



# MISSIONS FORWARD

[www.9thepiscopaldistrictwms.org](http://www.9thepiscopaldistrictwms.org)

**The Official Newsletter of the 9th Episcopal District WMS**  
**May 2023**

**Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal President**

**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor**

**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate**

*We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.*



Greetings my Missionary Sisters,

I greet you all in the matchless name of Jesus Christ our Risen Savior. I would like to thank you all for the marvelous work that has been done on behalf of moving missions forward.

**ALL I know is that the Ninth District is "Minding our Missionary Business"**

We are excited to share that we are beginning our first Ninth District Book Club (for our YPD'ers and Missionaries). I know and understand the power of reading and learning. It opens so many doors and helps us to process fact from fiction. We are excited to share that during the Mid-Year meeting in Montgomery, we sold over 100 copies of our first book written by our very own Mrs. Linda Lowrey. The title is "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom". Mrs. Carter is chairing our Ninth District Initiative and will be sending more information out very soon. If you have not secured your copy, please reach out to your conference president so that we can include your numbers in our next order. We must model what we preach. Don't forget we will celebrate and hear from our author in an awesome culminating activity during our upcoming CEC.

## STAY TUNED and STAY WOKE

Missionaries, please take advantage of the many programs we have planned this conference year! It's so important to restore ourselves and continue to learn something new and do God's work in a more meaningful way. Make every effort to join us on a zoom or in person. So, we are continuing to move missions forward, I am looking forward to joining the Northwest Conference this weekend for their Annual Institute Day in Tuscumbia! Many thanks to the hard-working people of this great conference for their time, energy and effort! Moreover, President Whiting and I are looking forward to meeting you all at your respective Institute Days in the remaining annual conferences.

Thank you, President Whiting, for your leadership and sharing all important information for missionaries to have and plan accordingly so that we may fully support our many ministry efforts.

Let us continue to do God's work in a more excellent way by continuing to mind your missionary business.

Yours truly,  
Supervisor





**Greetings,**

It is with deep admiration and joyful anticipation that I extend greetings to the faithful and purpose-driven members of the **Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society**. Your unwavering commitment to spiritual growth, community outreach, and transformative service continues to inspire as you boldly embrace the call to **“Move Missions Forward”**.

**Thank you for your steadfast support of our Executive Board Meeting held during the Ninth Episcopal District Mid-Year Meeting.** Your presence, prayers, and participation were a vital part of its success, and we are grateful for your dedication.

During this **Lupus Awareness Month**, we stand in prayerful support of all those affected by this disease. May our advocacy, compassion, and commitment to education bring hope, healing, and strength to individuals and families everywhere.

**Let us continue to put God first, move missions forward, and love unconditionally.** Let's also stand united as we support our Conference Institutes, lifting one another in knowledge, fellowship, and service to strengthen the work of the kingdom.

May your work continue to be a beacon of love, strength, and unwavering faith.

**In Christ's love and service,**

*Sherryl Whiting*

**Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
God First, Missions Forward, Love Unconditionally**



The banner features a red background with a circular logo in the top left corner. The logo contains a cross and the text 'NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT' and 'THE WORK IS HIS DIVINE'. The main title '2025 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONGRESS' is in large, bold, gold letters. Below it, the subtitle 'CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN REAL TIME: Connecting Our Faith to Our Culture' is in white. On the left, there are portraits of Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr. and Mrs. Deana Young McAllister. A quote from Acts 5:42b NIV, 'They never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.', is in white. The date 'June 30, 2025 - July 3, 2025' is in large, gold letters. The location 'Alabama A&M University' and address '4900 Meridian St N, Huntsville, AL 35811' are in white. On the right, there are portraits of six speakers: Bishop Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Dr. Jay Augustine, Pastor Gregory McLeod, Pastor Smokie Norful, Pastor Stephen Green, and Pastor Smokie Norful.

