



# Newsletter

FALL  
2024







# Global Ministries Continues Its Support of School Children in South Africa

– Rev. Vusi Funda

Dearest Rev. Theo,

I hope are well and in strength. On the donation from Allen Temple. The funds were used as follows:

- We purchased two girls uniform dresses, and matching socks in East London. The two girls come from rural areas and are staying with their big brother. It's a child headed family. The brother had to drop out of school to find casual employment in the farms in order to care for his sister. Both parents are deceased due to HIV.
- We purchased two girls uniform dresses, socks and shoes in Cape Town. The girls are living with their mothers (single parent households) who are both domestic workers.
- We purchased two boys uniform grey pants, shirts, socks and shoes in Cape Town. Both parents of one of the boys are unemployed and living in a single room shack. They depend on a government stipend. What is encouraging is that they both wake up early every morning to collect cans and tins in order to sell them at a scrapyard so that they can have food. The second boy lives with his 24-year-old mother who got pregnant when she was 16 years old. She is continuing her study and will be finishing high school this year.

- The East London activity was done by Mrs. Mali who is the lady president of our convention. Rev. Funda, who is the General Secretary and Executive Assistant to the Moderator of the National Baptist Church in Southern Africa, did the donation coordination with Sister Ndaliso in Cape Town.

Your contribution has made a tangible difference in the lives of these families, ensuring that the girls and boys have the necessary attire to attend school with dignity and confidence. Thank you for your kindness and compassion towards those in need in our community. This support not only benefits the parents but also contributes to the overall well-being and academic success of the children, ensuring they can focus on their studies without the distraction of inadequate clothing.

God Bless You,

Rev. Vusi Funda



# Global Ministries (A.K.A Sorority and ATBC Women’s Mission) Supports Mission in Haiti

During 2023, we also collaborated with Mission of Grace in Haiti to provide food & shelter to children. Global Ministries donated funds to renovate homes and to help with new construction at the Mission.



"WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE." – MATTHEW 19:26

Dear Allen Temple baptist Church and Reverend Theophous,

We are well in to 2024 and I wanted to personally write you to thank you for your love, support and prayers throughout all the challenges and joys we here at Mission of Grace experienced in 2023. I am truly humbled by all the support as so many ministries have had to close their doors. Mission of Grace is still stand tall and strong.

When I look back on the year it was a really tough year for me. So many things I could not control due to the violence and political unrest. Every day I would pray that we would see peace in Haiti and I kept holding onto that Hope. But we never did see it but yet God provided and cared for Mission of Grace as He always does. He saw us through many storms and as we closed out 2023 He showed up in mighty ways through finances and also moving our children to a safer place which gave my heart so much peace and comfort.

The biggest change that God lead us to do was to move our children to a safer location. The violence and fear was just to much for our children and so in October we relocated all 150 children to our second mission in the South, ensuring their safety and well-being.

The decision to build a new home for the children has been guided by God, and we're thrilled to share that we're nearing our goal of \$60,000, down from the initial \$150,000. Your partnership has brought us closer to providing these children with a secure and comfortable environment.

In Carriès, by the Grace of God, our school, medical clinic, church, elderly home, and soup kitchen continue to thrive. Your support has been instrumental in sustaining these vital initiatives.

As I write this letter I am filled with gratefulness that over 14 years ago when I placed my fleece out in the way of a little boy who was only days away from dying, saying to God if this boy lives I will know you approve the ministry of Mission of Grace but if he dies I will know that this is not the right time or place and God saved that boy and today he is 14 years old and God constantly reminds me that Mission of Grace is HIS ministry and I am just a vessel He is using. And so in 2024 I am excited to see how God continues to lead and guide Mission of Grace and all it's ministries.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for partnering with us to see that this beautiful ministry which is truly saving lives every day continues to move forward.

May God's grace abound in your lives, and may this year be filled with abundant blessings.

*Ms Lynn*

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## REGISTRATION GUIDE

### SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR CONFERENCE, INC. 2024 CLERGY & LAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Monday, February 19 – Thursday, February 22, 2024  
Palmer House Hilton | Chicago, Illinois

## WHERE LEGACY MEETS FUTURE: REIMAGINE! RE THINK! REINVENT!

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”  
And I said, “Here am I; send me!”  
Isaiah 6:8 NRSV*



[www.sdpconference.info](http://www.sdpconference.info)

## Global Ministries Returns to the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference—Reflections

### Rev. Warren Long

*“Through many dangers, toils, and snares...”*

The Christian church has been facing a decline for several decades with many post “Boomers” having no religious affiliation. This decline has also affected the Black church. In response to the need to awaken today’s generations, the theme of the 2024 S.D. Proctor Conference was “Where Legacy Meets Future”. Through transgenerational “rethinking, reimagining, and reinventing”, the workshops, seminarian sessions, and preaching, this year’s conference sought to emphasize the importance of the legacy of the Black church being carried forward for the important work of bridging history with hope for tomorrow.

