

Commission on Christian Social Action
9th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Mrs. Adrienne C. Rowland, First Vice-President/Commission Coordinator

Mrs. Susie J. Bonner, Episcopal WMS President

Reverend Sherita M. Seawright, Episcopal WMS Supervisor

Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate

TO: Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, Reverend Sherita M. Seawright, Episcopal WMS Supervisor, Mrs. Susie J. Bonner, Episcopal WMS President, Members of the WMS, YPD, and the Ninth District.

As I reflect upon the activities, projects, and mission work implemented and fulfilled over this past year, I am sincerely appreciative of your support and willingness to have a positive impact upon someone else's life. The Commission on Christian Social Action submits this report of activities.

Thank you for:

The HOPE Place Emergency Shelter: This emergency safe place shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children in Huntsville was the beneficiary of our 2016 Compassionate Care Project. Bags and boxes filled to capacity with women's and children's underwear were delivered to the shelter's office. Wal-Mart and Visa gift cards (160) totaling \$1,630 were donated to assist domestic violence victims that have left all of their possessions seeking safety.

The Campaign to End Fistula: Continued support of the Campaign to End Fistula and improve the lives of many women who do not have access to the same obstetric/gynecological care as we experience daily. The damage from this condition is physical, emotional and psychological. Nearly \$1,000 is needed for each surgery.

The MAAMA Kits: Hundreds of MAAMA kits have been purchased to provide basic necessities for safe childbirth and to decrease infections and other complications for our sisters in Africa.

The focus on Domestic Violence and Mental Health: Workshops and training sessions have been held across the conferences educating us about domestic violence and mental health, the symptoms, the signs, the causes, and how we can help. While we increased our knowledge so that we can help those affected, financial support and needed items were provided to help those impacted.

The Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Ministry: Through the five conferences, over 250 angels (*children of incarcerated parents*) were shown the love of God with gifts during the Christmas season. Many churches and conferences hosted parties and other activities to fellowship with the children affected.

The Health Initiatives: Our monthly health initiatives serve to provide education, encourage healthy living and prevention, spark discussion and promote awareness. Some of the topics include: "Go Red for Women" Heart Health Campaign, Autism, Relay for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence, Alzheimer's Awareness, Mental Health and Diabetes.

The Women's Missionary Society Foundation: The WMS Foundation seeks to provide resources for a variety of mission projects. Each member is asked to contribute just \$5 for this project. One of the projects supported through the Foundation was the Health Clinic in Haiti. The 9th District reported \$1,240.

The Spirit of Luke Black Belt Collaborative: Monthly, our missionary sisters have travelled to cities across the impoverished Black Belt region of Alabama. In addition to medical care provided by this project, missionaries have collected and distributed hundreds of gently used clothing and household items.

The Food Bank: There is no way to count the amount of canned goods and other non-perishable items donated to our own Food Banks. Hunger and food poverty are dire problems in our society.

The Connectional Executive Board Compassionate Care Project: In addition to cash and gift cards donated to the Missionary on the Move Project at the Connectional Board. Several of the missionaries in attendance also ventured beyond the hotel to participate in service project

Social Awareness: Letters were written and calls were made to address your concerns regarding hunger, poverty, Medicare, and healthcare. Your voice made a difference!

And the List Continues: Pill bottles for Haiti. Food baskets. Valiant Cross Academy. Nursing home residents. Children without food on the weekends. Visits to the sick and the hospitalized. Rural missions. Words of encouragement to the depressed and the neglected. School supplies. Clothes Closets.

Thank you missionaries of the Alabama River Region, Northeast Conference, Northwest Conference, Southeast Conference and Southwest Conference for each and every act of God's love and goodness!

Continued Goals: Reflecting on the many lives touched through your unselfish mission moments, we prepare for continued service to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will continue to support the Campaign to End Fistula, MAAMA Kits, disaster relief, victims of domestic and gun violence, health initiatives, Angel Tree, and Compassionate Care Projects. We will work to increase the understanding of our Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference projects throughout the membership. We will work to exceed the "bar" as set by this year's giving, reaching more and more individuals.

Thank you Ninth District WMS for all of the mission work done on the local, area, and conference levels as it is only through your work at these levels that the Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society shines. Let us not rest for there is still much work to do. As God continues to bless each of us, we must continue to share those blessings!

Personally: Throughout this year I had the opportunity to travel to the five conferences for Conference Institutes and Annual Conventions. The reports of the work done individually, locally, and on the conference levels were truly exciting! I also was fortunate to attend the Connectional WMS Executive Board Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. It was not only encouraging to my spirit but also educational in terms of many of our Connectional Initiatives. Thank you for the opportunity to serve God in this capacity and through this organization! I am truly humbled by the confidence you have placed in me.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adrienne C. Rowland

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