**2025 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONGRESS**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN REAL TIME:**  
Connecting Our Faith to Our Culture

*"They never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."*  
Acts 5:42b NIV

**June 30, 2025 - July 3, 2025**

**Alabama A&M University**  
4900 Meridian St N, Huntsville, AL 35811

**Hosts**

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Supervisor of Missions

**Bishop Vernon R. Byrd, Jr.**  
Seventeenth Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

**Dr. Jay Augustine**  
St. Joseph AME Church  
Durham, North Carolina

**Pastor Gregory McLeod**  
Gaines Chapel AME Church  
Phenix City, Alabama

**Pastor Smokie Norful**  
Victory Cathedral Worship Center  
Bolingbrook, Illinois

**Pastor Stephen Green**  
Greater Allen Cathedral AME Church  
Jamaica-Queens, New York

**May 1, 2025**

**To:** Ninth Episcopal District Family

**From:**

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.  
Supervisor Deana Young McAllister

**Re:** Ninth Episcopal District AME Church – Christian Education Congress

**Greetings in the Precious Name of Jesus the Christ,**

I have great news! Registration is now open for our online Christian Education Congress of the Ninth Episcopal District. We invite all who plan to attend to register today by visiting our official website: [Ninthepiscopaldistrictamec.org](http://Ninthepiscopaldistrictamec.org)

As emphasized during our Mid-Year Meeting, it is critical that we register as many individuals as possible by Monday, May 12th, to ensure we have accurate counts for housing, meals, and logistics at Alabama A&M University, the site of this year's Congress.

This promises to be a powerful and transformative gathering! Please take a moment to also view the promotional video on the website, which highlights the dynamic preachers and gifted workshop facilitators who will pour into our ministers and laity.

As shared in our meeting, we are asking pastors, youth leaders, and lay members to identify individuals who may be willing to sponsor a youth or make a meaningful investment to ensure that every young person who desires to attend has the opportunity to participate in this life-changing experience.

**Mark your calendars:**

**Christian Education Congress**

**June 30 – July 3, 2025**

**Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama**

Let us come together in faith, unity, and preparation for the next generation of leaders. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

In His Name because of Christ and Calvary,

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District

# May

**2025**

**Lupus Awareness**  
**Bread for World (Letter Writing)**

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				Conference YPD Meeting 7p cst		NW WMS Conference Institute
4	5	6	7	Conference President's Meeting 7:30p cst <i>Tanner-Turner Template</i>	8	Lupus Awareness Wear Purple
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day Maama Kits	WMS Finance Meeting 7p cst	YAM Temp Check 7p cst	District Self- Denial Award Ceremony	Conference YPD Meeting 7p cst		SE WMS Conference Institute
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
B2B Virtual Recognition Program 4p cst		PME Dialogue 7pm cst				NE WMS Conference Institute
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Memorial Day					SW WMS Conference Institute





# WMS STORE

*Yes!*

# WE ARE OPEN

*Today*

**CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO PURCHASE YOUR ITEMS**

**Ninth District WMS Store**



**PLEASE VISIT OUR STORE!**

**9thepiscopaldistrictwms.org**

**We want to place an additional order for  
Cardigans, we need 50, please order today!**

Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

*Please contact your President if you would like to order a book!*

# The Bookmarks

## READING CLUB

*Women's Missionary Society  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Ninth Episcopal District*

### **PRESENTS BOOK ONE TO BOOK LOVERS!**

**Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom**  
Author, Mrs. Lynda Blackmon Lowery

**PRICE: \$11.00**



- Visit the display and purchase a book during the Mid-Year Conference.
- Begin Reading May 5, 2025, until June 30, 2025.
- Book Lovers, read wherever you like to read!
- Meet Mrs. Lowery, a member of Ward Chapel AMEC in Selma, Alabama, for a Districtwide discussion of the book at CEC.

*Read the story of a trailblazer, the youngest person in the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery, who fought alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African Americans.*

**Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate**



# Join Us For Our Back-To Basics (B2B) End of School Year Celebration

**\*SAVE THE DATE! SHARE THE DATE!**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025, 4:00 P.M.**

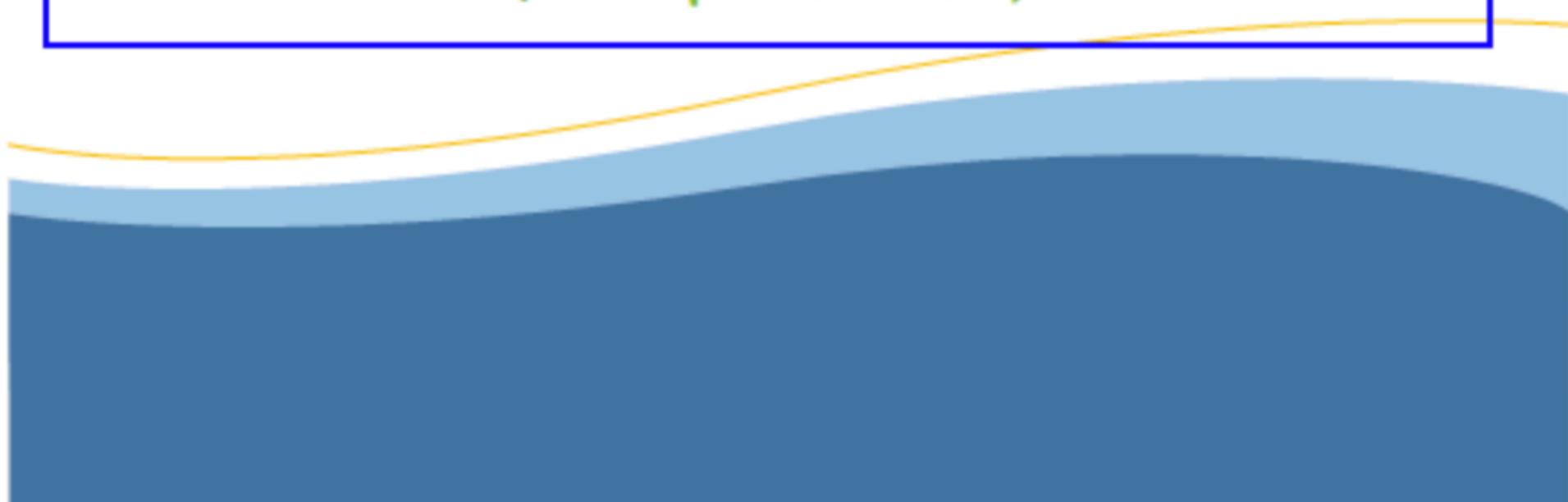
**Sponsored By**

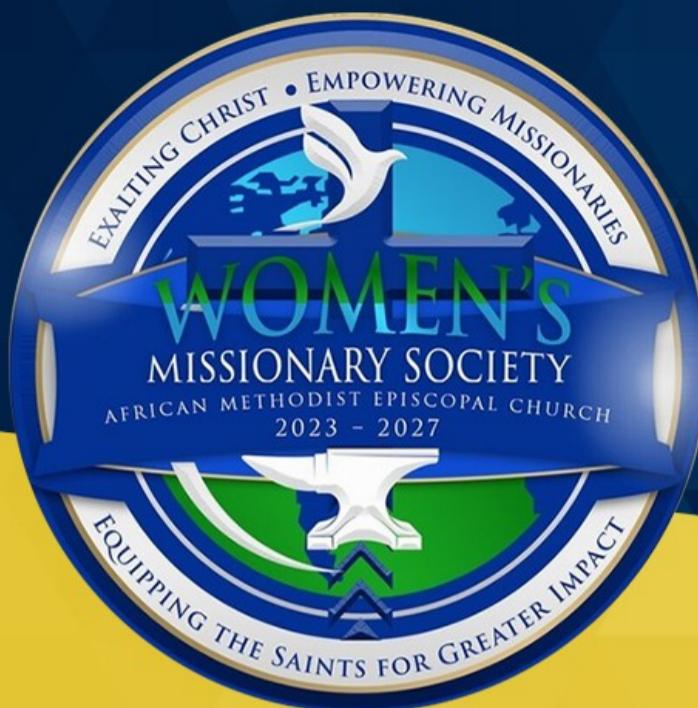
**The Women's Missionary Society  
And Young People's and Children's Division**

**Theme**

**"Heroes in the Making: Dream Big"**

**(More Information later!)**





## PME DIALOGUE

*“Faith, Love, and Mental Well-being”*  
—THRIVE

**Tuesday**  
**May 20, 2025**  
**7pm**



**Tara Simmons Harris**  
Southeast Conference  
PME Director

**Please Join!**

**Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President**  
**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor**  
**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 830 6582 4364**  
**Passcode: 273380**

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.” B.B. King

SELECT  
A  
SCHOOL



IDENTIFY  
SPECIFIC  
NEEDS

ESTABLISH CONSISTENT  
COMMITMENT

SHARE YOUR WORK!

