EASTER 2016 MOMENT FOR MISSION

By Rev. Dr. Timothy James, National Convocation

GREAT FAITH

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” John 10: 17-18

Easter is a time when every Christian’s faith is reaffirmed, encouraged and reinforced. Lenten observances, exercises and disciplines serve to draw us closer to God in prayer, contemplation and renewal. We are reminded time and again that it is our faith that pleases God. It demonstrates our trust in and dependency upon God.

What is most appealing to me at Easter time is to recognize the faith of Jesus. He is called the Author and Finisher of our Faith, and rightfully so. These verses in the tenth chapter of John talk about the faith that Jesus had in God. This faith came from an intimate relationship that they maintained throughout the earthly mission and ministry of Jesus. He lived obediently, selflessly and totally committed to doing the will of God. Jesus was confident in fulfilling the work of loving, living and dying because the love of God was never absent or uninvolved. Such love gave Him power and authority to know that he could lay down His life and take it up again. This is indeed great faith.

Our church exercises great faith through our Easter Offering. This offering reaches out through our General Ministries to assist in bringing life, love and learning to the church and beyond. Your faithful giving is the essential support in our continuation and participation in great faith as exemplified by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.