President Report

TO: Senior Bishop Thomas Hoyt, Jr., the College of Bishops and their spouses, Patron Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick, III, Bishop James B. Walker, chairman of the College of Bishops, Council Officers and their spouses, Immediate Past President, Dr. Elnora P. Ham; Dr. Judith E. Grant, past president; Dr. Sylvia M. Faulk, President Emeritus, General Officers and their spouses, the Judicial Council, Connectional officers, Heads of Educational Institutions, members of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and Ecumenical guests.

In the name of Jesus Christ who commanded us to go out into the highways and byways to help spread His everlasting gospel, I greet you in the name of the great I AM!

“The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad.” (Psalm 126:3)

It is an honor to stand before you as the tenth president of the Women’s Missionary Council to make my first report and give an accounting of the work of the missionaries. I am truly thankful to God Almighty for all of the things He has done for us. And I thank you for electing me as the tenth president of the Women’s Missionary Council. I realize that we are here today not because of the work I have done nor the work that you have done - but we are here today because of God’s grace! Let us count our blessings for God has allowed the Council to be of service to others for 94 years! I thank God for His blessings and the mercies He’s bestowed, “I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘Cause my cup has overflowed.”

Last year, during the Super Bowl, there was a commercial that said, “It’s Halftime in America.” My missionary sisters, it is Halftime in the Women’s Missionary Council, too. We have moved from having an independent Executive Board for some 90 years to having our Executive Board at the CME Unity Summit. And I know some of you have been a bit skeptical and wondering how it is going to work because unlike the Super Bowl, this isn’t a game. However, we missionaries have seen a lot of changes over the years and faced many tough challenges, but we have always found a way to get through the tough times, and if we can’t find a way, then we’ll make one. All that matters now is what’s ahead. How do we all come together? And, how do we make this work? We make it work by calling on the one who does all things well – our Mighty God!

In the past year, I have had some mountains to climb and some valleys to travel. I’ve had some financial and other challenges to meet and some difficult days. But, the Lord has been my shield. I’ve had some friends to encourage me and I’ve had some “persons” to discourage me - but both have taught me to hold on to what works – and God works; and both have helped me to increase my faith in God. And through it all, I’ve made it - and I am thankful to all of you. And in the words of the songwriter, “So, Lord, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I’ve hoed, I am drinking from my saucer, ‘Cause my cup has overflowed.”

Many persons have worked untirely to help make the plans we formulated a year ago a reality – and I thank you on behalf of all members of the CME Church – not just the Missionary Societies of the CME Church. Why? Because mission is an integral and essential element that flows through the life of the whole church – and the good work you have done as a part of the Women’s Missionary Council of the CME Church has helped all of the members of their Church be they children, youth, men, or women. And we have had the genuine Christian support, godly wisdom and helping hands of the College of Bishops, our Presiding Elders, ministers, the laity, my fellow General Officers, and many, many friends. We thank them and ask and pray for their continued
support. Special thanks to my Bishop and First Lady, Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., and Dr. Louise Baker Brown, for their support.

As I traveled across our Zion to many of your individual churches speaking, presenting workshops, and visiting your annual conferences at your invitation, including a visit to Alaska for the Alaska-Pacific Annual Conference, I witness the awesomeness of our international organization. The women who serve at the local level – the “grassroots” or in the “trenches” if you will, are so dedicated and are truly “being about our Father’s business” of doing mission at every opportunity and leaving the “walls” of the church and their meeting rooms to “take it to the streets.” I am so grateful to all of you for answering Jesus’ call as Isaiah did, saying “Here Am I, send me.” I am convinced that God keeps blessing us to be a blessing to others.

On your behalf, I attended the Bread for the World National Meeting in Washington, D.C., the Association of Black Methodist General Officers meeting held in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women held in Johannesburg, South Africa. For those affiliated organizations whose meetings were in conflict with my schedule, our very capable secretaries attended on my behalf. Many thanks to Mr. Sandra Chambers, representative to National Council Negro Women for attending the NCNW Convention in Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Sue Alexander, Overseas Missionary Secretary for going to Haiti, and Mrs. Gloria Frazier for attending the Black Women’s Agenda.

The Departments, Committees, Commissions, Regional Presidents
The Missionary Wheel of the Council has its spokes oiled and tuned and has been kept rolling through the diligent leadership and work done by our departmental secretaries, committee/commission chairs, and with the very capable leadership of our Regional Presidents and the help of their dedicated and committed members. We salute the Spiritual Life and Message Department for writing a monthly mediation which is posted online on our website and also in the Missionary Messenger. We envision a future that will be filled with Christian women venturing out more and more in love and being about our Father’s business to truly demonstrate that we are “CME Missionaries Called to Reach Back, Stand Firm and Move Forward.”

