

**Young Adult Missionary Summit  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
May 11-15, 2017**

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12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Christian Education Conference**

**Rt. Rev. Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Bishop  
Sis. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor  
Mrs. Thelma Denton, Episcopal Women's Missionary Society  
President**

This combined report details what we learned from our experience at the Young Adult Missionary Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. We would like to sincerely thank Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell, Mrs. Thelma Denton, Life Members of the Women's Missionary Society, Members of the Missionary Society, our local churches, family, and friends for all of the love and support we were shown as we journeyed to South Africa. We are forever grateful for everyone who made this experience a reality for us.

**Andrea Price**

The Young Adult Missionary (YAM) Summit was life-changing experience. I am thankful for the bonding experience I shared with my fellow 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District YAM sisters and sisters from around the world.

Nuggets of wisdom that enriched my life were shared throughout the summit. Dr. Makaziwe Mandela, President Nelson Mandela's daughter, told us that mission work can preserve our legacy and we, Black women, have to have confidence and consistency in our missionary service. She also encouraged us to ask God to guide us in our mission work. Supervisor Kawimbe encouraged us to use introspection in our missionary work. Ms. Deborah Taylor-King encouraged us as women to not compete with each other, but to complete each other as we work together. I met another sister in South Africa who shared these wise words, "the hand that gives is the one that receives."

In addition to the experiences at the conference, our interactions with the citizens of Johannesburg at the Siyazigabisa Children's Home, our cab driver, the staff in the hotel and throughout the conference center reminded me that hospitality is universal and that love has no geographical boundaries!

**Eugenia Brannon**

I learned that as women, we can rule the world if we work together. Being in a room full of women want to serve God and change the world helped me see how important it is that we as women support each other.

Additionally, the way we worship God here in the U.S. isn't that different than that of districts 14-16. The only difference is the language.

Lastly, while in South Africa, I discovered a world and a culture that isn't much different than my own. Being around all those different women and witnessing them praising God really moved me and made me more appreciative of the opportunity that was given to me.

### **Monica Clayton**

When Supervisor Mitchell sent out the email urging members of YAM to write a letter stating why we should be chosen to attend the YAM Summit in Johannesburg, I wasn't going to apply. It was a Life Member of the Women's Missionary Society that wrote me saying I should apply. I remember thinking, "yeah right, I'm not about to do that," but God spoke to me. Fast forward, I along with four other young women, was chosen to represent the 12th District of the AME Church at the YAM Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is life changing for me on so many different levels. I am forever grateful to Bishop and Supervisor Mitchell.

Saturday, May 13, was a day of empowerment. Mrs. Deborah King reminded us to stop waiting on someone else to change the world. She made me ask myself, "do I know my gift?" Every day, God is revealing new things to me. I know that I have been called to help those less fortunate, but while being in Africa, I was shown that there is so much more that I can do. Dr. Makaziwe Mandela told us to look for another way when you reach a stumbling block and to be consistent in prayer. I just realized that Dr. Mandela may be the most famous person I have ever met...how exciting!

As it was time to leave, a small part of me wanted to stay a couple more days, but I was excited to get back home. The biggest part of me was just ready to share my experience. Through all the experiences, God gave me subtle reminders of just how good He is and how He is always in control. This trip was a humbling experience. It made me thankful for so many "small" things...FREE clean water at a restaurant, a pillowcase and turkey bacon. I didn't get my Shea butter or African Black Soap, so I guess I will have to travel to West Africa next! Was I born in Africa...no. Is Africa my motherland...yes.

Izibusiso "Blessings in Zulu"

### **Natalie Horton**

The worship services were beautiful in that they flowed at their own pace. I loved the way everyone joined in to praise and sing, especially during times when there was a break in the service.

I appreciated the fact that the workshop presenters were of different ages. We had new YAM members, as well as seasoned WMS members. Our Connectional WMS 3rd Vice President Hilda Matshoba and our Connectional Member-at-Large Sylvia Blake did a wonderful job, having to communicate across continents in planning this for us. Also, Supervisor Kawimbe, President Reed and the 19th Episcopal District served as wonderful hosts.

During the workshop presentations, we discussed "The Importance of Empowering Women to Positively Impact a Troubled World." I took away that at the end of the day, we already have the power within us to be and do anything we want. All of our power comes from God and we are ready to make a difference wherever we are needed.

Most of all, I enjoyed the fellowship with all of these young women from across the United States and Africa. I felt right at home with everyone and hope that we can have an experience like this again.