WINTER 2019



FUL CIRCLE

Rev. Emmett L. Dunn, a native of Liberia, leads the organization named for the man who led the first Baptist missionaries to Africa and organized the first Baptist church in Liberia

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Lott Carey Photo

The deadly aftermath of Dorian in the Bahamas.

Lott Carey's new WISE leader Rosette T. Graham reviewing communication. Photo by Mike Tucker

Cover Photo by Mike Tucker Rev. Emmett L. Dunn visiting sacred sites in the Holy Land.

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MISSIONS: Lott Carey's helping hands take on trouble spots in The Bahamas, Kenya, and Puerto Rico.

Photo by Gregory Moss

LANDOVER, MARYLAND

What We Do Who We Are

A hearty welcome to our new executive leader, as my service to Lott Carey moves to another locale in God's vast kingdom

Commentary by Dr. Gregory K. Moss Sr.



Moss, on ladder, working in Puerto Rico.

Lott Carey Photo

he Flint water crisis and food desert. Hurricanes Dorian, Harvey, Irma, Maria, Matthew, and Florence. Cyclone Idai in Mozambique. Hostilities in Haiti and Nigeria. The need for clean water and medical supplies in Kenya. These are but a few of the ongoing challenges being addressed by Lott Carey, a 365-days-a-year enterprise.

Without question, the view from the executive's chair is quite different from that of Lott Carey's typical constituents. For them, Lott Carey is renowned for its informative and inspirational Annual Session and spring missions gathering. We attend, we worship, we fellowship, we serve, we pray, we advocate, we celebrate, we weep, we give, we return home—renewed, refreshed, re-engaged, determined to make a difference with the transforming love of our Christ.

I have an even greater appreciation for the position of executive secretary-treasurer, which has kept me constantly on the move mentally and emotionally. The executive:

- Is tasked with maintaining fiscal accountability—raising funds while ensuring a firm, financial foundation undergirded by integrity.
- Must move among our member churches and affiliate organizations—building and maintaining strong relationships.
- Is expected to work with our leaders—casting vision, developing strategies, and implementing plans and programs.
- Provides supervision for our dedicated staff.
- Gives leadership to our core values of compassion, evangelism, empowerment and advocacy.
- Is the dynamo that propels the engine of the organization.

God smiles on Lott Carey, providing compassionate, energetic, visionary missioners who, through the years, demonstrate they have a heart for God's people around the world. A giant among them, Dr. Wendell C. Somerville, who rendered more than a half century of service, was ahead of his time by positioning Lott Carey to be a leader in the realm of global missions.

Panic ensued when Somerville's tenure ended. The question on everyone's mind: Who could fill the shoes of such an iconic figure?

The organization's leadership called upon former Lott Carey President C.R. Edwards, who was named interim executive while an executive search was launched. Known for his steady hand, strength of character, unquestioned wisdom and calm demeanor, Edwards instilled confidence among the constituents. Lott Carey continued to meet its obligation as a leading missions entity among Baptists and other denominational influencers around the world.

The process provided the necessary time and backdrop for a thorough search to take place. With Edwards taking care of the dayto-day responsibilities of Lott Carey, the search committee focused on the task at hand. The search eventually led to a young, enthusiastic, talented visionary: David Emmanuel Goatley. He brought youth and vigor to the position, utilizing wisdom beyond his years as he created his own path while navigating markers left by the living legend Somerville.

Goatley skillfully laid a course for what we now recognize more than two decades later as a brilliant tenure and legacy. We have witnessed expansion in numbers of missional partners, programs, and opportunities for growth too numerous to name. For this we rejoice and are grateful to God.

In 2018, Dr. Goatley answered a call to return to the academy as director of Black Church Studies and Research Professor at Duke Divinity School. As with the retirement of Dr. Somerville, Lott Carians were somewhat anxious about the next phase of leadership and who would succeed Goatley. Lott Carey leadership decided to revisit the previous formula. Appointing a committee tasked with updating the job task and responsibilities of the executive, and the commissioning of a search committee, Lott Carey leadership selected me to serve as interim executive.

Like Edwards, I understood my role was to keep Lott Carey moving forward until a new executive was found. It has been a labor of love, mirroring the role of John the Baptist. As "Greg the Baptist," I have tried to "make straight and pave the way for the one to come." I believe I helped move the needle, not just maintained the status quo.