It is those members of the Local Level of our Church who have made us shine at the Council level. They are the ones who have kept the Missionary Wheel rolling! Those Local Church members have worked untiringly to make sure that what was requested of them was accomplished. Day and night they have implemented the numerous programs and activities of the society. And in the word of Dr. Sylvia M. Faulk, the seventh (7th) Council President, “If it doesn’t happen at the local level, it doesn’t happen.” The District Conference and the Annual Conference (Region) Societies have demonstrated daily their benevolences and love. We thank God for you and express our thanks for your loyalty and devotion to duty.

Stewardship of the Council
We have worked diligently to carry out the Mission of the Council, and we have kept before us our six (6) guiding principles so that we were always mindful of what we as a Council are all about; therefore, as the President, I have worked untiringly to make sure that we stayed focused on our mission. Most of the work for the Council has been done through our departments, with the help of the division leaders as follows:

1. We made monetary donations to: the Eleventh Episcopal District, to Haiti to purchase water filters and solar panels, and to the Stop Hunger Now project at the 2012 Connectional Youth and Young Adults Conference. These donations were made possible through the generosity of our Overseas and Meals for Millions Departments.
2. A new Council’s Handbook has been prepared and is available at this meeting. We thank the Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions, and Handbook Committees
for all their hard work which made it possible to have the handbook ready.

3. We are elated to share and announce that a custom Bible that has our own designed front cover and contains the history of the Council is available at this meeting.

4. **The Stole Project.** Many thanks to all of you for supporting the Stole project. About 800 stoles were purchased. This project was done to help generate funds for the Council.

5. Awarded the Helena B. Cobb scholarships to six students in the amount of $4,000 each and two (2) $1,000 scholarships. Seven male students received the P. Ann Pegues Save Our Sons (SOS) scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each. In addition, 71 students received $200.00. As you can, we have given a total of $45,200 in scholarships. Our mentoring program for males is being implemented by the Regions. However, we need more men of the church to help with this program.

6. Since our inception, one of the Council’s priorities has been that of educating our children. Our Helena B. Cobb and P. Ann Pegues SOS scholarships funds are a bit short of the amount reported in the past, but we are grateful that we were able to provide scholarships to our young people to help them get the best education possible. (See the vice president’s report for details).

7. **Our Financial Status.** Let me thank those of you who made a donation to the Council to help keep us operational. We are still not out of the “financial woods.” Our Gift Retirement Fund Account has been depleted. It takes $12,000 a year to fund this account. We solicit your continued donations and help.

The North America Seminar will be held November 1-4, 2012 in Northbrook, Illinois at the Crowne Plaza Chicago-Northbrook Hotel. Registration forms are available at this meeting and also on our website. The dues for the WFM&UCW have been increased from three ($0.03 cents) to four ($0.04 cents) per member in your local church. We hope you will make plans to be at the Seminar.

**Communication/Technology**

Our website, [www.womensmissionarycouncilcme.org](http://www.womensmissionarycouncilcme.org) is active and current. It has a wealth of information and is so designed that missionaries can be aware of announcements, activities and events of the missionaries, the CME Church, our affiliates, sister denominations, and friends. Many thanks to our webmaster for always keeping our site current.

Each month you will find on our site:

1. My monthly **President’s Pen Online** message is posted the first of the month and is designed to inform the missionaries of upcoming events and information being requested from the Council.
2. A monthly meditation is done by the Spiritual Life and Message Department and can be downloaded to be used in missionary meetings.
3. A daily Black History fact.
4. Information from the Departmental Secretaries, Committees and Commissions Chairs.
5. Information from our Affiliate Organizations.
6. Announcements and events from across the Connection, and much, much more. Visit us and see for yourself!

We have also instituted a computer based accounting system which will give us the capability to generate accurate reports quickly and efficiently. In addition, we have the ability to offer credit cards services for those purchasing items from our Organization and Promotions Department.

I was elected secretary of the North America Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. The North America
The Care of God’s People

In addition to this gracious sharing and supporting the financial projects of the Council, our loyal missionaries have supported their Region, District and Local societies by participating in countless community activities. They have given of their time, service and finance to such organizations as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, NAACP, United Way Heart Fund, Voters’ Registration, etc.

Let us not forget that these same missionaries have conducted Bible Studies, seminars and forums on the pressing issues confronting our youth and our communities – teenage pregnancies drugs, social diseases, alternative styles of family life, HIV/Aids, and racism. They have taught Sunday school classes, held workshops on our Study of the Year, and participated in all phases of church work on the local, district and conference levels. I have no doubt that the Lord is pleased with the efforts we have made to do His work. For further details, see our Compilation Book which details the reports of all of the Region Presidents, Departmental Secretaries, Committee and Commission Chairs, and also reports from the representatives and correspondents to our Affiliated Organization.

