

# African American Mission Giving

Table 1.—A Comparison of Selected AFAM and White Per Capita and Per Church Denominational Overseas Ministry Income

Denomination	1993 Overseas Denomination Income	Giving/Year/Member ( ) = member total year	Giving/Year/ Church ( ) = church total year
<b>AFAM Denominations:</b>			
African Methodist Episcopal Church	\$ 250,000 \$ 41,151 (1951)	\$ 0.07 (1991) \$ 0.06 (1951)	\$ 31 (1991)
A.M.E.Zion Church	\$ 251,000 \$ 60,000 (1951)	\$ 0.20 (1994) \$ 0.14 (1951)	\$ 81 (1994)
Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God	\$ 25,000	\$ 2.02 (1994)	\$ 156 (1994)
National Baptist Convention of America	\$ 143,051 43,525 (1951)	\$ 0.02 (1987)	\$ 57 (1987)
National Baptist Convention USA	\$ 3,265,802 \$ 300,000 (1951)	\$ 0.40 (1992) \$ 0.09 (1951)	\$ 99 (1992)
<b>White Denominations:</b>			
Presbyterian Church, USA	\$25,200,000	\$ 6.81 (1994)	\$2,211 (1994)
Christian & Missionary Alliance	\$18,106,800	\$59.87 (1993)	\$9,319.00 (1993)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	\$28,858,141	\$ 5.55 (1994)	\$2,630 (1994)

Sources: *Mission Handbook 1993-95*, Siewart & Kenyon; *The American Negro as a Foreign Missionary*, (1953) Calvin Roesler

If per capita giving in the AME Church in 1991 had remained constant for inflation since 1951, giving would have been 39 cents, not seven cents, which represents an amazing 82 percent decline in actual purchasing power (Friedman 1998). Similarly AMEZ giving in 1994 would have to have been 84 cents per capita--20

cents representing a precipitous decline of 76 percent, even considering the token amounts involved. The NBC, USA giving in 1992 would have to have been 51 cents to keep up with inflation, but was 40 cents, a 22 percent decline in giving in 41 years. These three major African American denominations seem to be much less committed to cross-cultural giving and ministry in this decade than they were in 1951. Current statistics for most African American denominations are very difficult to obtain.

The comparison to white denominations is simply to ground the data by a real-life comparison. A liberal (PCUSA), conservative (C&MA) and somewhat moderate (ELCA) denomination were selected for this purpose.

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