Annual Sessions: Reaching Back, Moving Forward

Faith and Works at the 115th Spurs High Expectations for 116th

India Photo Essay: Donna L. Scott’s Camera Captures Culture, Page 7.
The Journey to Lott Carey

Poetry by Donna L. Scott

A lifelong journey with endless appeal
That convicts our hearts to serve God’s will.
Brought together by faith and blessings from above
To serve mankind with transforming love.
Inspired by faith that forever binds,
To share his love with open hearts and minds.
Accepting grace we could never deserve,
Arriving to learn, departing to serve.

Some came with excitement and desire burning,
At a point in their lives where tides were turning.
Some came with a need, a desire for learning,
Others with doubts, a thirst, a yearning.
All came seeking a word to fulfill,
To know our purpose, to serve God’s will.
And along this journey our faith we preserve,
Arriving to grow, departing to serve.

Whatever the reason, there’s one thing we hold dear—
God’s plan for salvation is abundantly clear.
Praising, worshipping, teaching, knowing,
Our commitment to faith constantly growing.
Listening, learning, comforting, showing,
Our commitment to faith constantly growing.
God pours out his blessings, placing none in reserve
Accepting grace we could never deserve,
Arriving to learn, departing to serve.

As we arrive to learn and depart to serve.

Arriving to learn, departing to serve.

To know our purpose, to serve God’s will.

To serve mankind with transforming love.

The journey to Lott Carey

About the Writer-Photographer

Attorney Donna L. Scott, specializes in immigration law in her native Washington, D.C. As a civil-criminal litigator, she works tirelessly to support underserved communities globally. A retired Army Colonel, Scott received her B.A. in Communications from Old Dominion University, an M.S. in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law. The Northern Virginia resident, a member of Alfred Street Baptist Church, enjoys writing and photography, both featured in this special Annual Conference issue.

Lott Carey Herald/May 2013
A Look Back to Take a Leap Forward

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

This edition of The Lott Carey Herald magazine looks back at the 115th Annual Session that convened in New Orleans in 2012, a great opportunity to revisit a city that was ravaged by hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Lott Carey partnered with churches in Louisiana “helping people rise again” for six years. During that time we fed, clothed and housed people; launched a community development corporation; collaborated to provide single family homes; resourced purchasing a Christian campground that doubles as a staging center for hurricane response in the region; provided job skills and life skills training; offered pastoral care ministries, social service support, mental health counseling; and offered child development programs. We had an amazing experience of worship, work, and witness.

We are anticipating an exciting 116th Annual Session, which convenes 12 – 16 August 2013 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. So while enjoying the stories and pictures of last year’s endeavor, let’s aspire to higher heights and deeper depths in our missional ministry.

Prepare to join us as churches of the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia) welcome you to the Nation’s Capital. We are trending toward a record attendance with the Marriott hotel completely booked and rooms rapidly filling at the Omni Shoreham Hotel across the street. Make your hotel reservation soon by calling 1.800. THE OMNI (843.6664) and request “Lott Carey Annual Session Overflow” by 19 July 2013. Register to participate at www.lottcarey.org/annual-gatherings.

Celebrating and Anticipating,

David

Dr. Murray transfers mantle of leadership to Dr. Moss with grace, class

By Donna L. Scott

As the closing prayer went up and delegates said their farewells, the end of the 115th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention marked a change in the Lott Carey leadership.

A quiet transition took place at the final business session as Rev. Dr. Robert G. Murray completed his tenure as President of the organization. But there was no fanfare or long speeches because the transition did not represent a change in the focus or strategy for the organization. And even though it may mean a less public or less visible role for Dr. Murray, he will continue to be a key player as he continues working as an advisor to the executive board and Lott Carey’s new president, Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr.

“Anyone who has been over a particular path, knows where the stones are, and is in a position to guide others,” says Dr. Murray, whose leadership has impacted countless lives in the U.S. and abroad. “Some of the experiences, good and not so good, can assist the new leadership, by identifying what to look out for.”

Dr. Murray’s impact was evident in how he interacted with each and every person he met. Even if you didn’t meet or speak with him personally, his mere presence in a room was enough to evoke feelings of warmth and family. An exceptionally intelligent and charismatic speaker, he is an endearing leader because of his love of God, his passionate preaching and obvious dedication to his work.

Add to that his dedication to family and family values, all beautifully portrayed when he took his place with his wife Amanda, who has supported Dr. Murray in his leadership role and co-hosted the Prayer Breakfast.

One of Dr Murray’s crowning achievements is his support to Haiti. As a result of its role in national and international disaster relief projects, Lott Carey became a leader among prominent convention organizations. The Executive Board developed relationships with other agencies to work on new initiatives, exploring economic growth through renewable energy initiatives as well as broadening Lott Carey’s global ministries.