Here I Am Ministries

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for me us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send Me!” Isaiah 6:8.

This program was introduced in September 2011 and is an outreach program with the main focus on the Black Family and Community Service. It is my joy to report that this program has taken off with flying colors with about half of the Regions participating and many individuals.

Reports from the Regional Presidents, Departmental Secretaries, and individuals show that many and varied services have been rendered such as: Angel Tree for the Needy, Wellness Fair, Toys for Tots, Clothing Give Away, Stand Up for Kids Outreach, donations to centers for Children and Domestic Violence Abuse, donation to Centers for Battered Women and Children, donations to St. Jude Hospital, Church Health Ministry, Helping in the Schools in the SMART Program (Start Making a Reader Today), One Church, One School, established Food Pantries, adopted Haitian orphans in Haiti via monetary gift each month to Bishop Carter, book scholarships to college students, gift bags for nursing homes, adopted students and supplied clothing for same, distributed school supplies to needy students, provided blankets for the homeless, gift baskets to the needy, held mini-church for home bound, participated in the Buckets of Hope for Haiti Missions, prison ministries, support Women’s shelters in local community, provided used cells phones for shelters, bible study, gifts, and fellowship with nursing home residents, monetary contribution to Alcoholism Center for Women, prepared toiletry kits for the homeless, 160 men provided gloves containing $1.00 to a shelter, card ministries to sick and shut in, provided household items to burned out families, and provided hot meals to homeless shelter once a month. I could go on, but if I did the activities would cover another page, but you get the picture! See our Compilation Book for details.

On behalf of all the people that benefited from your caring, love and generosity, my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the missionaries. Personally, I hosted a “Women for Obama” meeting in my home.

We congratulate Ms. (Dr.) Velma Lois Jones who received the “Drum Major Service” award and Mrs. Alberta Martin Jones who received the “Jefferson Award” for Community Service. Both were honored at the White House this year. You will hear more about their honors later.
## NUMBERING OF GOD’S MISSIONARIES

### Region Conferences

(With 28 Regions reporting)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Region Conferences</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Region Reports Received*</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of District Presidents</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Local Societies</td>
<td>1,262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Adult Circles</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Number of Members Deceased</td>
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<td>Number Attending Workshops</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Attending Retreats</td>
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**Total Society Members** 31,071
Working with God’s People

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<tr>
<th>AFFILIATES ORGANIZATIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number Participating American Bible Society</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Participating in Bread for the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Participating Black Women Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. Participating World Community Day(CWU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. Participating World Day of Prayer (CWU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. Participating May Fellowship Day (CWU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Participating WFM&amp; UCW</td>
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<td>Number Participating in NCNW</td>
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<tr>
<th>Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number Participating in Youth Study</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Participating in Children Study</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. Participating in other Education Programs</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Personal Pledge</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Life Members</td>
<td>89</td>
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<td>Number of Lena Jones Marchers</td>
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<td>Amount Reported to the Bishops for Expansion by Region Conferences</td>
<td>$535,126.00</td>
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*Does not include reports from: East Tennessee, Kansas/MO, Northeast TX, Southeast TX, and from 10th and 11th Episcopal Districts.*

The Journey We’ve Traveled Together . . .
The People We’ve Helped Along The Way . . .

The President’s Journey Across the Connection
(Wouldn’t take nothing for my Journey)

As a servant president, I have visited churches across the Connection, participated in workshops, attended local and district meetings. I have served as guest speakers for women’s day, missionary day and Black History programs and have served on various panels. In addition, I have participated in ecumenical programs given by the World.
Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and Church Women United. My trip to Johannesburg, South Africa to the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women was an unforgettable experience.

2011
July 26   -Missionary March Northeast MS Region
July 10-15 -Attended World Federation Methodist & Uniting Church Women - Johannesburg South Africa

Sept. 9-11 -WMC Transition Meeting, Jackson, MI
Sept. 25   -Speaker at Pleasant Hill CME Church, Conyers, GA
Sept. 26-29 -Attended 25th Annual CME Convocation, Shreveport, LA

Oct. 19   -Attended Miles College Trustee Board Meeting, Birmingham, AL
Oct. 20-21-Attended 16th Annual One Church One School Partnership Conference
Oct. 28-29 -Attended Monroe District Conference, Monroe, LA
Oct. 30   -Hosted Missionary Fall fest St. Mary CME Temple, Bastrop, LA

Nov. 5    -Attended LA Region Women’s Missionary Society Fest and Baby Parade Minden, LA
Dec. 2-3   -Attended Fourth Episcopal District Reporting Meeting, Jackson, MS

2012
Jan 6-7   -Met with the Constitution and By-Laws and Resolutions Committees to work on a new handbook – Atlanta, Georgia
Jan 9th    -Attended the Phillips School of Theology Trustee Board Meeting – Atlanta, GA.
Jan 10-12 -Attended the Pastors’ Conference and met with the CME Unity Summit Committee.