On November 1, our new executive, Rev. Emmett L. Dunn, assumed the helm of this storied missional society. (Read the Cover Story starting on page 6). And, I declare, it was a smooth transition. As Edwards said when introducing Goatley to the Lott Carey family: "I must decrease, so he may increase." To God be the glory.

Dr. Gregory Moss retired as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2015 after 17 years. He served as interim executivetreasurer of Lott Carey from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019.



Photo by Elizabeth Moore

Moss chats with Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, former executive leader of Lott Carey, who is now a professor at Duke University.

LANDOVER, MARYLAND

ALeader Jomenne Liberia

Lott Carey's new executive brings a unique perspective to missions, a desire to expand communications and partnerships, and a determination to uphold the values that make the organization a dynamic force in global missions

– By Geri Coleman Tucker

t Lott Carey, history, mission, and legacy have come full circle in the person of Emmett L. Dunn, who took the reins as its new executive secretarytreasurer in November. Nearly two centuries after Lott Carey, the man, established the first Baptist missions endeavor in Africa and settled in Liberia, Dunn—himself a son of Liberia—is leading the global missional organization that bears the pioneer's name. The significance of that connection is not lost on Dunn, who is one of only a handful of Lott Carey's executive leaders since its founding in 1897.

Liberia today stands as the oldest work of the Lott Carey missions network, Dunn, 54, said at the Lott Carey Annual Session recently in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "I view him as God's gift to Liberia because of the vision and fortitude he had."

Even Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia, Dunn's home church where he received his call to full-time ministry, was established by Rev. Lott Carey, who served as its first pastor. "There is nowhere in Liberia you can go, and the name Lott Carey would not be recognized because of the impact of the man and the impact of the mission."





Rev. Dunn and wife, Suan, at his installation as pastor of West Hyattsville Baptist Church.



Rev. Dunn with, from left, wife, Suan; daughters, Annette, 14, and LeAnn, 24; son, Emmett Jr., 21.

Lott Carey Photo





Photo by Lois Kebe

Rev. Dunn with Dr. Gregory Moss at far left; his wife, Suan; and Pamela and Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley.

<image>

Photo by Kathi L. Reid

Rev. Dunn with Pastor Ed LaRoda in Abaco, Bahamas, surveying the damage from Hurricane Dorian.

Photo by Elizabeth Moore

Dunn's worldwide vision for the missions organization is no less grand. Lott Carey is almost a household name in Liberia because of its legacy there, but "Lott Carey is the best kept secret in the Christian community in the United States," he says. His goal is to change that by broadening its network of churches, constituents, and supporters across denominations and across the country and the world. Lott Carey's emphasis has always been on partnerships, not paternalism, where the goal in serving communities is to work with them as coequals, he says. That won't change. Dunn praises the work of his predecessor, Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, who now is a research professor of theology and Black Church Studies at Duke University. "Ministry to the world is our brand," Dunn says. "We must continue to build on that."

The Money Challenge

The Lott Carey network has a long reach throughout the world. One of the key functions of the executive secretary-treasurer is to champion fundraising for the many missions needs of communities around the world. And, when natural disasters strike, Lott Carey and its network of churches and volunteers are at the ready with food, clothing, counseling, spiritual support, building supplies and whatever is necessary to help those who have suffered losses.

But most of Lott Carey's funding comes in the form of volunteer dollars from member churches. When the budgets of those churches take a hit, as they did in 2008 when the stock market crashed and the economy imploded, Lott Carey feels the impact. The recession that followed hurt Lott Carey significantly, and in some ways, it has not fully recovered, Dunn says. The loss of money resulted in cuts in missions allocations and programs and affected missions partners as well. Strategic moves made by Lott Carey lessened the damage, Dunn says. But he wants to build on Goatley's success in establishing endowment funds so that the organization won't be so vulnerable in the future.

Expanding Outreach

Dunn is committed to maintaining the integrity and the viability of

Lott Carey. To do so, he says it is essential to work with the leadership of the organization to seek out new partners and to venture where Lott Carey has not ventured before.

"Only in expanding will we be able to be more effective as we meet the demands from various communities — whether it is local or whether it is global," he says.

But in an age where information is disseminated instantly, that will require Lott Carey to maximize its use of technology by investing in new resources and expanding the staff, which already does a lot with little. Dunn says he'll work with the board and the executive committee to expand resources to meet the demands on the organization. He also plans to build on Goatley's great track record of seeking grants from outside sources to do missions work.

