

National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington, DC 20035
202-744-0184
dcbci2002@gmail.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

Contact:

Rev. Anthony Evans
202-744-0184

May 27, 2011
For Immediate Release

NBCI and The Black Church Are Embarrassed By Bishop Eddie Long

Sanctions Should Be Imposed On Bishop Long For Abuse

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, is outraged that Bishop Eddie Long has settled his sexual abuse case out of court. The accusations of the four teenage boys in this case are too serious to not be brought to light – Bishop Long himself even asserted that he would fight the case to prove his innocence.

The truth was not illuminated. Justice was not achieved.

Despite the fact that Bishop Long is not an NBCI member, we monitor the behavior of all clergy as it reflects on the Church as a whole. Christian leaders must set an example of the moral code preached to the faithful – abuse cannot be tolerated. This case, combined with the decades of scandals within the Catholic Church, tarnishes the reputation of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI has admitted that "the greatest persecution of the church doesn't come from enemies on the outside but is born from the sin within the church." The Protestant Church cannot afford to experience the same breach of trust, scandalous abuse of power and lack of transparency. Bishop Long's refusal to adjudicate this case in the court system is a glaring illustration of guilt – one that the church cannot afford to endorse.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, "NBCI does not hesitate to condemn clergy who abuse the trust given to them by their parishioners. We have worked diligently to partner with organizations to prevent abuse and counsel the abused - SNAP, the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests, is doing particularly good work to protect those abused by the faith-based community. We de-fellowship Bishop Long and his church for three years for condoning this behavior – we can ill afford to allow abusers in the House of God. His position, after time, should be restored by members of his congregation."

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical

analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.