Says Dr. Murray: “Staying faithful to our calling, being dedicated and resourceful and being faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ through proclamation and demonstration allows us to help churches extend the Christian witness to the ends of the earth.”

“Anyone who has been over a particular path, knows where the stones are, and is in a position to guide others.”

TOGETHER: Amanda Murray enjoys time with husband, Rev. Dr. Robert G. Murray, in New Orleans.


“Anyone who has been over a particular path, knows where the stones are, and is in a position to guide others.”

Lott Carey Herald/May 2013
New Orleans. There was a time not long ago when the first thing that came to mind was spicy Creole cuisine, jazz pouring out of every establishment on Bourbon Street, and its world-famous Mardi Gras. Today, not even the 2010 Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints can overshadow the continuing impact of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the Crescent City with 125 mph winds. That was in 2005 and New Orleans still has not fully recovered, but its residents have shown an indelible spirit. So it seemed only fitting that New Orleans should host the 115th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention because of its people, who are full of faith and renewed dreams. They remind us of God’s grace and His power to breathe life into the future.

The Annual Session was held in the heart of New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on 13-17 August 2012. Even as the city continues to struggle to regain its footing, residents were brimming with light, love and southern hospitality as they greeted delegates from across the nation and around the world. More than 2500 delegates, partners and volunteers came with open hearts and minds to share the good news of Lott Carey and to do God’s work.

Continuing to serve its core commitment to global missions, the Annual Session highlighted His blessings as mission partners from Ethiopia, Haiti, Italy, Liberia, India, Zimbabwe, Kenya and South Sudan shared with the delegates evidence of the grace and love that God has shown over the last year and hope for continuing growth and support for the future. The Session was filled with opportunities to learn about the work of Lott Carey and offered delegates a chance to participate in inspiring activities. Each day started with an early morning prayer service followed by community mission projects, devotional messages, project updates, and fellowship opportunities.

This Annual Session also said farewell to its

SERVICE: Thomas T. Roy, Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Carey Baptist Mission, New Delhi, India, celebrates nearly 30 years of employment.
totted and charismatic leader, Rev. Dr. Robert G. Murray, as he completed his tenure as President and installed his successor, Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr., to fill this key leadership position for the next three years. The Executive Board also welcomed Rev. Gregory J. Jackson, Pastor, Mount Olive Baptist Church in Hackensack, New Jersey, as its new 2nd Vice President. And the Lott Carey family also said farewell to Rev. Y. Trevor Beauford as he completed his term as the International Youth Development Team Leader.

Planning and Hard Work

The meeting was done in true New Orleans style under the leadership of Host Pastor, Rev. Mitchell J. Stevens, Sr., Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Kenner, Louisiana, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans, along with Co-hosts, Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., President, Louisiana Home and Foreign Missions Baptist State Convention, and Rev. Kerry W. Tillmon, President, American Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The hosts were grateful to the over 200 volunteers from across the region who came together to make the Annual Session a success. Also instrumental in assisting and providing support in every arena was Rev. Reginald Nicholas, President, Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Association.

Rev. Stevens recognized that the collaborative effort in hosting that evolved served as a true expression of the work Lott Carey has done in the area in the aftermath of not only Hurricane Katrina, but Hurricanes Rita (2005) and Ike (2008) as well. It was with great pride and emotion that volunteers from Louisiana and Texas worked together to present a flawless Annual Session since they were personally impacted by the devastation and witnessed the impact Lott Carey had in the region. It took months of planning to coordinate the effort, but the volunteers worked seamlessly to ensure the Annual Session was everything it was intended to be and more.

Preacher, singer and musician, Rev. Stevens was the “on the ground” Host and was “hands-on” in most areas of planning and execution for the Annual Session. He is no stranger to the Lott Carey family and for the past seven

Continued on Page 6
years has worked as the organist. But as the Host Pastor, he took on a much larger role. Not only did he serve in his usual musical role as accompanist he also hosted sessions, coordinated musicians, choirs and soloists, and even belted out a powerful solo. And there was a quite impressive “Taste of New Orleans luncheon for the ladies. During tough times in Louisiana, as Pastors worked to serve their congregations, communities and families, Lott Carey met the overlooked needs of Pastors who needed nurture and spiritual support.

“As Pastors we build words of hope for others, but Lott Carey provided that for us through the Fountain project,” Rev. Stevens remembered. “It gave us an opportunity to talk about issues and deal with the stressors of what we were going through by providing opportunities, workshops, worship opportunities and counseling services—not just to build a house, but geared to rebuilding lives.”

