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A NEW SELF HELP GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ASSIST CLERGYWOMEN WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK

Within the methodology of social salvation as transformation, the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit and the evidence of the Spirit's gifts and fruit is an essential asset for capacity-building. While there is value in any community development work, times of uncertainty become opportunities for faith-based leaders to preclude themselves from the rhetoric of social gospel to the actualization of community development work both biblically and theologically to re-envision Christ and His Great Commission to community-driven disciples.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver-Durrah, founder of the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic (NTAC) of Brooklyn, New York, has created a "community development work model" to develop functional capacities for the local church to maintain epitome health in harsh financial climates.

During times of financial uncertainty, local churches, faith-based institutions, and communities are challenged to redefine their roles as social service providers. In general, the black church is a viable community stakeholder doing important work and is well positioned to do even more in their churches' community.

A new resource guide to tackle community development work, designed by Dr. Durrah, is now available.

"While this self help guide was designed for Black Clergywomen, who are Senior Pastors of their churches, I believe all clergywomen are strategically posed for such a time as this to have a positive impact on empowering the lives of women and girls in their respected communities," says Dr. Durrah.

"LEAD ME, GUIDE ME: ENGAGING THE FAITH COMMUNITY IN NONPROFIT WORK" is a self help guide, designed for clergywomen, who are interested in engaging in nonprofit work, provides key information on how to engage in community development work creating community change with care. An overview of the six chapters included in the self help guide is as follow:

Chapter I: Provides a checklist for getting to know your neighborhood/community. The reader is encouraged to become more familiar with everything in their neighborhood/community - from knowing their local schools and hospitals to knowing their local politicians.

Chapter II: Features a nonprofit incorporation guide, which instructs individuals on how to establish New York State Incorporation of a 501 c 3. Tax exemption

information and instructions are also provided, along with instructional materials from Lawyers Alliance. Included in their materials is a sample (3) year budget.

Chapter III: Provides board development tips on everything from primary board responsibilities to the board leadership selection criteria. This chapter also examines fundraising as it relates to the board, staff, and an individual's role in fundraising.

Chapter IV: Provides a checklist for nonprofit start-ups, and then quickly moves to a fundraising readiness checklist. Also included in this chapter are guidelines for evaluating the appropriateness of fundraising costs and a list of the 20 biggest fundraising mistakes. A glossary of fundraising terms are also provided to help individuals understand the entire process of fundraising. Almost everything you need to know about fundraising is presented in this chapter.

Chapter V. Introduces resources and referrals that support nonprofit work. Readers also learn about the resources utilized by a selection of Black Clergywomen. Everything from the books they read to the theologians they most listen to are revealed. This chapter also presents a listing of E-mail addresses at every nonprofit should know as well as a listing of the resources and technical assistance providers that were compiled by the Foundation Center.

Chapter VI. Identifies professional and technical assistance support needed to help Black Clergywomen to develop and carry out missions work in their communities.

Chapter VII. Presents scriptures that confirm the need for community service, volunteer work, leadership in the church, and women helping in the community.

The following testimonials provide examples of the helpfulness and usefulness of this guide. This is what four (4) Black Clergy Pastors, who are senior pastors of their churches, had to say about this self help guide:

"What a valuable resource! I am new to my church's community and now I have an easy-to-use guide to the institutions, services, and officials in my neighborhood. Every church needs a book like this."

Pastor Kanyere Eaton, Fellowship Covenant Church, Castle Hill, Bronx, NY

"The Self Help Book was extremely useful because it challenged you to become more familiar with your own neighborhood. There is even a neighborhood checklist in the guide that encourages you to know the key resources and community leaders in your local community. This reminder is helpful because it brings attention to what we often take for granted, but usually do not know."

Rev. Dr. Marva D. Usher-Kerr, Willis Avenue United Methodist Church, Mott Haven, Bronx, NY

“As a founder of two organizations, Jesus Saves Back to Life Ministries, and C.O.R.E. (Community Organization Reliable for Everyone), this self help guide book will be of great value for those who are in the process of starting their own not for profit organization or thinking about starting one. When I began the process for Jesus Saves, my first not for profit experience, I had “no clue” what I was doing. And I found that out when I began working with my accountant on the 501c3 for the church. Because I had not filed the paper work correctly for the incorporation I had to have the incorporation amended which was a tedious process and also an additional cost. I even had questions for the second not for profit I was working on. Had this guide been available I am sure the process would have gone much smoother.”

Prophetess Dr. Wanda D. Lang, Jesus Saves Back to Life Ministries, Morrisania, Bronx, NY

“I have great Godly respect for Rev. Dr. Durrah, her mission, character, and her voice. Over the years, she has served as a source of inspiration to me and the ministry work God has willed to my hands. The resource guide is a must read by all clergywomen who are interested in engaging in community development work.

Pastor Pamela L. Ward, Founder/CEO, Redeemed Outreach Ministries, Inc., Queens, NY

The mission of the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic is to serve the needs of philanthropic individuals and organizations in their efforts to develop support and maintain effective community-based and faith-based programs. We also serve non-profits wishing to improve programs and organizational capacity for addressing the needs of low-income and service-starved neighborhoods. We provide consultation, strategic direction and management, technical assistance and forums for increasing substantive outcomes in all these areas of human and financial investment.

For more information on how to obtain a copy of this self help guide, “LEAD ME, GUIDE ME: ENGAGING THE FAITH COMMUNITY IN NONPROFIT WORK,” please contact us at Dr.Durrah@neighborhoodclinic.org.