

National African American Clergy Network

2010 Count On Me Count Me In Campaign

As a coalition of African American clergy, we write to affirm our commitment to promote a full 2010 census count of African Americans so that our communities receive critically needed resources and services that are based on the census.

The Bible teaches that God and government are not in conflict. God Almighty created government for the good of society and to preserve order (Romans 13: 1-5).

God ordered Moses to “take a census” of the children of Israel to determine the strength of the people to address challenges they faced (Numbers 1:1, 2).

Caesar Augustus was a willing part in a census that resulted in the entire world having access to God’s salvation (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2), by setting the census at the time Mary was pregnant with Jesus.

Joseph, her husband took her to Bethlehem to be counted in the census in the place where Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior was born (Luke 2:1-7; Galatians 4:4-5).

NOW is the time to be fully counted to obtain the resources needed to meet the challenges confronting our communities. As African Americans, we take pride in who we are and what we have contributed to this country. We want to be counted in the 2010 Census because we know that every person counted means dollars properly allocated for new roads, schools, hospitals, housing, and for important community programs.

More than \$400 billions of federal dollars will be distributed to the states, local and tribal governments based on census data for goods and services that our communities cannot do without. Only with full participation can we receive our fair share of everything needed for our communities to thrive, including a voice in Congress.

We are participating in a **COUNT ON ME ~ COUNT ME IN CENSUS CAMPAIGN**, through the African American faith network so that no one in our community goes uncounted. The campaign operates in partnership with the National Coalition’s Unity Diaspora Coalition Census Campaign, which is committed to ensuring that African, Caribbean, Afro-Latino and African American communities are fully counted in 2010.

Our coalition is letting people know that it is not too late to participate in the 2010 census. Census takers have started going door to door to follow up with households that either didn’t mail back their form or didn’t receive one.

We ask our member churches to encourage their congregants to help their community by providing the basic information to the census taker if they get a home visit. The census worker will make up to six attempts to get the information. If they don’t want a home visit, people who have not returned their forms can give their confidential **QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS BY PHONE** by calling the Census Bureau’s **TELEPHONE QUESTIONNAIRE ASSISTANCE** line at **1-866-872-6868**.

We urge participating clergy to make pulpit announcements each Sunday starting May 30th - June 27th. for the **COUNT ON ME ~COUNT ME IN CENSUS CAMPAIGN**. We will also announce the campaign in our church bulletins, on our websites, our Facebook pages, Twitter, and in other social networks and media available to us.

Together, we can help to end the historic high undercount of African Americans and witness an unprecedented flow of services to our communities based on a full 2010 census count.

For Contact Only:

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For more information, visit 2010Census.gov and www.unitydiaspora.ning.com
<http://2010.census.gov/partners/toolkits/toolkits-faithbased.php>

The Reverend J.L. Armstrong
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Mrs. Gwendolyn Butler Williams
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The Reverend Dr. Delman Coates
Senior Pastor
Mt. Ennon Baptist Church
Clinton, MD

The Reverend Dr. Kendrick E. Curry
Senior Pastor
The Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church
Washington, DC

The Reverend Joseph Darby
Senior Pastor
Morris Brown AME Church
Charleston, SC

The Reverend Michael Eaddy
Senior Pastor
People's Church of the Harvest
Church of God In Christ
Chicago, Illinois

The Reverend Derrick Harkins
Senior Pastor
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
Washington, DC

Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.
Senior Pastor
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Washington, DC

Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr.
Senior Pastor
The Cathedral International
Perth Amboy, NJ

Reverend Alvin Love
Chair
T.O.P.I.C. Ministry
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
Senior Pastor
Lilydale First Baptist Church
Chicago, IL

Bishop Paul Morton
Presiding Bishop
Full Gospel Church International Fellowship
Changing Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA
Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church
New Orleans, LA

The Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus
Olivet Institutional Baptist Church`
Chair Emeritus
The Progressive National Baptist Convention
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The Reverend Samuel Nixon, Jr.
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The Reverend Zina Pierre
Temple of Praise
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The Reverend Dr. Cheryl Sanders
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The Reverend Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr.
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Senior Pastor, The Trinity Baptist
Church of Metro Atlanta
Decatur, GA