ITALY: Pastor Raffaele Volpe, President, Unione Cristiana Evangelica Battista d’Italia, UCEBI.

HAITI: Rev. and Mrs. Moise Dorsinville, Lott Carey Liaisons in Haiti.

Join Lott Carey’s Men on Missions

Help build housing for Haitian families displaced by the 2010 earthquake.

Team 5: 9-16 November 2013
Team 6: 30 Nov.- 6 Dec. 2013

E-mail Kathi L. Reid at kreid@lottcarey.org or visit LottCarey.org for more information.
India and Lott Carey: Progress and Praise Continue

Text & Photos By Donna L. Scott

Despite a heavy fog that shrouds New Delhi, the vibrant culture of India immediately captures your attention as you cautiously make your way through the bustling streets. We came to celebrate the 50th Golden Jubilee of the Lott Carey Mission in India and to visit various humanitarian projects.

India is awash in color—from the vibrant textiles to beautiful faces with creamy, smooth complexions of every hue. The exotic flowers and traditional dancers that welcomed us provided an exciting platform for prayer and planning.

What touched me most were the faces of children that reflected the joy of seeing visitors to their country. Young people were overjoyed to have visitors from so far away and were eager and proud to show their work. Little ones with furrowed brows were curious, pensive and projected maturity beyond their years. But each face—young or old—carried the promise of a brighter future because of faith and works. It was an honor to capture this spirit with my camera.

COMMUNION: Young boy takes it to the Lord in prayer.
FUTURE: Hope for a brighter future is reflected in the faces of the children.

PRESENCE: Lott Carey is working alongside India to serve the people.

CULTURE: Traditional dancers illustrate India’s proud heritage. Lott Carey appreciates that understanding culture is a part of its mission service.
A young child is almost ready to smile for visitors, but not quite.

Skilled hands working on crafts.

Somerville School students welcome Lott Carey delegation with dance.

Women listen intently during church service.

A vegetable concession not far the famed Taj Mahal.

Lott Carey’s presence is evident and appreciated.

Group of children pay close attention as missionary speaks.
Lott Carey’s Mission in India: A Call To Service

L earning about the culture of various countries such as India is just one item on Lott Carey’s “to-do” list. The primary mission is to expand the Christian witness throughout the world through various social, educational and spiritual programs. Picture yourself working alongside these people as they experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Imagine making a difference, making life better for someone by participating in short-term mission assignments. For more information, visit LottCarey.org on the web.

Photos on this page: Lott Carey

Worship service at Karnal Leprosy Colony Church.

Baptism by Rev. Wilson Mark at Union Church Daryaganj-New Delhi.

Lott Carey President Gregory K. Moss on a mission assignment in India.

Lott Carey Herald/May 2013
Men on Missions Create Powerful Partnerships for Global Ministry

By Donna L. Scott

In 1943, the Annual Session of the Lott Carey Convention met in East Orange, New Jersey. At that session, a call went out to the men to organize and assist their ministers in achieving the goals of the Convention. Under this directive, the Laymen’s League was formed, and today they still continue to support and enhance the organization.

Now known as Men on Missions, the program works to support Lott Carey’s special mission projects and participate in short-term mission assignments that have impact around the world. They recruit other men in churches across the country to assist in raising funds to support their important work.

About 350 men belong to the program, representing Washington, D.C., and 10 states across the U.S. Under the leadership of Team Leader Bernie Lott, Men on Missions continues to make a difference in three primary areas: Haiti, Kenya, and Liberia:

• Transportation that allows pastors to reach congregations located in remote areas.
• “Tractor Project,” which provided a tractor and ancillary equipment in Liberia to plant and harvest crops.
• Recruiting 100 men to build houses, schools, and wells for families in Haiti displaced in the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas. To date, four teams of men have gone to Haiti. Two more trips are planned: 9-16 November 2013 and 30 November to 6 December 2013. (For details and registration, visit LottCarey.org or email Kathi L. Reid—kheid@lottcarey.org).

“We come because it’s important to do mission work for Christ around the world in the Lott Carey tradition,” says Recruitment Leader Laurence Campbell of Wayland Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. “We not only raise funds to support missions, but we also teach and work with other professionals in those countries.”

Brother Campbell emphasized MoM’s reach is also local because members are active in their home churches as deacons, trustees, pastors, and ministry leaders. Many are involved in the U.S. disaster relief programs of the American Red Cross. The program also supports countless projects from going into neighborhoods and providing cleanup, working construction projects, rebuilding homes in New Orleans, and supporting youth.

“We serve at home and abroad in order to be a beacon for the work of Christ”

FAITH & WORKS: Men on Missions volunteers at work in Haiti helping residents construct houses.