Please send pictures of your work to:

[bdavis3010@aol.com](mailto:bdavis3010@aol.com)

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Mrs. Mary Wells-Porter, Episcopal 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

# HAPPY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate,  
Retain, &  
Reclaim

WMS Members

At Your  
Church

Promotions

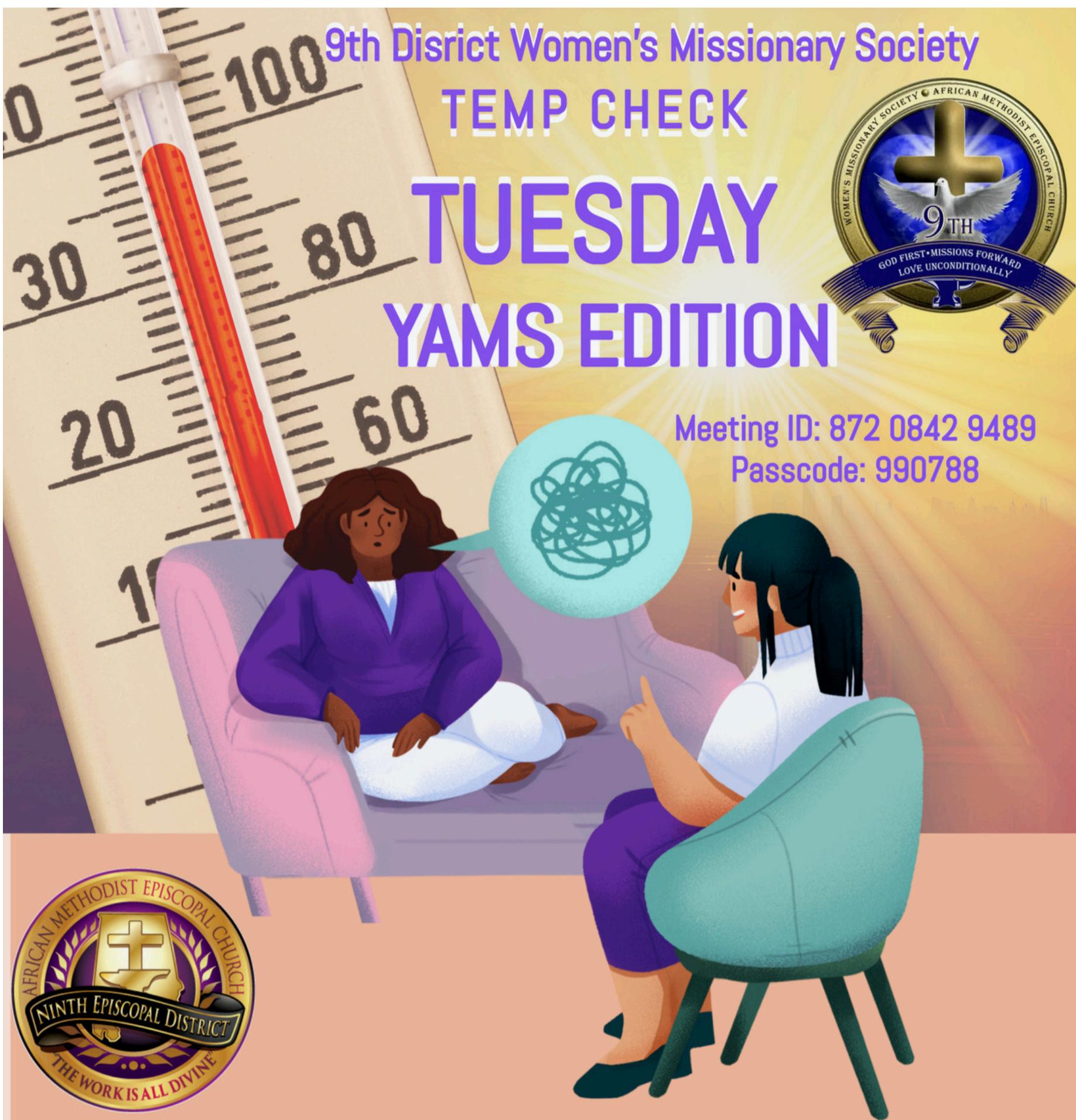
Weddings

Anniversaries

Baptisms

Graduations

- The Commission on Membership and Recruitment encourages local churches to create opportunities to recognize and celebrate their members to build them up (Romans 15:2)..
- We want to plan membership drives across the Episcopal District. Please share any ideas you have with Stephanie Raven Young at [stephanieraveno5@icloud.com](mailto:stephanieraveno5@icloud.com). The ideas will be compiled and shared in the next newsletter.



