



ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE CORPORATION of Seventh-day Adventists®

OPEN LETTER TO AEC

Yesterday the President of the United States made some unfortunate and inaccurate statements regarding citizens of countries that do not have the same financial standing as America. The remarks focused on immigrants of color, in general, and Haiti, in particular. I condemn these comments and any comments or actions that seek to minimize, devalue and discriminate against any person based on origin, heritage, ethnicity and geographic location.

I would remind those in positions of power and influence that this country was built on the backs of immigrants from all races. We should be grateful for men like Alix Pasquet, who served this country as a Tuskegee Airman in World War II, as well as others in the sciences, arts and our church.

As a child I was able to appreciate the work of my uncle, W.W. Fordham, who as an evangelist, helped erect the largest church in Haiti at the time. Just a few short years ago I had the opportunity myself to help restore that same church after the devastating earthquakes. That experience deepened my appreciation for my Haitian brothers and sisters.

We are grateful for the ministries that serve our immigrant communities and the value these men and women of God bring to this conference and this nation.

The mission of our church has never been more clear. **We offer love where there is hate. We provide hope where there is despair.** We preach a message of truth in a world full of deceit. **We show compassion in a world of growing indifference and suffering.**

I thank all of you for what you do to spread this faith, but take heed,...
your work has just begun!

Yours in Christ,

Henry J. Fordham, III

President