Many scholars posit that the Black church is dead. SDP 2024 set about the work of dismantling this thought and engaged in conversation about the church’s relevance and future. In his book, “The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song”, Louis Henry Gates writes, “The Black Church was the cultural cauldron that Black people created to combat a system designed to crush their spirit. Collectively and with enormous effort, they refused to allow that to happen.”

Of our ancestors Gates continues: “religion enabled them and their descendants to learn, to

grow, to develop, to interpret and reinvent the world in which they were trapped...” Despite claims of a post-racial society, the need for the Black church and an emblazoned spirit is needed as much today as ever. Racism is alive, but the baton has been passed so we remain hopeful in our refusal, rethinking, and reimagining. There is yet hope that the church, which has always been central to Black life, will answer the call and become a revitalized voice for social justice advocacy.

### La’Vonnda Haynes-Burnett, MFA

Ministry: Kingdom Dancers, Spiritual Advisor and Administrative Support Zion Learning, CEO

I am appreciative of the opportunity to experience the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference for the first time. As a layperson, I was prepared to have limited workshops and resources relevant to my involvement in ministry and community work, but I was happily mistaken. As a leader in education and web development, I was drawn to the workshops on technology and reclaiming churches as sites of education. Though I desired some missing topics to be discussed, it was refreshing to know there were others in my similar fields desiring the church to move towards a progressive means of maintaining relevance in the world. I was richly blessed by the evening worship services because they were just



that, services of worship. The preachers and speakers of the hour were nothing less than exceptional, and everyone was collectively in awe of how God used them in their moments on the mic. I am eager to attend SDPC next year and experience all that God will do.

**Harrison Harvey**

During my time at the Proctor Conference, first and foremost it was just a blessing to be in a space surrounded by people, black Christians who cared; care about the Lord, care about making a difference, and care about the transition from past to present to future. I think sometimes we all can be so confined to ourselves, to our local churches, confined to our activities and spiritual practices, but this conference was a great reminder, that God moves.

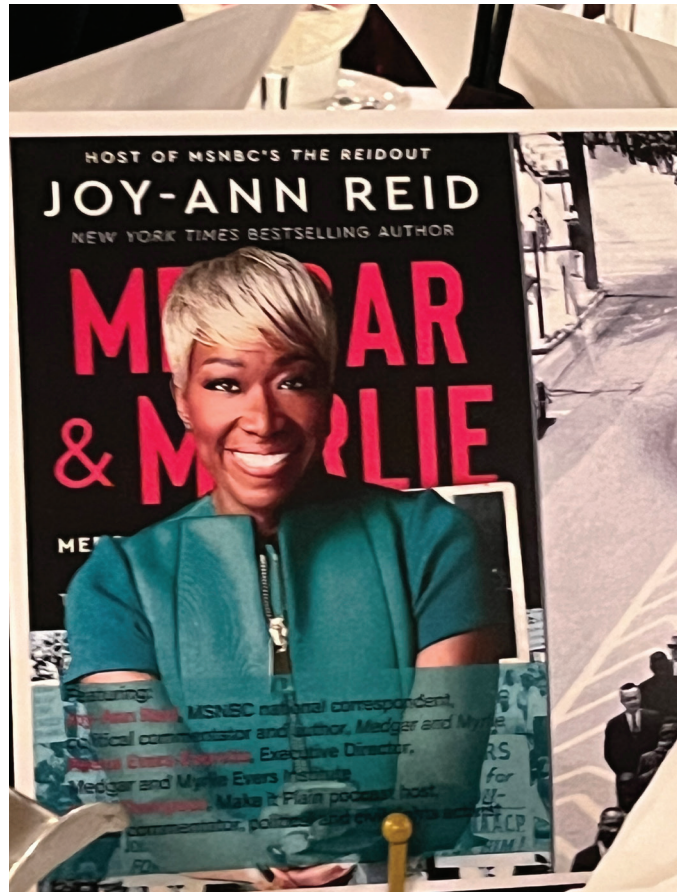
So, to answer the question of how I felt about how God moved during our time in Chicago, I felt like this was a chance for me to do my self-reflection on what I want my impact to be. I think at conferences, there is so much discussion and talk about what we should do next and how we should change our life and how we should be more aligned and listen to the Lord. While all of that is true and correct, for me, the clarity came into being affirmed in the way I want to be and in who I am supposed to be. I do not want to be a bystander that waits on the sideline but someone who is the middle of the game, making change, fighting for the freedom of our next generation, carrying that mantle of the light of a curious child waiting to seed the world and help others., And as that was the same energy and ambition which led me to be a part of the Global Missions ministry