The Second Tuesday of Every Month @ 7 pm cst

Need a safe space to dialogue? Come check in with us!

Ms. Janataka Holmes, Episcopal Member-At-Large  
Mrs. Sharon Massingale, Episcopal 3rd Vice President  
Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister Jr., Presiding Prelate

9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



YPD

2025

*Self - Denial Celebration*

*Rise Up Experience*

**14th MAY**

PROGRAM STARTS AT 6PM

JOIN



Meeting ID: 847 7712 3916 Passcode: 1nnG96

Miss. Jamia Eaves, Episcopal YPD President

Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director

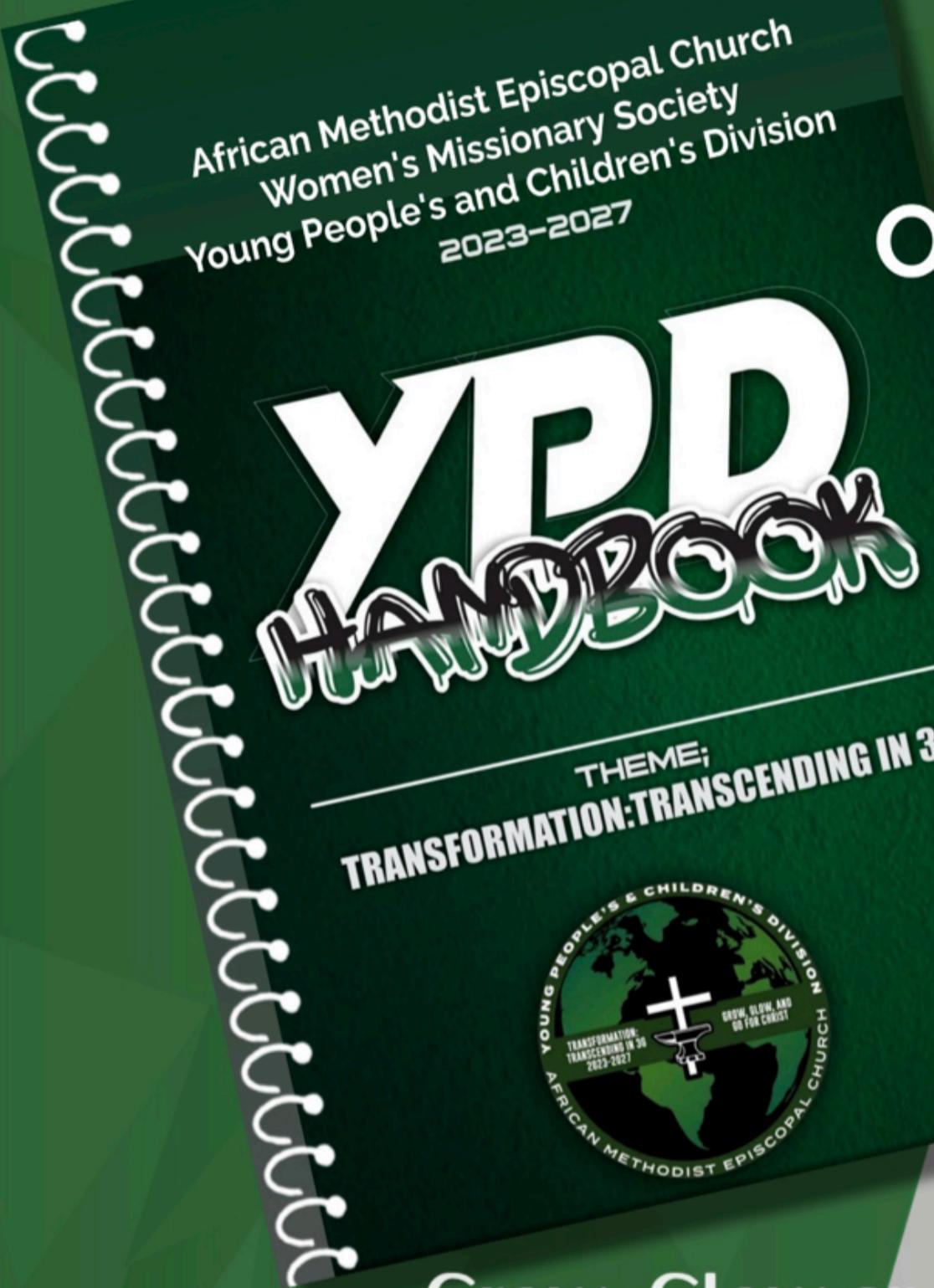
Ms. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

