

# National Black Church Initiative

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **National Black Church Initiative Offer Prayers and Hope for the Tragedy in Haiti**

### *Black Church Mobilizes Relief Supplies and Donations for Haiti*

#### *NBCI Joins with the Hip Hop Caucus to Raise Awareness and Money*

**Washington DC** – [The National Black Church Initiative](#), a coalition of 34,000 churches across the United States, offers its prayers and hope to those affected by the tragedy that is unfolding in Haiti. The people of Haiti must maintain hope in the face of this horrific event. Reports of over 100,000 people losing their lives at the end of this disastrous event are beginning to surface. Words cannot express the sorrow that is felt deeply within the heart of the Black Church, which is comprised of tens of thousands of Haitians and those of Haitian descent.

NBCI is not going to get into the philosophical or theological reasons as to why God would allow this to happen, as those discussions, we believe, rightfully will need to take place at a later date. God is calling upon all people of good will, across faith and cultural traditions, to pray and donate money to help alleviate the pain and suffering this tragedy has caused. The Haitian people have an enduring history of suffering, but they also have an enduring history of triumph. The National Black Church Initiative will stand with Haiti, and all of its sons and daughters, as we acquire the ability to answer this tragic calling.

NBCI and the Hip Hop Caucus will be working together in order to help the Haitian people. This is a unique alliance between the Black Church and the Hip Hop Caucus that has formed thanks to our common goal of helping make the world a better and stronger place.

**A press conference announcing their plans to work together in order to help the people of Haiti will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010 at 11 a.m. The conference will be held at:**

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
5101 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
Tel. (202)726-2220  
[www.MTZBC-DC.org](http://www.MTZBC-DC.org)**

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, said, “We will deal with the theological reasons later. For right now, we must roll up our sleeves and go to work to help stop the long term suffering of the Haitian people, and to wipe the tears of their sorrows away. I have issued a presidential directive to Rev. Mark McCleary to mobilize NBCI’s 34,000 strong coalition.”

NBCI is declaring that its churches, starting this upcoming Sunday, January 17, will hold a day of mourning and prayer. **NBCI is also asking all faith-based communities across denominations and faith lines to take up a special donation for the Haitian people for the next four Sundays, (January 17, 24, 31 and February 7)** and donate the money to Wyclef Jean’s organization. We plan to work with the hip/hop artist Wyclef Jean, who is of Haitian descent, to coordinate NBCI’s efforts, and we are encouraging all of our membership across the country to donate \$5 by simply texting, YELE to 501501. NBCI is planning a news conference in the next several days to highlight the Black Church’s response to this tragedy.

### **About NBCI**

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI’s purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.