and to be a part of trips to South Africa to help our families across the Atlantic, that was the same energy that led me Chicago and will lead me on the net places as well. The curiosity of care. And that was the reminder of it all, that God is aware and we care but more importantly, God cares. God cares that we are kind, that we are loving, and that we are compassionate. God cares that we speak up for what is right and fight back against wrongdoings. God encourages us to spend time growing our spiritual relationships. Sometimes, people ask why you care and why it matters that you go to these events, engage in certain discussions, or push yourself to learn more about the world because it shows that you care. And we are supposed to care for the world in a way that God cares for us. So what moved me, was the care that was still within, with all of the awfulness of this world around us that we are subjected to see, that we can't escape but to feel, that we have to go through as human beings, that I and other like-minded people still care about the future of this world, care about making this world a better space, care about shining the lights God has given us all over this world. And that was or is moving. And it continues to move me.

So, the gratitude for this experience and being pushed spiritually to be open to the newness of the world, to be patient with change, especially the change of people, but more importantly, to continue to care, care about the church, care about the people, to care even when it hurts to care. To care about each and everything around us, and treat each other with care, while knowing that God cares for us all.









**Connie Land, Servant**

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2024 Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference. Being my second conference, I found this one more gratifying and fulfilling. The conference was well organized and informative. There were general sessions and individual workshops. Each of the speakers were qualified and well versed.

During this conference, emphasis was placed on the future generation learning from those who have paved the way. This is such a great concept as much can be learned from the experience of those who have witnessed the pain, shared lessons learned to make it less painful for those willing to continue the struggle to make a difference for the future generation.

I want to take this time to reflect on the Opening Ndaba: Afrofuturism & A Pan-African Agenda: Connecting the Dots. The African drums opened the session. The speaker stated: Proctor “Open the Casket” in the name of those who came before us (Emmett Till, and many others), those who called us, etc. We come together from all parts of the country, with a variety of interests and a vast array of experiences, serving the same Lord, yet reaching for the same goal to make a difference right now and for future generations. Call the energy, ignite the spiritual power that brought us here for a time as this. It’s time to “Do the Work” Greet each other with a hug, Ashe.

During the Open Ndaba, issues discussed related to land, health, infrastructure, gender inclusivity, tackling violence and combating climate change. Emphasis was placed on:

Relmagine our community’s future in an equitable context. We need to be better equipped to lead local ministries with a global lens. ReThink how things are being done, do it differently to liberate others. ReInvent a collective agenda by being black justice minded, human rights centered people of faith throughout the diaspora. This service set the tone for the rest of the conference.

I have renewed energy to serve the Lord and seeking His guidance for direction.

Thankful and grateful.

**Rev. Annette Peoples**

Attending the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference is like being placed in the center of Grand Central Station. Either you move with the energy or stand in awe. Either way, you have the opportunity to glean from Christian workshops, presentations, and a wide variety of educational opportunities. The atmosphere was rich and inviting. Be it your first experience or a revisit, the conference offers a glimpse of what moving forward feels like in a setting of diverse people seeking to arrive at their respective destinations. Attending the 2024 SDPC was a rewarding experience that placed me on high alert about where I believe God is leading me in ministry.

**Rev. Demitrius Burnett**

I’m grateful for my experience at Proctor 2024 in Chicago, IL. Being a kid from Chicago, the first gift of the conference was being back home...a place I hadn’t been in 6 years. Being home instantly put me in a reflective space of gratitude and awe of God. It was also great to share that experience with my wife, La’Vonnda, a first-time conference attendee and

second-time visitor to the city. The conference’s timing was also important as Proctor was the week leading to my ordination. I witnessed the love and intention of God as I was brought back to where I started, showing me how far I’d come and reconnecting me with family and some of my earliest ministry leaders. In the conference itself, the most powerful message I walked away with came from the second night’s preacher, Pastor Courtney Clayton Jenkins, who delivered a message to prophets about rest. As I grow in leadership in ministry and at work, it was a sobering reminder to maintain rest as a part of the work, delegate to those I lead, and empower them to do the work without running ahead of them.

