

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release

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PRESS RELEASE

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National Black Church Initiative Mourns the Death of Michael Jackson

*NBCI offers prayers to the family, friends and fans of the King
of Pop*

Washington, DC – The tragic and sudden death of Michael Jackson on June 25 shocked the world and saddened many. NBCI mourns the loss of one of the nation’s greatest talents and joins with the tens of millions of fans across the world in praying for his family and friends. Jackson was truly an inspiration to youth across the country, especially Black children looking for a similar face on television and in the music scene. From early childhood it was clear that Jackson was an immense talent and gave the Black community strength by being the greatest pop star ever. His music will live on far beyond his years and hopefully influence more and more young Black musicians to express themselves through art.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative, said, “Michael Jackson loved God and openly confessed his faith in Jesus Christ – this I know. Those of us who are Christian will see Michael again. Michael was God sent as an example of that when God touches your life how talented you can become. I grew up listening to Michael as a fan and as an admirer, and I am the same age Michael was. What a talent, what a voice, what a song stylist. We thought that we would never see the likes of this talent again, but our history is littered with great talents both Black and White. I am sure that God will send us another Michael, maybe equally as talented. I am moved by the outpouring of love that people around the world genuinely had for Michael, and it is that love that sustained him. That was the one thing that he cherished – the love of his fans. Now that Michael has left this part of his destiny, and now resides in the hands of the Lord the only thing that we can say to God is ‘thank you.’ Thank for

allowing us to be alive to witness such extraordinary talent and grace. Goodbye Michael, we will always love you and the Black church solutes you.”

NBCI wishes to offer any help it can to those who are hurt by this tragic loss. The doors to our 34,000 churches across the country are open to any wishing to mourn, pray or seek comfort after learning of Jackson’ death. A life cut short, especially one that brought so many so much joy, is a terrible occurrence and can truly affect people deeply. NBCI is always willing to support those who feel lost or depressed by this or any other death.

NBCI hopes that Jackson’s death will also be a warning to world about the rigors of overwork and possible medication overuse. Jackson was not only a legendary musician, but also a troubled individual and it is saddening to see that he did not get the support he needed to truly live a healthy life. Still, NBCI urges everyone to remember Jackson as a talented musician, humanitarian and groundbreaking artist, and to look past the allegations and erratic behavior to not only the music he gave us, but the cultural changes he delivered to the industry and the world itself by breaking down race barriers and cultural stereotypes.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. 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.