Joyce Johnson, Connectional YPD President  
Richelle Fry Skinner, Connectional YPD Director

Handbook Enhancement Coordinator  
Stephanie Burks, 8th Episcopal District YPD Director



**ORDER NOW!**

Our 2023-27 Handbook  
is designed to increase  
the ministry and impact  
of the YPD!

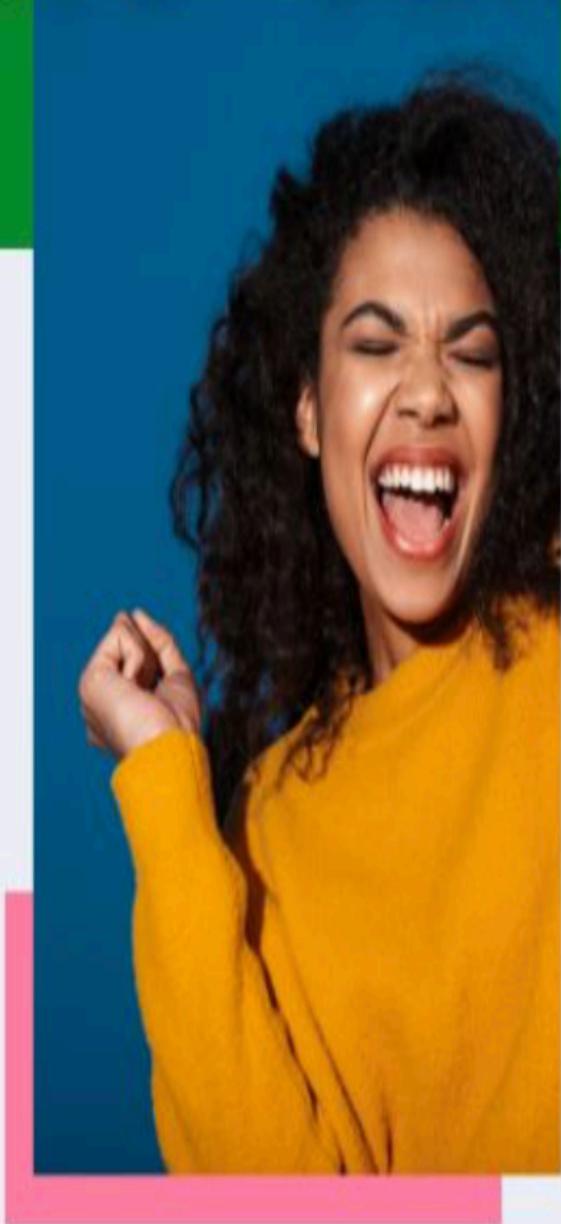
**Grow, Glow and Go for CHRIST!**

- ✓ **\$25 - Small Handbook**
- ✓ **\$35 - Large Handbook**
- ✓ **\$55 - 1 Small and 1 Large**

**Please contact your YPD Director TODAY!**

9th Episcopal District

# YPD DIRECTOR'S RETREAT



✉ mobilecamdenypd@gmail.com

📍 ZOOM:  
Meeting ID: 847 7712 3916

Passcode: 1nnG96



Save the Date

JUNE 20, 2025

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
***Young People's & Children's Division***  
**of the Women's Missionary Society**

**YPD Initiative:**  
**At-Home Library**



**\*\*Research Overview\*\*:** Studies have consistently shown that children who reside in homes with extensive home libraries tend to read more frequently, develop advanced reading skills, and achieve higher levels of education compared to their peers who have limited access to books. This correlation remains significant even after accounting for variables such as parental education levels. Notable research conducted by Crook (1997), de Graaf et al. (2000), and others (including Georg, 2004; Park, 2008; Teachman, 1987) highlights the positive impact of book availability on children's literacy development and educational attainment.

