

# Nannie Demands No Less of Us

"Today terrible conditions and serious race tensions and conflicts are tormenting the lives of people in both races in every section of the country." - *Nannie Helen Burroughs, 1956*. At a Women's Convention in 1960 Burroughs declared: "**The day of the protest has come out of centuries of suffering, but the weapons of black warfare must NOT be frustration and hate. Rather, African Americans must use education, improvement of home and family life and Christian Living to achieve their goals.**" **Is this declaration relevant to today?**



- **Education:** 1. Develop every student in positive character traits - The right attitude towards work and pride and skill in their chosen profession. 2. Prepare them to enter into competition with any and all workers who are engaged in the same, without fear or apology. 3. Prepare them to clean up the environment in which they live. Her school was called "The School of the 3 B's, Bible, Bath and Broom" - symbolic of clean lives, clean bodies, and clean homes.
- **The Home:** She believed there was a vast difference between a House (a building intended for habitation) and a Home. A Home consisted of elementary social virtues and values: love, godliness, understanding, cooperation, industry, kindness, courtesy, unselfishness, cleanliness, order and happiness...If two people whom God joined together put their hearts and head together ---a House will eventually become a Home.
- **The Church/Christian Living:** In a speech at the 1920 National Baptist Convention, she declared: "We might as well be frank and face the truth. While we have hundreds of superior men in the pulpits...the majority of our religious leaders have preached too much Heaven and too little practical Christian Living." Men, she argued, must welcome women into the affairs of government. "Women must organize and educate."

Nannie Helen Burroughs recognized that our women were **Builders**, who understood the essence of the basic fabrics of all aspects of America. On the

political scene, she encouraged white and black women to join forces, seek common ground, and fight racism.

As our women "...organize and educate" **Nannie**

**Demands No Less** than women across the spectrum of race come together and discuss the relevancy of her views to the problems facing America today.

**Colonel (Retired) James E. Wyatt, Project Founder**

