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Lott Carey Partnership is Helping Victims Rise Again
First Resurrection Resource Center Opens in Lake Charles, LA

(December 13, 2005- Lake Charles, LA) Three leading African American Baptist communities—Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, National Baptist Convention of America, and National Missionary Baptist Convention of America—are collaborating to help survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita transition into the next phase of rebuilding their lives. At a news conference today, partners shared their roles in taking immediate steps to help victims rise again by announcing the creation of the *Resurrection Resource Centers*. “Our goal is to go beyond the initial phase of relief to help the people of Louisiana and Mississippi prepare for the road ahead. Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention wants to assist evacuees with services that are not provided elsewhere for them,” said Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, the executive secretary-treasurer of Lott Carey.

The *Resurrection Resource Centers* will assist evacuees in securing local, state and federal resources available to them. They will also provide pastoral support, counseling and encouragement as well as help victims find employment

-More-

Resurrection Resource Center
Page 2

and temporary or permanent housing. Social work professionals and lawyers will also provide specialized services and comprehensive legal assistance to those in need.

The partnership established its first *Resurrection Resource Center* at Greater Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Lake Charles, LA. “Greater Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church is eager to serve the Lord by helping those displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,” said Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., pastor of the Greater Saint Mary Church and president of the Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention. “We are excited to have the opportunity to help establish these centers that will have such an impact on the victims that have been devastated by these disasters.”

The Lake Charles community is now sheltering more than 30,000 people that were displaced after the hurricanes. At the *Lake Charles Resurrection Center* evacuees receive shelter, food and clothing as well as mental health screenings, counseling, prayer, information on availability of relief programs and services and after school support for children. The Center also provides technical assistance to empower churches and other volunteers to respond effectively to the needs of the community. “This type of support speaks to the very mission of Lott Carey. We are about helping people, especially in their time of need,” said Rev. J. Michael Sanders, president of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

-More-

Resurrection Resource Center
Page 3

This unprecedented Baptist collaboration is planning to facilitate and financially support *Resurrection Resource Centers* in Lake Charles, Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette, Louisiana.

Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention has coordinated a unique partnership among the National Baptist Convention of America, the National Missionary Baptist Convention, the Baptist World Aid and the Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention and the African American Catholic Congregation to create these centers.

Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention is the premier global mission's agency of African American Baptist heritage. Their international mission is to cultivate ministry, education, and health programs around the world. Since it was founded in 1897, Lott Carey has grown to a network of missional partnerships in 20 countries throughout six regions of the world. Last year, Lott Carey raised over \$3 million dollars for mission support around the world.

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