There are many organizations and benefactors who want to do good in the world, but they are looking for organizations that they can trust—organizations with a track record, Dunn says. "I'm proud to say that Lott Carey has the track record and has demonstrated that it is efficient, transparent and accountable."

In-person appeals are one of the most effective ways of fundraising. "You need to meet people face-to-face and look them in the eyes so they can see the passion you have about ministry. But technology, especially social media, is also crucial — especially in connecting with those under-40," Dunn says. Lott Carey historically has flourished because of its large base of committed supporters who have kept it going financially through the years. "Many in that older generation are not savvy about the Web or social media. We are not going to dismiss their concerns, their needs. No not at all," Dunn says.

Under Goatley, Lott Carey has become intergenerational, he says. To build on that, the organization must be more intentional and effective in the ways it deploys technology. "It's only in bringing the generations together that Lott Carey will truly be a family," he explains. That means the Lott Carey of the future must focus on:

- Web improvements. Currently, Lott Carey's Annual Session is the way most people learn about its missions activities. Dunn wants to increase the organization's visibility year-round by making sure anyone who goes to the website can glean as much information as they need about Lott Carey's missions outreach in a timely, Web friendly way.
- **Expanding partnerships.** Dunn wants Lott Carey to become a household name in missions circles. His dream is that churches undertaking their own missions projects in local communities or elsewhere will see Lott Carey as a relevant missions partner that walks alongside of them. "My dream is that whenever one of our churches thinks about missions they also think about Lott Carey."
- Garner more grants. "Some of the most effective work that been done in the past seven to 10 years under the leadership of David Goatley was to seek grants outside of Baptist communities, such as those obtained through its partnership with the American Red Cross," says Dunn. "Those grants have helped tremendously in some of the initiatives that were started under his administration."

Dunn says he is proud that Lott Carey has never been accused of paternalism. Its approach in working with brothers and sisters around the world has always been that we each have something to share, and together let's make things happen. "If you really look at the ministries



of Lott Carey, you will see that we did not start every work that we engage in today. There is work that was already started by others and we were invited to come alongside. For example, India raised more money for its missions needs than Lott Carey was able to give."

Called and Qualified

Dunn's background and experience seems to have uniquely qualified him to lead Lott Carey. For more than 20 years he served in various leadership roles for the Baptist World Alliance, including as the director of the Baptist World Congress and Conferences and as director of the Youth Department, a job that took him to dozens of countries and allowed him to implement youth leadership and training programs all over the world. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Howard University's School of Divinity and his bachelor's degree and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary. In 2014, he became pastor of the West Hyattsville Baptist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, and has served as an assistant pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

It is a different journey in ministry than Dunn originally contemplated. "I was headed to medical school," he says. "I never wanted to be a pastor or to preach." But God had another plan for his life.

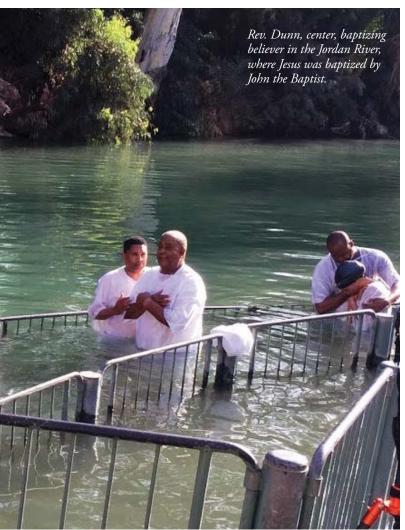


Photo by Geri Coleman Tucker

"Now that I'm older and wiser, I do not limit ministry just to the church. I see God calling all of us to ministry. I see the teaching vocation as a ministry. I see the medical vocation as a ministry," he says. "I know now that God was calling me to ministry, one way or the other. And it just so happened he wanted me in this aspect of ministry and not that. I am convicted and convinced that this was God's plan for my life. I have had opportunities to invest in lives of others that I would never have had if I had pursued my own path."

Dunn and his wife, Suan, have three children and are caring for his aging mother. But they are undaunted by the many demands that Lott Carey will place on him because it is a role that God has called him to.

Says Dunn: "The same God who has taken care of us over the years is the same God who will be with for as long as I have the privilege of serving Lott Carey."



