

## **THE NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION YOUTH OUT OF CRISIS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM**



### **APPOINTMENT OF REV. DWIGHT HARRISON AS NATIONAL CHAIR**



It is with great excitement that Rev. Dwight Harrison has been appointed to head The National Transformation Youth Out of Crisis Spiritual Leadership Consortium. Rev. Harrison comes to the helm of the national consortium with a long history of committed community service, involvement and benevolence.

As the Executive Director of Breaking the Cycle, as well as Host of the Breaking the Cycle Radio Talk Show, he has used his media influence to advocate for change within the lives of boys and men, and their families. His focus and life work has been on equipping, empowering and educating men.

He has been an advocate of economic and social change, and feels that the church has to be about more than just the spiritual mission. Rev. Dwight says, "With a church in every neighborhood, and one on practically every corner, 42% of all children in Chattanooga live in poverty. What about their spiritual condition? If we don't reach out to them, the streets will!"

In his earlier years, Dwight was well known as the WNOO, Master Soul radio announcer. Since then, he has hosted his own program, The Beat and Breaking the Cycle, 96.1, with prominent guests ranging from the mayor of Chattanooga, to judges and anyone who has a vested interest in the community and can be a part of the "forward move of change" for especially black males.



With the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee plagued with violence, he has hit the streets literally, with his message and mandate of the community “Taking A Stand Against Violence!”

As a part of his Warrior’s Project, Rev. Dwight is in the streets organizing, empowering and encouraging young men to take their places as men – head of their households as providers and protectors. His message is that “It's pass time to break the cycle of poverty, spiritual bondage, violence, incarceration, and domestic violence!”

And each time there is violence resulting in death, he also is there to console the victim’s families and the community with Prayer Vigils and free food as long as it lasts for kids and those impacted.

With bull horn in hand, he leads The Warrior Project, with emphases on the fact that ...it's a movement which shall press ahead until there is change within the lives of those affected.

Not only has his focus been on black men, and men in general, he also has taken a stand against domestic violence. In an interview with Venus Mathews, a domestic violence case worker and Judge Christie Sell, Rev. Dwight points out that,

“One out of every 3 women will be in some type of domestic violence act! General Sessions Judge Christie Sell and I discussed this taboo subject, that is on the rise in our community and across the nation. Already, there have been at least 3 deaths within the last month or so in Chattanooga due to domestic violence! We must continue to bring much needed awareness to this issue before it strike again!”

He is out in the impacted communities with Breaking The Cycle, Transition Ministry and UniverSoul Promotions, partnering to ascertain the needs of public housing, such as the Emma Wheeler Homes.

While spending a weekend in Wheeler Homes, he met over 20 young men looking for guidance, hope and somebody to follow. To make matters worse, the young man wanted to play basketball, but found only a dilapidated ball court. He left discouraged because of its condition.

“Wouldn't we rather have our youth shooting hoops instead of bullets? Look at the condition of the basketball goal. We will not rest until we find out who WILL replace these dilapidated goals with new ones”.

Moved and grieved by his observation of young boys asking for something as simple and basic as a basketball goal net, he took action, putting together a team of black men to make this happen.

“After putting up the basketball nets”, says Rev. Dwight, “I knew GOD wanted us to do more! Beginning June 21st, we'll feed the children, meet the residents and, assess what are their basic needs of our brothers and sisters. With over 700 social services in this area, the basic needs will be met with the help from GOD!”



And he kept that promise, by doing just as he said he would. He returned with food and other basic needs for these young men and their families.



Not only this, but Rev. Harrison annually does a Toy Drive for Christmas to make sure no kid in the community has to wake up on Christmas morning with nothing under the tree.

As a part of Breaking The Cycle, those gifts were delivered to homes and the Children's Hospital. He does this without seeking recognition –the smiles and happy faces of children and their families are enough to make his efforts worthwhile.

Citing U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rev. Dwight points out that in some parts of our city, [Chattanooga, Tennessee], the unemployment rate is as high as 29%. Over 75 shootings have taken place! From the airways of his weekly radio talk show, he concludes and commits to action, and not just mere words and sermons.

“It is pass time to break the cycle of chronic unemployment! More of our younger black men are turning to crime; there is a reason!! More women are falling into violence for a reason! Breaking The Cycle along with ReDirect, and others to be announced, is announcing a community-wide movement, "From Poverty to Prosperity." This movement's objective is to engage, prepare, enlighten and empower individuals who need: legal advice, expungement of criminal records, diversity coping skills, specific job search skills, etc and other means of not only facing the challenges of finding a job, but perhaps a career. We are coming to: the College Hill Courts, East Lake, Wheeler Homes housing areas, and other communities to be announced as well as dates and times. We will discuss this movement every Sunday morning on **Breaking The Cycle**, until it changes!”

These are but only a few of the many timeless efforts of Rev. Dwight Harrison. His love, devotion and commitment to positive change, go beyond his clerical calling, and compels him into the streets, where change is most needed.

It is for these reasons that we are privileged, excited and fortunate to have him head this national consortium of spiritual leadership. He brings to the table a wealth of true servanthood, and an understanding of the issues facing communities. Not only this, but he comes as a “man of action” and not just mere words – one who is not interested in being in the pulpit or the public eye, but in the streets - where he can be effective and influential as a leader and role model for “change”.

Thank you Rev. Harrison for your leadership and commitment to The National Transformation Youth Out of Crisis Spiritual Leadership Consortium. We look forward to working with you nationwide in this effort to facilitate “positive and meaningful change”.

Dr. Jean Howard-Hill,  
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