The Reverend Eldridge Spearman
Senior Pastor
Mount Jezreel Baptist Church
Silver Spring, MD

The Reverend Dr. Lance D. Watson
Senior Pastor
Saint Paul's Baptist Church
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The Reverend Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
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SAMPLE CHURCH BULLETIN FOR A FAIR 2010 AFRICAN AMERICAN CENSUS COUNT

Just like Moses, Joseph and Mary, the mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we as the people of God are called to be counted in the 2010 Census.

We are participating in a **2010 COUNT ON ME ~ COUNT ME IN CENSUS CAMPAIGN** with other African American churches across our nation to make sure we are fully counted. African Americans will receive what is theirs **ONLY THROUGH PARTICIPATION**. If we are not counted in the 2010 Census, no one will know we exist, where we live; and what our needs are. Being properly counted means billions of dollars to communities to pay for quality schools, housing, health care, jobs, and other critical goods and services African Americans desperately need.

Most of you already filled out and returned your Census form. For those of you who did not, it is not too late to participate. We ask all members who have not filled out their Census form to give their confidential **QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS BY PHONE** by calling the Census Bureau's **TELEPHONE QUESTIONNAIRE ASSISTANCE** line at **1-866-872-6868**.

Census takers have started going door to door to follow up with households that either didn't mail back their form or didn't receive one. If you do not call in your answers you will be visited at home up to 6 times by an enumerator who will help you fill out your form.

If a census taker knocks on your door, please help by providing the basic information required for the census. There are only 10 easy questions and it should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Your answers are strictly confidential. Census workers are hired from the communities they serve. They are your neighbors working to ensure that your community is accurately represented. Here are some ways to verify that person is a legitimate census taker:

- The census taker must present an ID badge that contains a Department of Commerce watermark and expiration date. The census taker may also be carrying a black canvass bag with a Census Bureau logo.
- The census taker will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the local census office phone number for verification, if asked.
- The census taker will only ask you the questions that appear on the 2010 Census form.

The 2010 Census taker will not ask for social security number, bank account number or credit card number and will never solicit for donations or contact you by e-mail. The census taker will **never ask to enter your home**.

The Census is important to our community, so fill out your questionnaire by phone this week.

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SAMPLE PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR A FAIR 2010 AFRICAN AMERICAN CENSUS COUNT

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Most of you already filled out and returned your Census form. For those of you who did not, it is not too late to participate. We ask all members who have not filled out their Census form to give their confidential **QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS BY PHONE** by calling the Census Bureau's **TELEPHONE QUESTIONNAIRE ASSISTANCE** line at **1-866-872-6868**.

If you do not call in your answers you will be visited at home up to 6 times by an enumerator who will help you fill out your form.

If a census taker knocks on your door, please help by providing the basic information required for the census. There are only 10 easy questions and it should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Your answers are strictly confidential.

The Census is important to our community. **BE COUNTED** in the 2010 Census and encourage your family, friends, and co-workers to do the same.

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Prayer for a Fair 2010 African American Census Count

Almighty God, Maker and Sustainer of all life, we thank and praise you for valuing every person you have created. Lord, just as you called Moses to take a census of the people, you call on your children right now to be fully counted in the 2010 U.S. Census. Move on us, Righteous Father, to step up and be counted just like Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were counted in Bethlehem centuries ago.

We praise you, Lord God, for creating government for the good of all your people, especially for those left and locked out of vital human services.

Because every good and perfect gift flows from you God, we know that you desire every one of your children to have the services and resources needed for abundant living. Once we have done our part by participating in the Census, dear Lord, we ask that you would cause our government to ensure that we are fully and fairly counted. Then, O God, we ask that you would cause the government to provide resources and services that our communities need to thrive based on a full count. For this we give you all praise, all glory and all honor, in the matchless, magnificent and mighty name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

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