

The Connectional Young People's and Children's Division
Sherell Vicks Crawford, MD, Director and Jon Ingraham, President

2013 Report

The YPD has stepped forward boldly in 2013 lifting high an agenda focusing on social justice. While in Dallas last year, plans were made to have a March for Peace in Birmingham during the 2013 Executive Board and Leadership Training Institute which would commemorate the 50 years since the Birmingham Bombing and re-emphasize the call for peace again due to recent acts of violence on children and youth in America and throughout the world. The shootings in Newtown, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta and so many other locations along with the Trayvon Martin case propels us to lift our voices to cry out for the safety of our children. We marched 1000 strong in Birmingham from the Sheraton Hotel to the historic Kelly Ingram Park to pray for peace and nonviolence. Upon conclusion of the March, we visited the Civil Rights Museum and the 16th Street Baptist Church to add the historical perspective on how your actions can change the world. We had strong spirit filled worship services and workshops accentuating leadership skills. We are grateful to Bishop James Davis and Supervisor Arelis Davis, Episcopal YPD Director D'Juana Duncombe-Wilson and the entire 9th Episcopal District Leadership for your direction, guidance, and support during the 2013 Executive Board and Leadership Training Institute.

In May 2013, we celebrated Self Denial Week. Our theme for 2013 was YPDers Making A Global Impact: Realizing Your Purpose In Service. We thank all of the participants on every level that keep this program alive. Our scholarship awards and book awards totaled \$20,000 this year (which was presented during the WMS Executive Board in January 2013). We were privileged to give \$1500 each to Districts 14-20 to award to Self Denial participants in their districts.

We then journeyed to Jamaica to the General Board and Investiture of Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis. We gave our report of service and continued to emphasize the need for more social activism to protect the rights of children and youth. We continued to encourage young people to register to vote and work to make a difference in their communities.

In September 2013, we stood on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol and again raised our voices against violence in the world. The Trayvon Martin verdict had triggered so many different responses that our young people felt compelled to speak out. The various speakers on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta were passionate and prepared to be agents of change for their generation. We concluded the day with a message of hope delivered by Stephen Green of the 12th Episcopal District at St. Paul AME Church, Atlanta.

In October 2013, President Jon Ingraham and 2nd Vice President Brian Tukes joined with the WMS for the celebration of 25 years of meeting at the site of the United Nations in New York as a Non Governmental organization and continued to issue the call to protect the rights of children and youth in the world. The meeting allowed our leadership to learn of the many avenues of partnering with other organizations to accomplish a common goal.

In November 2013, we paused to join the entire church in mourning the loss of Bishop Sarah Davis. We were represented at the Celebration of Life Services

by Director Crawford. We lift high her standards of mission service with humility and prayer. We continue to keep the 16th Episcopal District in prayer. We are grateful for the legacy of Bishop Sarah Davis. She will be missed.

In December 2013, a historical trip was made to the 17th Episcopal District. Director Crawford, President Ingraham and 1st Vice President Ka'Dijah Brown joined Bishop Wilfred Messiah and Supervisor Carol Messiah in Ndola, Zambia for the 17th Episcopal District's Planning Meeting. Director Crawford met with Directors and conducted a workshop on HIV and AIDS for all YPDers present. President Jon and 1st Vice President Ka'Dijah assisted YPDers with reports, presentations, and election of officers. We joined the mission project planned by the 17th and presented \$1000 US dollars (5400 Kwacha) to the Ndola Central Hospital to cover the cost of purchase of blankets for a ward of the hospital. The warmth and hospitality from the 17th District was phenomenal!

We are grateful to Bishop and Supervisor Messiah for being awesome hosts! We left Zambia and journeyed to the 15th Episcopal District, Capetown, South Africa to be greeted by the wonderful people of the 15th!! Bishop and Supervisor Daniels along with many members of the 15th greeted us with signs and singing upon arrival in Capetown. We were ushered throughout our time by wonderful persons seeking to provide service. We joined the WMS in their meetings, the YPD Directors, and the YPD. We were joined in Capetown by the 2nd Vice President, Brian A. Tukes. We conducted their Episcopal YPD election and provided a workshop on activities of the YPD. We were grateful for ideas on how to make Self Denial more culturally relevant for districts 14-20. We worshiped throughout the entire planning meeting. We thank Bishop White, Bishop Leath, Bishop Messiah, Bishop Bryant, and Bishop Belin for strong messages to keep us motivated and encouraged. Our hearts were delighted by your messages. We thank Bishop and Supervisor Daniels for their hospitality and their invitation. We thank everyone from the 15th and 17th for truly being brothers and sisters in Christ.

As you can see, we had a truly eventful year! We are planning for the 2014 LTI on March 28, 29, and 30th at the Sheraton Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Also mark your calendars for the Centennial Celebration of the YPD during the 2015 Quadrennial Convention, July 12-15, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana!!

Thank you Bishop and Supervisor Williams and the entire Sixth Episcopal District for your undying love and support! Robbie, Ashley, John, Pam, Medora, Adrian, Toledo, and so many more, I love and appreciate you!! All glory belongs to God!!!