Proctor also helped me make important connections for the next steps in my path. After the closing worship, I was able to connect with someone who has also experienced both the call of traditional church ministry and working in philanthropy, and I’ll be in conversation with them as I discern God’s plan for my work and ministry in the future. As an author, I also attended a special session held by Judson Press where I connected with their leadership and staff. In March, I had a follow-up call with their head publisher and editor, and have the opportunity to submit a proposal for my current poetry collection, *Sermons Will Ruin Your Life*, or a new work. As I reflect on it all, I’m grateful for Rev. Theo’s and Global Missions’ support to attend the Proctor Conference. I believe Proctor 2024 will have lasting impacts on multiple aspects of my ministry and future.

**Oluwatobi Ife-Adediran**

The 2024 SDP conference touched me at different levels: spiritual, ecclesial, socio-cultural, and educational.

**Spiritual:** Right from the beginning of the conference, it was evident that faith was at the core of the meeting; of course, faith represents a common denominator in the spectrum that traverses legacy and future. The evening worship sessions typified the spiritual context of the conference. Some of my takeaways from the worship experiences include the legacies of David (1 Sam. 24) and Jesus Christ (Luke 23:34), who defied the urge for rage and vengeance in their refusal to smite their ‘death-deserving’ enemies. The ‘killing field’ of hatred, abhorrence, and fury becomes a life-giving meadow of mutual flourishing and bliss (Psalm 133) when the ‘killing’ cycle is disrupted by sacrificial love, especially to one’s enemies. It is important to underscore oppression (not the oppressor) as the opposition in the quest for liberation. The conference attendants were also blessed with a pastoral charge on the importance of self-care, collaboration, and rest as we immerse ourselves in the work of liberation.

**Ecclesial:** If legacy will indeed meet the future, churches must continually reimagine, rethink, and reinvent their vision and mission in a manner that sidelines neither legacy nor future. Churches, faith-based organizations, and secular institutions need to appreciate ‘transgenerationality’ as an important component of their identity. The marginalization of young people (millennials, Gen Zers etc.) from faith-practice calls for holy listening



(recognizing that the young also bear the voice of the divine), mentorship, networking, and relationship-building. The seminarian sessions and some panel discussions provided ample opportunities for critical discourse regarding more inclusive churches, and the integration of young people in faith-practice.

**Socio-cultural:** The conference typified the shared identity, gaiety, struggle, and aspirations of the African American community. One high point of the rich socio-cultural conversations is that the response to racial oppression should not be episodic or reactive, that is periodic surges of liberation movements in response to crises. Rather, it has to be proactive, strategic, and sustainable to create a lasting bridge between the legacies that have been laid and the future that is envisaged. Technology (machine learning and artificial intelligence, human/genetic engineering etc.) holds an increasing influence on the social matrix of post-modern society, and its potential should be harnessed in the pursuit of liberation.

**Education:** The 2024 Samuel Dewitt Proctor conference was highly educative. I was exposed to the Human-Centered Design (HCD) approach to problem solving. This method presupposes that communities have the answers to the challenges they might be faced with. It is a people-centered (rather than a process or product-centered) approach in which user needs, behaviors, and experiences are utilized developing solutions. The HCD was recommended as a valid method for reconstructing the vision and mission of Churches in tandem with the theme of the conference. Afrofuturism was also advertised


as an effective cultural aesthetic that utilizes science-fiction to connect people of African descent with their history and ancestry. It utilizes techno-fossils in historical narration and reconstruction to project the future through a black cultural lens.





# Workshop on Women Leaders in the Church


In October 2023, Global Ministries Joined with Collaborators in South Africa to Present a Workshop on Women Leaders in the church.




The Allen Temple Global Ministries Young Adult Cohort Presents Women Leaders in the Church: A Discussion with Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson

In cooperation with Cross Roads Baptist Church, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, and W.W. Brown Baptist Church in South Africa

Oct. 28, 2023, 10:00 am PST & 7:00 pm SAST [JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON ZOOM](#)



In the Black Church, disabled folk, undocumented folk, ex-offenders, and women have not always been welcomed into the fold except on the condition that they would know and stay in their places. Traditionally, for women, this has often meant not being allowed to preach and not being allowed to pastor. These traditions are being challenged and are often unacceptable to young Christians.