**\*\*Rationale for the Initiative\*\*:** The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance a literacy-rich environment in homes, particularly in economically challenged households. By providing access to a diverse range of books, the program aims to foster a love for reading among children, thereby helping to bridge the reading gaps that often exist in underserved communities.

**\*\*Program Goal\*\*:** The initiative seeks to empower designated students by supplying them with age-appropriate books to establish an at-home library. This approach is designed not only to enhance individual literacy skills but also to promote lifelong reading habits.

**\*\*Distribution Plan\*\*:** Each conference will coordinate the procurement and distribution of books, ensuring that a local Title 1 school is selected in collaboration with the Episcopal District Young People's & Children's Division (YPD) Director, the Conference Director, and the Connectional Literacy Chairperson. The distribution will consist of five carefully chosen books, one tote bag for easy transport, and a bookmark to encourage reading.

**\*\*Grade-Level Assignments for Book Provision\*\*:** The conferences will supply books tailored to the specific educational needs of students based on their grade levels:

- **\*\*Alabama River Region\*\* – Kindergarten**
- **\*\*Northeast Alabama Conference\*\* – Second Grade**
- **\*\*Northwest Alabama Conference\*\* – Third and Fourth Grades**
- **\*\*Southeast Alabama Conference\*\* – Fifth Grade**
- **\*\*Southwest Alabama Conference\*\* – First Grade**

**\*\*Initial Support and Future Funding\*\*:** The Episcopal District YPD Director will contribute the initial set of tote bags for this initiative, marking the first step in the program's rollout. To ensure sustainability and the continued success of the at-home library program, plans are in place to seek additional support through donations from private individuals and businesses, as well as various available grants. This proactive approach will help secure the necessary resources to expand and enhance the literacy opportunities for children in the community.

*"Foster a Love for Reading"*



Donations: \$9thypdamec



Ninth Episcopal District

Young People's & Children's Division

# AT-HOME LIBRARY Initiative



Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director

Ms. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
& CHILDREN'S DIVISION**  
OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

# SAMARITIAN'S PURSE

<https://store.samaritanspurse.org/all-products>

SHOP NOW

MRS. DEBRA SCOTT WEATHERSPOON, EPISCOPAL YPD DIRECTOR  
MS. SHERRYL WHITING, EPISCOPAL WMS PRESIDENT  
MRS. DEANA YOUNG MCALLISTER, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR  
BISHOP JULIUS HARRISON MCALLISTER, JR., PRESIDING PRELATE



## YPD Projects



### Haiti - Greta Home & Academy



Your gift goes towards providing a child with a quality education, school supplies, housing, nutritious food, and loving care at the Greta Home and Academy.



Shared Cost \$15



#013962

### Buiding Schools, Building Hope

Equips teachers and rebuilds or renovates schools in areas hit hard by poverty or natural disaster

Shared the cost \$100

#013752

### Operation Christmas Child Planting Gospel Seeds in Ghana

helping to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to isolated mountain communities

Shared Cost \$10

# 013477

# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS!

## CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

May 3rd  
Northwest  
Alabama Music Hall of Fame, Tuscumbia

May 17th  
Southeast  
New Mount Zion, Eufaula

May 24th  
Northeast  
Saint Peter, Seale

May 31st  
Southwest  
Bishop State Community College, Mobile





# COVID-19

## STILL RELEVANT?

"As long as there is a COVID-19 outbreak somewhere in the world, there is going to be something new that emerges."

- Nathan Grubaugh, PhD, an epidemiologist at the Yale School of Public Health

### Current Variants - HV.1 & JN.1

Descendants of Omicron  
Highly transmissible  
Detected by COVID-19 tests

### Protect yourself - TEST, ISOLATE, BOOST!

**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**  
MISSIONS FORWARD | 19

Bishop Michael L Mitchell, Commission Chair, Global Witness & Ministry  
Dr Deborah Taylor King, International WMS President  
Mrs Charolett Biggs Martin, Commission Chair, Christian Social Action