



For Immediate Release
August 23, 2006

National Media Contact: Yvonne Drayton
YDrayton22@aol.com
215.882.3765

For More Information: Linda Fortenberry
LFortenberry@betheltally.org
850.681.0990

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC. CLERGY HEAD TO NEW ORLEANS FOR PRAYER, HELP, AND HEALING AUGUST 29

Tallahassee, FL – To commemorate the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, 40+ pastors and leaders of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBCUSA, Inc.) will head to New Orleans for the National Baptist Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, August 29. The Prayer Service, to be held at Asia Baptist Church, 1400 Sere Street, New Orleans, will begin at 8:30am. The delegation will be led by Dr. William J. Shaw, president of the 7.5 million member NBCUSA, Inc., and Rev. R. B. Holmes, Jr., president, National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, an auxiliary of the NBCUSA, Inc. New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin, city and state officials, and local pastors and lay leaders will join the delegation. According to NBCUSA, Inc. officials, the location of the breakfast is significant and symbolic. Asia Baptist Church, where floods waters reached 8 feet, sustained significant damage following Katrina.

In keeping with its outreach to assist churches, pastors and congregants in the Gulf Coast region, NBCUSA, Inc. will unveil Phase I of the *Macedonia Ministry*. The goal of the *Macedonia Ministry* is to identify forty 40 pastors across the country who will make a three-year commitment to support forty 40 churches and pastors in the New Orleans area.

The ministry objectives are:

1. To provide support for pastors who lost churches and income
2. To develop church rebuilding strategies
3. To provide moral and spiritual support for pastors and members who need specialized attention and encouragement

-more-

“In spite of the numerous relief efforts organized across the country, there is a critical need for pastors and churches to know that their brothers and sisters truly care about their situation and want to minister to them in a close and personal way, without the red tape and bureaucracy that seems to be hindering other relief efforts,” said President Holmes. “Pastors in the New Orleans area have been identified for Phase I of the project. We plan to include more churches as other pastors in the Convention sign-on.”

NBCUSA, Inc. pastors, ministers, and officials attending the Prayer Service will represent numerous states from across the nation, and as part of the commemoration, the delegation will tour the lower ninth ward, and visit with pastors and churches in the area to observe the rebuilding. The Prayer Service is open to the general public.

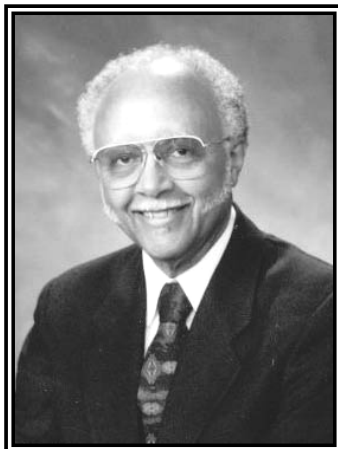
-stop-

The Mission of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and healing.



“...Come Over Into Macedonia, and Help Us.” Acts 16:9

“Macedonia Ministry” will partner National Baptist pastors with local churches affected by Hurricane Katrina



Dr. William J. Shaw, President
National Baptist Convention,
USA, Inc.



The Honorable C. Ray Nagin, Mayor
City of New Orleans, LA



Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr., President
National Baptist Congress of
Christian Education