

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

(The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands)

By Jennie Humes, Bahamas

The National Women's Ministries in the Bahamas is presently headed by Prophetess Dr. Jennie Mae Humes, wife of the Administrative Bishop, Bishop John Humes. This ministry oversees the operation of the entire local and district Women's Ministries in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and is the umbrella under which the National Inner Circle and National Girls' Ministries operate.



Local and district presidents hold meetings and special activities in their churches and districts. Meetings are also held once a month on the national level and are hosted by the national president and her executives. These general meetings are open to all women.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the National Women's Ministries spearhead several activities and projects. During the annual national convention held in March, the women are given the Friday afternoon to have their own special service. Dressed in white, women from across the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands come together to worship and to fellowship. Awards are also presented to presidents and local Girls Ministries coordinators who are outstanding in their reporting and in the amount of finances they send to the National Women's Ministries.

A three-day convention is also held each May. Worship services are held on the first two nights and the Friday night is when the National Mother-of-the Year and the Most Unselfish Mother are crowned.

Each October, the National Women's Retreat is held. This takes place at a local hotel and is usually a much anticipated event. Local and international speakers are invited to deliver the message or make presentations during the day sessions. Awards are given to district presidents and individuals who have sowed outstandingly during the annual Seed Faith Drive. During this retreat, two deserving women are crowned Miss Lydia and Miss Dorcas. The Lydia Award is presented to the woman who exemplifies dedication, loyalty and faithfulness to the National Women's Ministries and whose support spans many years. The Dorcas Award is given for excellence in humility and acts of hospitality.

Several projects that this ministry has undertaken include the House of Refuge program where food is distributed to the needy. Major fund raising drives include an annual Seed Faith Drive where each woman is encouraged to sow \$100.00 into the ministry. In 2008, alone, the women have sown \$10,000.00 into the national office and have purchased a drum set complete with Congo drums and glass enclosure. Upgrades to the cafeteria and kitchen, the reconstruction of the stage in the convention center and the decorations have all been funded by this ministry.

Each November, a seniors luncheon and a Thanksgiving dinner, where the Administrative Bishop and other ministers join the women, are held compliments of the Women's Ministries.

It is evident that the Women's Ministries in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands are on the move and play an active role in the ministry of the Church of God in these islands.