students from all over the state come to the region for the month-long general certificate of education exam administered by the school. The mission and the region benefit from the infusion of economic activity as families temporarily relocate to the region for the duration of the exam.

According to Rev. Ebong, Lott Carey provides more than 80 percent of the logistics support to the church and schools. "By helping us build capacity for our ministry and for the area, Lott Carey also provides employment." The Women's Auxiliary is an outgrowth of the Lott Carey – Nigeria's focus on education and evangelical programs. The largest and most active auxiliary in the mission, the Women's Fellowship Program hosts an annual convention that draws in attendees from all over

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Lott Carey's Hope Missionaries get a hug for delivering meals to the elderly while adult supervisor looks on.

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the state. The fellowship looks into the plight of women and helps bring in resources to help enhance their livelihood. The convention provides empowerment programs, workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions. However, the convention not only addresses short-term solutions, it also builds bridges to the future by focusing on long-range planning for the mission.

As the Lott Carey Mission continues to support the educational and spiritual needs of rural communities; it faces challenges presented by the draw of free state schools in urban communities. Students must choose between walking miles to a free school and paying nominal fees charged by a local school. The harsh economic realities of a rural environment often force families to uproot and relocate. This places a greater burden on families who do not have the option to relocate. As a result, the mission must continue to find ways to increase funding so that attaining an education in a rural community is not out of reach.

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Focus: Ethiopia



The AIDS epidemic has had an impact on lives worldwide. But this horrific plague has hit the continent of Africa the hardest — dramatically affecting Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Sub-Saharan Africa. As the second largest victim of the AIDS pandemic in Africa, Ethiopia struggles to find ways to fight and contain this deadly disease.

Located in Addis Ababa, the Regional office of Lott Carey partner, the African AIDS Initiative International (AII), provides counseling and testing services to groups that are most “at risk” for the transmission and spread of HIV. The three main goals of the program are prevention, capacity



Ato Zewdie Shitie Tsegaye, Program Head, AII, Ethiopia.

building, and care and support.

Program Head, Ato Zewdie Shitie Tsegaye, credits Lott Carey’s support and partnership with AII’s ability to implement activities to fight the AIDS pandemic. Lott Carey provided support that allowed the program to lease a space where it can organize and provide services on a wider basis. That support enhances the ability to conduct programs, training, testing and a myriad of other activities in a professional work environment.

As the 114th Annual Session clearly demonstrates, none of the

Lott Carey partners work in a vacuum. Through the spirit of faith, cooperation and dedication, all of the partner nations work together to develop and support mission partners. A wonderful example of this cooperation lies in the fact that according to the Rev. Tsegaye, Lott Carey partners, Rev Dr. Yvonne

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Best and Rev Sam Nixon initially conceived of what was initially a “small” project and as a result of this partnership, the project has grown tremendously, impacting on the lives of thousands.

In addition to financial assistance, Lott Carey provides much needed technical support by helping AAI gain access to networking opportunities that lead to even greater support. AAI received three years funding through resources from international organizations like USAID. And as a result of the success and demonstrated potential of the program, they have been invited to submit a proposal for a five-year project. The invaluable support and assistance AAI receives impacts on lives every day in Ethiopia. It is been a blessing to work with the many partners internal to Lott Carey in order to serve the greater good.

Focus: Baptist Convention of South Africa



Joined by former General Secretary, the Rev. N. Paul Msiza, the General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of South Africa, Rev. Chris DeKana, was mission

focused and goal oriented as he attended his first Annual Session. From the beginning of his tenure, Rev. DeKana’s key focus for the organization has been missions and leadership development aimed at strengthening programs and impacting peoples’ lives. The Baptist Convention of South Africa focuses on mobilizing and training pastors for evangelism and the development of new churches. They also manage a theological college, operate a skills training center and support an HIV/AIDS intervention program. He sees his biggest challenge as working on the development of the organization through maximum utilization of human and financial resources. Skills development and funding are also challenges that impact the ability to achieve success. It is here that Lott Carey has been most helpful, delivering technical assistance for organizational development and program evaluation. As a result, the Baptist Convention of South Africa is now able to focus on streamlining programs and building leadership capacity.