Geri Coleman Tucker is a freelance writer living in the Washington, D.C., area.



Rev. Dunn in Brewerville, Liberia, with Superintendent-Principal Emile Sam-Peal and students from the Lott Carey Mission School.



Rev. Dunn and wife, Suan, during the Annual Session in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Rev. Dunn has visited more than 100 countries.

Photo by Mike Tucker



Rev. Dunn and wife, Suan, with Pastor John M. Alexander Jr., chairman of the Lott Carey Board of Directors, and his wife, Amy.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 2019 Annual Session

A time of praise and worship; hope, understanding, and renewal. A time for reconnecting with sisters and brothers from across the street and across the globe. A time to share God's transforming love. These are images of the faithful, the saints . . . our Lott Carey family.

A Photo Essay by Elizabeth Moore







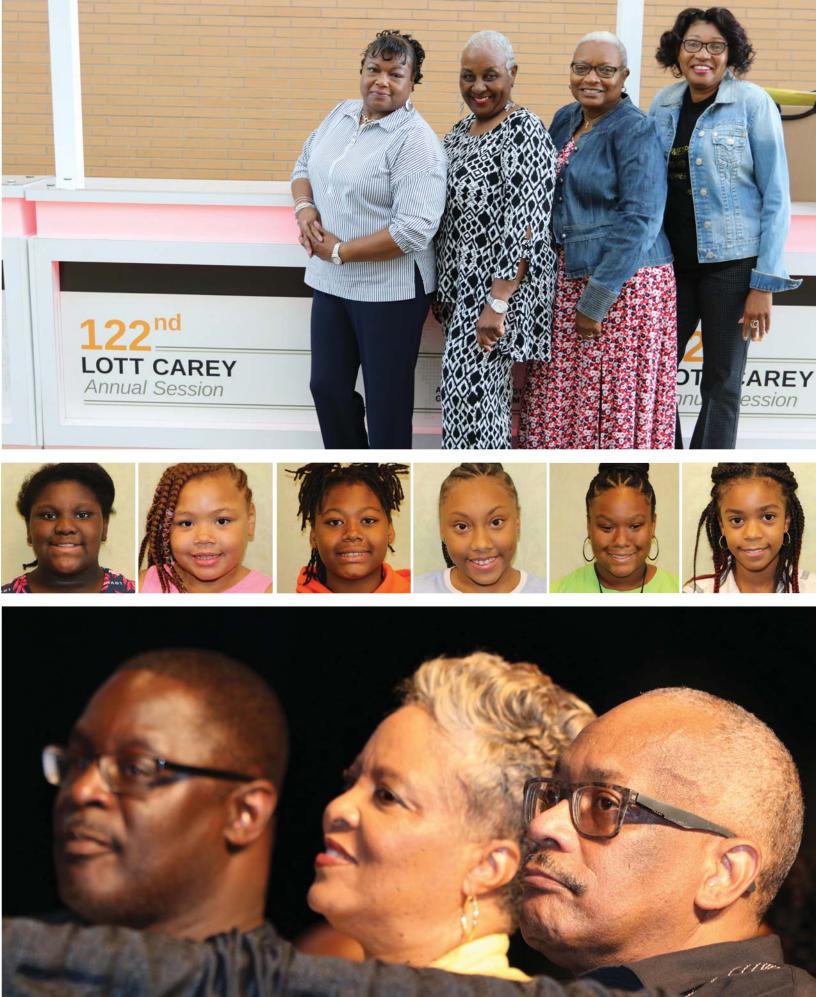






PORTRAITS

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Before we go into a country, we always have sensitivity and cultural training so that we know what we can and cannot talk about. We make sure that the women know that God loves them, we love them, and that they have the support of Lott Carey. We are the voices of the voiceless. It keeps me in prayer.

> —Rosette Graham, talking things over with new Lott Carey executive leader, Rev. Emmett L. Dunn.

Photo by Mike Tucker

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

WISE beyond her years

Rosette Graham, Lott Carey's new president of Women In Service Everywhere, plans to continue time-honored service . . . with a few twists



osette Graham typically starts her hectic workday at home with a full must-do list. By the time she arrives at the office, several new priorities top the list . . . and so on and so on throughout the day. Besides juggling a demanding job as executive assistant to the pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church, serving with the Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, and being a caretaker to her 87-year-old mother, she is now the president of Women In Service Everywhere (WISE), Lott Carey's global ministry initiative to women.