Photo: Mike Tucker

LIBERIA: A new tractor means more crops.

By Donna L. Scott

Lott Carey Herald/May 2013
The primary mission of Women In Service Everywhere (W.I.S.E.) of Lott Carey is to empower women around the world to be advocates for others who need help improving their home and work lives, and creating new opportunities.

“We work with women where they are,” says Antoinette W. Winslow, president of W.I.S.E., and member of Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. “Together, with the grace of God, we recognize that life can change and we seek to show women who struggle that there are people who care and will support them.”

W.I.S.E., formerly known as the Women’s Auxiliary, advances Lott Carey’s operations through short-term mission assignments, supporting special projects and recruitment. W.I.S.E. also sponsors the “Women of the Week” and “Woman of the Year” programs held during alternate Annual Sessions and the Global Ambassadors program, a fundraising program that generates funds to invest in Christian missions around the world. W.I.S.E. also provides an empowerment scholarship to help women learn a trade that will enable them to take care of their families; supports HIV/AIDS counseling and testing for women forced into commercial sex work, and maintains several jobs skills training and women economic programs.
The Community Feast is an annual tradition at the Lott Carey Annual Session that always packs the house. At the recent session, the evening was about more than food as a soothing atmosphere and smooth sounds of live jazz warmed diners. It provided an opportunity for participants to learn from each other because the Community Feast brings together people from all walks of life and helps everyone gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing those impacted by homelessness and poverty.

Invited guests to this extraordinary event included underserved members of the community from local shelters and guests from public support agencies as well as community leaders and activists. The Community Feast provided everyone an opportunity to fellowship with convention attendees and community leaders who hope to further understand their struggles and how they can help.

Although the Community Feast is a way to fellowship with members of the local community, it also served as a teaching point to Annual Session attendees. Everyone was moved by the compelling stories that seem to haunt those in need, however, by taking the time to talk and break bread with guests, we all learned a little about our opinions and even biases that have been perpetuated concerning those in need. It would be difficult to not be changed by the experience or to walk away not wanting to know more. The Community Feast served as a venue to open hearts and minds and helped participants define or, in some cases re-define, their opinion of the plight of the homeless and challenges they face.

HALLELUJAH: Participants enjoy food and fellowships while exploring mission issues.

PRAISE: Entertainers during break at Community Feast.
No Lott Carey Annual Session would be complete without the energy, enthusiasm and sheer joy brought by the youngest members of the Lott Carey family. At 7 each morning Lott Carey Youth Missionaries (ages 13-20) and Hope Missionaries (ages 6-12) gathered for a day of activities guaranteed to be inspiring, motivating, educational and fun. Through the Lott Carey experience, youth learn the significance of sharing their gifts and talents and the transforming power of faith. From participation in training sessions to mission projects to hosting the International Youth Development (IYD) service, their experience at the Annual Session was packed with spiritual and educational growth opportunities.

After each morning’s Prayer and Praise, the children boarded buses bound for all parts of the city to participate in the Mission Service. About 121 Youth Missionaries and 50 Hope Missionaries went out to support mission projects. They participated in a wide range of programs from recycling and assisting senior citizens to preparing emergency disaster relief kits in coordination with the American Red Cross. In the afternoon, there were educational activities such as visiting the Mayor’s Office at City Hall, the campuses of Southern and Dillard Universities, and a look at African American history at the Ashe’ Cultural Arts Center.

Mark Jordan, 17, of Maple Springs Baptist Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland, said he enjoyed the Lott Carey experience because it allowed him to interact with other youth from across the country. “Stay positive and keep an open mind,” says Jordan. “Don’t expect to know everything yourself, because others know things that can help you, and the more you know the more you will succeed.”

Closing out this year’s Annual Session experience, the youth showed maturity and depth as they hosted Youth Day. Dynamic speakers and future preachers, singers and steppers re-invigorated the Annual Session as they demonstrated you’re never too young to honor and praise God.

Youth Leader Love’ S. Lemon left an indelible mark on the crowd. She was inspired by the word of God and being around other youth who felt the same way I did about their relationship with God. I wanted to help build the passion of the youth for the work of God.”

Rev. Y. Trevor Beauford, Team Leader of the International Youth Development (IYD) Department, believes that the youth can “turn our world upside down,” recognizing that God will use the “least likely.” As he steps down as Team Leader this year, he challenged the youth to assess their lives. “Sometimes it’s in the quietness of our words, not the boldness of our acts,” says Rev. Beauford. “God doesn’t need you to talk about it, just be about His work.”

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116TH ANNUAL SESSION
Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention
12 – 16 August 2013
Washington, DC

Register Online: Go to LottCarey.org, then click Annual Gatherings tab.