“We’ve seen God’s divine providence in the midst

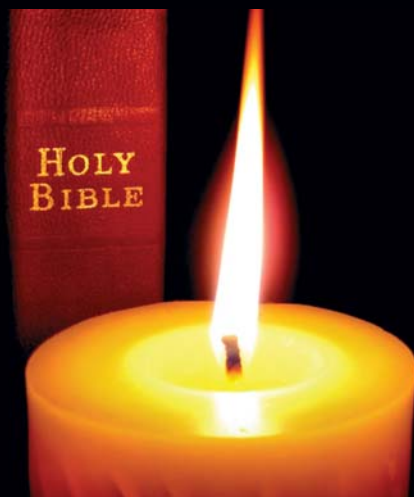


*The Rev. Chris Dikana,
General Secretary of the
Baptist Convention of
South Africa.*

of the storms...and we are strengthened and encouraged through the strong partnership that we have with Lott Carey,” says Rev. Msiza. He views the Annual Session as a time of inspiration and encouragement that revitalizes us to go back to work. It is also a “place to network, meet other partners and learn what they are doing.” In addition to networking he sees a very strong element of the Annual Session as a forum to share and discover the “best practices” for implementing programs. He also noted that although Lott Carey is the largest supporter of the Baptist Convention

of South Africa, one of the strengths of the partnership with Lott Carey is that they allow partners to define their needs, only asking for accountability and good stewardship. He credits this dedicated and empowering support as a reason the Baptist Convention of South Africa has been able to expand and increase its support to those in need, thereby enriching the lives of those touched by their efforts.

THE 115TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE LOTT CAREY CONVENTION



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Are we still doing anything in Haiti? Yes we are! And yes we will!

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

A few weeks ago, a brother asked, "Are we still doing anything in Haiti?" My answer was an emphatic, "Yes we are!" This is the second anniversary of the January 2010 earthquake and I invite you to remember those who perished, to remember those who struggle, to rejoice in our service, and to recommit to helping Haiti rise again.

The world will never be the same again for hundreds of thousands of Haitians.

The devastating earthquake that destroyed lives, livelihoods, and land two years ago today continues to shape the realities of most Haitians.

Those who lived at epicenter of the quake near Leogane, where Lott Carey has a church, lost nearly all of their housing and infrastructure. Those who lived around the overly populated capitol city of Port-au-Prince found themselves living in and around homelessness, unsanitary tent cities, and disarray in every sense of the word. The sights and sounds during my visit to Haiti a few weeks after the quake are still vivid to me. My emotions still stir when I remember the destruction all around.

The Lott Carey family, like many other networks, responded with generosity to the tragedy. We sponsored first-responders, supported displaced families, gave food grants, gave cash grants, bought goods from farmers, paid caterers, fed hospital patients, recruited medical volunteers, funded youth camps for displaced young people, provided counseling and coaching for pastors and their spouses, and continued to support our network of churches of the Strategic Union of Baptist Churches in Haiti.

Additionally, we are participating in integral ways in two unprecedented partnerships. First, we are the administrative partner for the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration in which the four historic National Baptist denominations and Lott Carey are partnering to amplify our impact in Haiti. We understood that we can do more together than any of us can do alone.

During 2010, we pledged and paid a \$1 million grant in less than nine months to Habitat for Humanity International to invest in transitional and permanent housing solutions;

During 2011 more than 1800 families received transitional housing solutions, 150 families received permanent housing solutions, scores of individuals received construction training and employment, and more families accessed counseling to strengthen their economic viability.

During 2012, we are expanding our efforts to



Photo: Kathi L. Reid, Lott Carey

Haiti is still coping with the devastation brought by an earthquake that struck two years ago, but Lott Carey is there tending to medical, social and spiritual needs.



Photo: Kathi L. Reid, Lott Carey

These schoolgirls represent the hope and promise of a nation touched by love.

create more housing units using volunteer teams from the United States and to increase the capacity of hospitals and clinics (through financial support and medical volunteers) to provide quality preven-

tive, reproductive, and restorative health care for Haitians.

Second, we are the administrative coordinator for the Haitian Diaspora/African-American Christian Advocacy Coalition which has brought together Haitians in America, Haitian-Americans, and African-American Christians in traditional African-American denominations and in traditional European-American denominations to influence United States policy that supports a safe, strong, and sustainable Haiti. Our principal areas of work are:

1. To advocate for fair and humane immigration policies that favor family reunification;
2. To advocate for investment in agriculture for economic vitality to benefit all levels of the agriculture sector (including the small scale farmers); and
3. To advocate for transparency and inclusion of Haitians and African-Americans in reconstruction contracts and grants to ensure capacity building and cultural competence in rebuilding the country.

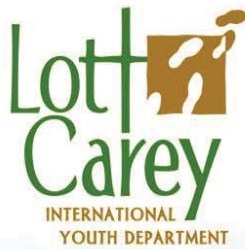
We will be calling on you during the year to help advance this important agenda with policy makers who represent you.

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Carey.



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