Feb. 1-2  -Attended the Bread for the World meeting in Washington, DC.
Feb. 9    -Attended Grambling State University to hear Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Grambling, LA
Feb. 22   -Hosted Women for Obama Meeting in my home, Bastrop, LA

April 15 -Speaker for Women’s Day Weekend, Lane CME Church, St. Louis, MO.
April 21 -Speaker: Minden District Women’s Missionary Society at Mt. Zion CME Church, Minden, LA
April 22 -Speaker at Women in Blue at Bethel CME Church, Jena, LA.
April 29 -Women’s Day speaker at St. Duty CME Church in Arcadia, LA.

May 5     -Commencement – Miles College, Birmingham, AL
           Received an honorary Doctorate degree
May 8     -Guest speaker Alaska-Pacific Annual Conference, Anchorage, Alaska
May 26    -Workshop Presenter – St. Matthew CME Church, Milwaukee, WI
           27 -Guest speaker

June 1-3  -Handbook Committee Meeting - Shreveport, LA
June 10   -Guest speaker –Anderson Chapel, Holly Springs, MS.
June 19   -Guest – South Louisiana Annual Conference, Lafayette, LA

July 2-6   -Connectional Youth & Young Adult Conference, Orlando, FL.
July 10    -Honored by Bastrop Mayor and City Aldermen
July 17    -Speaker, Missionary Night- Northern California Annual Conference
July 24    -Speaker, Missionary Night-Louisiana Region Annual Conference, Shreveport, Louisiana
July 30-Aug 1 -Speaker, Missionary Breakfast, Carolina Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC
95\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary. We are looking forward with much anticipation to our 95th Anniversary of the Women’s Missionary Council in 2013. We already have a committee working to make sure that our 95\textsuperscript{th} anniversary is a memorable one. They have made many exciting plans and you will hear from them at this meeting. The 2013 Executive Board will be held in Houston, Texas at the Westin Hotel. Make plans now to be there.

As we go out into the field of missions this year, let us be mindful that the harvest is great but the laborers are few. Can the Lord count on you to be one of the few? It is my prayer that we may view our mission with a new perspective and fresh faith. We hope not only for more missionary societies but for better societies. We seek not only for more circles, but, also for greater missionary circles services, we hope not only for more members, but also for more “doers” than “hearers.” In conclusion,

\begin{quote}
If God gives me strength and courage
When the way grows steep and rough,
I’ll not ask for other blessings
I’m already blessed enough
And my I never be too busy to help others missionaries bear their loads,
Then I’ll keep drinking from my saucer Cause my cup has overflowed.”
\end{quote}

and my dear missionaries

\textbf{I WISH YOU ENOUGH}

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-by.

Respectfully yours,

Princess Ann Rogers Pegues, Council President

\textbf{RECOMMENDATIONS}

1. That the Women’s Missionary Council ‘s Executive Committee and Executive Board adopt the “Here I Am Ministries” as a plan of action for 2011-2015 Quadrennial.

2. That the Women’s Missionary Council continue to support the Eula W. F. Harris Gift Fund, the Helena B. Cobb and P. Ann Pegues SOS (Save Our Sons) Scholarship and Grant Programs, Hunger and Meals for Millions, the Overseas Missions and Organization and Promotion Departments and all other projects that is required by the Constitution and bylaws of the Council.

3. That each member on all levels pledge and pay $25.00 for the Development Fund.
4. That each member solicits members for the Eula W. Harris Life Membership Department.

5. That the Women’s Missionary Council continues their Partnership with the Balm in Gilead.” The African American Denominational Leadership Health Initiative.”

6. Spiritual Growth: That we establish a supportive prayer network in each Region. Each missionary is encouraged to pray for our youth, our communities, our families, our people, our church, our nation, and peace at 12:00 noon daily.

7. That each society establishes a mentoring program for young males and young girls.

8. That the Sunday nearest September 7 be celebrated as Founder’s Day of the Women’s Missionary Council.

9. That the Women’s Missionary Council continues to select and donate to one of our CME Colleges as a means of supporting our higher education institutions. Each missionary is asked to give $25.00.

10. That each missionary give $95.00 ($1.00 for each year) at this meeting in celebration of our historical organization’s 95th Anniversary in 2013.

11. That at the appropriate time, we give a standing ovation as we extend thanks to Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Dr. Louise Baker Brown and the Fourth Episcopal District for the hospitality shown to the 2012 Executive Board and all those in attendance.