It is a responsibility she takes seriously.

"It humbles me," says Graham, who has a daughter, Angela, and two grandsons—Keon, 13, and Jonathan Jr., 11. "Being involved with WISE keeps me informed about the concerns of women around the world and allows me to keep Lott Carey informed so we can walk beside women and always be in prayer for women."

Prayer is a constant for Graham and a powerful tool as she grapples with a host of unsettling questions related to injustice.

"We have to be very careful when we go into a country and talk about issues dealing with women because in many countries the issues we're dealing with are not against the law," says Graham, who has led missions trips to New Orleans after Katrina, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and most recently Kenya.

"Before we go into a country, we always have sensitivity and cultural training so that we know what we can and cannot talk about. We make sure that the women know that God loves them, we love them, and that they have the support of Lott Carey. We are the voices of the voiceless. It keeps me in prayer."

Indeed, it will take an act of divine intervention to break the chains that keep women enslaved around the world through sex trafficking, gender abuse, child labor, HIV/AIDS, and other challenges. Lott Carey and other missionary and human rights organizations are rightly concerned about these issues because they not only impact women's spiritual lives, but also their social and economic well-being, as well as their children.

Graham is up to the challenge. She has been engaged in missions work since she was 10 and worshipping at Zion Hill Baptist Church in her native Gloucester, Virginia, about 30 miles north of Newport News on the York River. She was among the first 10 black students to integrate the county's public schools in 1967 and went on to become

By Mike Tucker





the first black president of her senior high school class, a cheerleader, and homecoming queen.

Those leadership skills led to important missionary startups when she was named Alfred Street's first director of missions in 1983, including a food bank, the Boarder Babies Ministry, and partnerships with Children's Hospital, Alexandria Shelter for Battered Women, and Bridges to Independence (formerly the Arlington/Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless).

While Graham honors her WISE predecessors, she is excited to launch several projects she believes will enhance service to women. They include expanding:

- Education. "I want to offer more workshops, specifically during our Annual Session, so women can learn about the initiatives we've launched. I want to teach women how to create relevant ministries for women in their own churches.
- Visibility. "I would love to visit every city that has a Lott Carey presence—nationally and internationally. I believe there's a whole bunch of talent out there to harvest. Plus, I'll get to meet women who don't realize how Lott Carey's women's programs can help them."
- **Global interaction.** "I want to increase our engagement with international partners. I want to get them more involved in the programs offered by WISE when they come to the Annual Session so they are doing more than visiting classrooms.

Graham, who studied business administration at Northern Virginia Community College and George Washington University, says she will not shy away from controversial topics. She says subjects such as sex trafficking must be discussed to determine what legislation is needed to fight it and to help young girls guard against being exploited.

"I'm interested in partnering with our youth ministry and bringing in victims to share their experiences so our young women will understand how sex trafficking is more than what we hear on the news; that it's right in our own communities," she says. "How can a woman be whole if they're not informed?"

To those considering missions work, she says: "Start with whatever gift or talent God has given you."

In Graham's case, it was working in the graphics design and publishing field.

"Start there because you already love it — but do it to the glory of God and for God's people," she says. "Then God will begin to open doors for you to use those gifts in many ways."



Photos by Elizabeth Moore

Lott Carey Herald/Winter 2019

Sullivan and Rev. Marla Hawkins.

J. Jackson. Middle: With Revs. Laura Brown and Marcia Norfleet, Kiasha

Top: Rosette T. Graham, new WISE president, consulting with Lott Carey President Gregory







THE BAHAMAS Redeeming a paradise marred by Dorian

ecovery and rebuilding continue in the Bahamas, which is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Dorian. Getting rid of rubble is a priority for this independent commonwealth, less than 200 aerial miles from Miami. The Category 5 hurricane struck Abaco Island on September 1 and Grand Bahama Island on September 2. The confirmed death toll is 65, but media estimates range as high as 3,000 because bodies could be discovered during cleanup, which includes containing a large oil spill. Some areas are reportedly open to the tourist trade that buoys the nation's economy. Lott Carey's partner, the Bahamas National Baptist Mission & Education Convention, is still assessing damage to member churches and homes. Several churches participating in Lott Carey-Kids Against Hunger are shipping meal packs. Check LottCarey.org for details on needed items and upcoming missions.

