



Reconciliation Report

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*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name*

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Special Notes:

- **Walt Robertson, our webmaster, does a great job designing and updating our website, gratis. The site averages 70 visits per week (920 average accesses).**
- **For incredible free, downloadable missions charts, see <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/2000/03/200003.htm>**

Some Local Black Church Budgets

by Jim Sutherland

The Black American church has strong points, among them that the church is usually at the very center of a Christian's life. Relationships are extremely important.



Financially, the Black church receives a larger proportion of Black charitable giving than do White churches. The average income of all U. S. churches is only 58 percent of that of African American churches, according to a Barna Group 1997 poll.

What slice does global evangelism receive? A local tra-

ditional Black church budget was analyzed in 1998. Five percent of income went to any cause outside local church programming, and 80% of that went to the denomination. Four-tenths of 1 percent went to an evangelistic ministry to black college students, while *nothing* went for global missions.

Not long ago I analyzed the budget of an independent, evangelistic local church and discovered that more was spent on cutting down a tree on their property than had been spent on global missions that year. And it must

not have been a big tree. They are re-evaluating their priorities.

Analyzing the budget of a third Black church, also evangelical and local, over 98% of their income went for local programming and "staying in business." Yes, this is a trend.

But their leaders believe that God has spoken clearly and personally to them through a loss of church income. Repentance was very evident in response to this chastening.

Despite their shortfall, by God's grace they're planning to begin giving 10% of income to global missions—the initial percentage.

WWW.RECONCILIATIONNETWORK.ORG

Uganda Team Update

God is doing something unusual. All the ladies already have the necessary \$3,500. needed for Uganda, and are now using surplus funds to take gifts to Ugandans. Their respective churches, all predominately Black, have solidly supported

them—two of them put this support into their budgets for this year. At right: packing gifts for the 1999 trip—18 bags/boxes were taken.



Off Season



All gifts to Reconciliation Ministries Network, Inc. are deductible for income-tax purposes.

I'd not planned to stop by, but didn't want to leave without a greeting, in case she'd seen me talking with some Five Day Club workers for whom I'd arranged a Club site at McCallie Homes.

She was queen of the court, planted in the middle of the sofa, plaiting a 15-year-old's hair into corn rows, as he sat at her feet on the floor. He'd just returned from a detention program in a nearby town. As queen, she commanded me to witness to all four of the 15

year-olds in the room. One was sarcastic and rude—an immediate blow to his shoulders from his young sister roused him to anger.

I told him that I'd seen many men who ran from God until they found themselves dead or behind bars, where running stopped. They had no place to look but up. He showed no interest in Christ's work, repentance, or his own salvation.

So I turned to D, whose street

language was so clipped, monosyllabic and guttural that I could barely understand him. Having sat not two feet from me, I asked him if he wanted to receive Christ now, or wait until another time (not to put undue pressure upon him). No, he wanted to receive Christ right then, and wanted me to pray just ahead of him, to help. A week later his "crib" was located, and a complete NIV Bible left for him. The defiant one, on the street, took a Bible last week.

Prayer Points "Apart from Me, You can do Nothing" (John 15:5)

- ↑ Wisdom if we should try to send a container for Uganda by September 1
- ↑ For the right Board members to replace 2 whose terms expire.
- ↑ For consistent progress in serious reading—some progress.
- ↑ Article on recruiting Blacks for missions—nearer completion—still need editing skills and a journal.
- ↑ For new and deeper relationships with Black pastors—new contact make
- ↑ For weekly evangelism with Anthony Ray at McCallie Homes.
- ↑ Direction regarding forming a teaching circuit of 4-5 Black churches locally.
- ↑ Publication of dissertation—no contact from the publisher who offered.
- ↑ For adequate teaching preparation for whole Uganda Team

"I recall saying to you the pending move would be a huge tell-tale sign if we had learned anything about money and debt. I give God praise because we have not accumulated any debt and we have money to even buy a chain-link fence and carpet for our new home (plus some!)." (counselor)



Naomi comes to Chattanooga, Susanna relocates in Knoxville, Tim goes to LeTourneau University (TX) with Ethan

Family Focus--Tim, Susanna, Naomi, Ethan & Susanna