Committed to excellence in scholarship, Dr. Thompson received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Economics from the University of California, Berkeley; the Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. While at Howard, she received the Nannie Helen Burroughs Award for Academic Excellence and the Henry G. Maynard Award for Excellence in Preaching and Ministry. Believing in the importance of both orthodoxy and orthopraxy, Dr. Thompson continued her studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California where she was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree in African American Church Leadership.

Dr. Thompson has much to say on the subject of woman leadership in the church. Described as a transformational preacher, dynamic leader and ministry trailblazer, Dr. Thompson currently serves as the Senior Pastor of The Allen Temple Baptist Church in her native Oakland, California. Her 2019 election made history nationwide as the first woman called to serve as Senior Pastor of this historic African American Baptist Church founded in 1919. Before being called in this capacity, Dr. Thompson served as the Assistant Pastor at Allen Temple and as Youth Minister at Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., the first woman to serve in both capacities.

# Workshop on Race, Gender, & Sexuality

In February 2024, Global Ministries Joined with Collaborators in South Africa to Present a Workshop on Race, Gender, & Sexuality.



Allen Temple Young Adult Global Ministries Cohort  
In Collaboration with the South African Cohort Presents

“Whose Lives Matter: Race, Gender & Sexuality”

A Theological Discussion  
Featuring Dr. Brandon Thomas Crowley, Ph.D.



In many Black Churches, certain people are less welcome than others and theology is used to justify their position. The undocumented, disabled, LGBTQIA, ex-offenders, and even women still experience oppression in churches that preach freedom. These traditions are being challenged. Join us as we discuss if only certain lives matter to God and the church.



The Reverend Doctor Brandon Thomas Crowley is an African-American pastor, preacher, author, and scholar in religion, theology, and queer theory. Since 2009, he has served as the Senior Pastor of the Historic Myrtle Baptist Church in Newton, Massachusetts, one of America’s oldest Black congregations founded by formerly enslaved persons at the end of Reconstruction and one of the nation’s few open and affirming historically Black churches. In addition to his pastoral role, Dr. Crowley is a Lecturer in Ministry Studies at Harvard University’s Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Reverend Crowley’s first manuscript reflects his commitment to fostering inclusivity and challenging societal norms within African American faith communities.

Zoom Bilateral Discussion:  
February 24, 2024 10:00 am PST & 8:00 pm SAST [JOIN THE DISCUSSION HERE](#)



# Gugulethu Mfuphi, World Press Institute Fellow

– Rev. Theophus Reagans

Each year, hundreds of professional journalists from around the world apply for 10 WPI fellowship slots offered by WPI in Minneapolis, MN

The chosen finalists represent some of the best journalists in their respective countries. They are innately curious, intelligent and ambitious, and approach journalism with a deep sense of dedication and responsibility.

Our sister and daughter, Gugulethu Mfuphi, is one of the 10 WPI fellows this year. She is visiting the USA from September through November, and traveling to and observing several major media markets. Gugu hosted our youth as a youth herself when we first started our sojourns to South Africa. Over the past decade she has continued to host us, engage us, support us, and welcome us home each year.

Gugu is a broadcast journalist based in Johannesburg and working out of various markets in South Africa and beyond. She a talented, awesome, and she truly is our sister and our daughter. When I spoke with her after her arrival, she asked me to give her greetings to Global Ministries and to the Allen Temple Church at large. She reminded me that we have played a significant part in her journey and expressed her gratitude.

We welcome Gugu to the USA and pray that she has a tremendous time here.



*gm*  
GUGULETHU MFUPHI

## OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OF GUGULETHU MFUPHI

Gugulethu is an award winner and a well-versed orator, with plenty of experience in front of cameras, behind the microphone and addressing many diverse audiences. This skill, together with her sound grasp if the Financial Markets, Economic Data and Current Affairs Issues and the impact this has on the Business Community, makes her the perfect candidate to; speak to Industry Analysts or Political Leaders and C-suite Executives from all across the African continent.

**This forms the basis of her tasks and responsibilities as Presenter of Kaya FM's prime time, award winning business show, Kaya Bizz and her experience as a Senior Anchor on CNBC Africa.**

Gugulethu has also served as an experienced Conference Chair, Panel Discussion Moderator and Programme Director, at various industry gatherings that impact the business and investment landscape.

She had facilitated the second annual South Africa Investment Conference in 2019, hosted by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Having previously worked for other institutions like Talk Radio 702, SAfm, Lotus FM and The City Press Newspaper, through their affiliation with Moneyweb, Gugulethu has gained a wealth of experience in financial journalism through radio, TV, print and online media.

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