> Background Photo by Mark Garten, UN Additional Photos by Kathi L. Reid

Lott Carey Herald/Winter 2019



Transforming love on display in Bomet







A fellowship and joy divine lifted spirits as Lott Carey WISE worshiped with the women, men and children in a village in Bomet, capital and largest town of Bomet County, Kenya, with about 110,000 people.

Photos by Elizabeth Moore



New women's center demonstrates presence and service



• omen In Service Everywhere (WISE) recently dedicated the Lott Carey Baptist Women Empowerment Centre/Kipsitet and visited grandmothers in villages. Lott

Carey Baptist Ministry was established in Kenya in 1986. The core activities in Kenya are evangelism, church planting, HIV/AIDS ministry; provision of medicine, and a widow's program. For years, Lott Carey has provided annual support to various ministries in Kenya. Through this partnership, the ministries in Kenya have been able to expand outreach into the Rift Valley region with the construction of churches and the implementation of other ongoing ministry programs.







Photos by Elizabeth Moore

Two 10,000-liter storage tanks will serve rural areas outside Kisimu.



Lott Carey Photo

God provided the gift, now a well waters a piece of Kenya

smile creeps across Dr. Gregory Moss' face as he remembers how badly he underestimated one man's largesse. As Moss tells it, a phone call came in from a former member of St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"I've got some money I'd like to give you," the man told Moss, former pastor of the 5,000-member church. "I know you're with Lott Carey, so you can use it for a project of your choice."

Moss thanked him and went on working. Days later, Moss realized he hadn't asked the amount and was curious. So, he called the man.

- "How much money are we talking about?" Moss asked. "Well, how about \$25," the man answered. "Will that do?" "Sure, I can use \$2,500," Moss said.
- "No, Doc," the man interrupted. "I mean \$25,000."

After rejoicing and praising, Moss applied the money to a project in Kenya—a well. Originally dug too deep for access, Moss used the \$25,000 to make it operational with the purchase of a pump, a tower, and two 10,000-liter storage tanks that will serve rural areas outside Kisimu, the largest city in western Kenya. Some of the money also went toward completing the nearby Women's Resource Center.



Dr. Moss enjoys the water flowing from newly motorized well.



Lott Carey missions to Puerto Rico bring hope, love, and busy hands

More than 100 volunteers on six Lott Carey teams have served in Puerto Rico in 2019, including:

- Interim Secretary-Treasurer Gregory K. Moss Sr. recently led a team of 10 pastors, who conducted meetings with local clergy from the American Baptist Convention. They also replaced a roof on a home, painted walls and fixed damage caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017.
- International Youth Development missionaries spent eight days in the summer painting and cleaning a Baptist church, holding daily devotions, helping to create a selfsustaining farm and cleaning beaches in Loíza, the heart of Puerto Rico's black culture.









In Loíza, people are still recovering from Maria, but they still have hope and faith in God. The community is filled with so much vibrant history and culture.

-Takeisha Klu, Project Coordinator, Disaster Services, Lott Carey



Photo by Gregory Moss

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New leadership, same mission: Get involved.

Prayer Kickoff

Saturday, February 29, 2020 St. Paul Baptist Church 1401 Allen Street, Charlotte, NC 28205 Rev. Dr. Robert C. Scott, Host Pastor

Spring Missions Conference

March 25-27, 2020 St. Paul Baptist Church 1401 Allen Street Charlotte, NC 28205 Rev. Dr. Robert C. Scott, Host Pastor Register online at www.lottcarey.org starting January 13, 2020

Resurrection Monday Service

1 p.m. ET, Monday, April 13, 2020 Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church 4611 Sheriff Road, NE Washington, DC 20019 Rev. Freddie Davis, Host Pastor *and* 7 p.m. ET, Monday, April 13, 2020 Chantilly Baptist Church 14312 Chantilly Baptist Lane Chantilly, VA 20151 Rev. Dr. Jerry Bryant, Pastor

LOTT CAREY

66th Annual Youth Seminar

June 27 - July 2, 2020 Fayetteville State University Fayetteville, NC 28301 For more information visit our website at www.lottcarey.org

123rd Lott Carey Annual Session

August 9-13, 2020 Washington Marriott Wardman Park 2660 Woodley Rd., NW Washington, DC 20008 Online registration opens January 22, 2020 at www.lottcarey.org