



### **BIOGRAPHY OF REVEREND MIRIAM J. BURNETT**

Rev Miriam J. Burnett, President of R.A.P.H.A., Inc., a non-profit Health Education and Promotion Consulting Company, and Chair of the National Council of Churches's USA Justice and Advocacy Commission and member of its Health Taskforce, is pleased to be affiliated with the New York City production of The Pocketbook Monologues.

Dr. Burnett is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, presently Medical Director of the Connectional Health Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and an Associate Minister at Flipper Temple AMEC in Atlanta, Georgia. As a minister and medical doctor, Reverend Burnett is a strong advocate of 'holistic health,' a concept that embodies physical, psychological and spiritual health, and powerfully explained in her speeches across the US and the globe.

One of her overwhelming foci is finding ways to combat the AIDS pandemic in the global arena. Her passion is reflected in her call on Faith-based organizations to join together against the onslaught of the HIV/Aids pandemic. For her work across the church, the justice system, and the education of new theologians, Dr. Burnett embodies the rallying cry for a comprehensive approach to healing that encourages dialogue as it seeks resources, de-stigmatizes as it supports, educates as it medicates.

As leader of R.A.P.H.T.A., Inc., (Resource And Promotion of Health Alliance, Inc.), she oversees a health education and promotion consulting company for faith-based (FBO) and community (CBO) organizations striving to optimize health for their clients. RAPHTA proactively assists FBO's and CBO's to find better ways to collaborate with federal, state and local governmental agencies, other health related entities and other FBO's, and CBO's, enabling FBO's and CBO's to maximize their functionality in a complex, bureaucratic world.

Rev. Burnett sees AME and the rest of the Black Church as a powerful emissary of this form of healing, whose approach is based on the ancient African view of total mind/body and soul wholeness. She is a powerful, determined exponent of the Social Gospel and a catalyst for change in approach to health on a national and global level. She sees FBOs as specifically

empowered to create this possibility and has put the power of her commitment and her organization to support their efforts.

She is credentialed in all aspects of medicine from Chief of Respiratory Therapy, administrative leader as medical director to the adrenaline corner of care in the emergency room to the continuation of creating great healers as an instructor of medicine. She was a zealot in obtaining her credentials, often times pursuing dual degrees and certifications simultaneously. She received a B. A. in Psychology from York College of the City University of New York in 1981; then undertook postgraduate studies in 1983 from Queens College of CUNY; became a Doctor of Medicine in 1987. Dr. Burnett completed her internship and medical residency at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Specializing in Internal Medicine, she is licensed by the States of Georgia. Thirteen years later, she obtained a Master of Public Health in 2000 in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia along with a Master of Divinity from Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rev. Burnett was born the eldest of two daughters in Jamaica, New York to James Alphonso Burnett and the late M. Juliette Dickson Burnett, who prepared for a multi-faceted, challenging career quite early. Dr. Burnett has served her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a charter member of Nu Mu (Queens County Undergraduate Chapter), president, secretary, parliamentarian officer and assistant graduate advisor. Currently she is a life and a convention member. She is the recipient of many social, civic, and academic awards as fitting for a citizen with such a large appetite for education and service to her community.

Above all, Dr. Miriam Burnett is a person focused upon service with compassion, work with excellence and love without bias.