

# *Naomi Doles Mitchell Sellers National Youth Missionary Grant*

## Guidelines

### **I. Introduction**

Over the years, the National Sunday School & HYM Congress has helped to send numerous young people to Africa, the Dominican Republic and other destinations for short term mission trips. These trips, sponsored by the World Mission Board of the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A., have proven to be life changing experiences for our young people. Those who have been blessed to witness and serve abroad reap extraordinary benefits, including (1) exposure to diverse people and cultures, (2) greater appreciation for their own material blessings, and (3) respect for the work of missionaries and our own World Mission Board.

Many return from their short term mission trips with inspirational testimonies about the Lord's miraculous acts. Nearly all who engage in this type of ministry express a burning desire to do it again. It is our desire to help young people reach the mission field by providing grants which will help to defray some of the costs associated with short term mission trips.

### **II. Naomi Doles Mitchell Sellers**

It is altogether fitting that this grant be named in honor of Naomi Doles Sellers, trailblazing missionary to Liberia, West Africa. As recounted in her excellent biography, *All Because of Calvary*, Missionary Sellers answered the call to the mission field as a young woman after hearing an appeal from a missionary who spoke to her junior college class:

*As Rev. Waite gave the invitation, I knew I had to go forward. I felt compelled to make a total commitment – a full surrender for service. I didn't look around to see what other people were doing. I was only concerned about me and my commitment. I gave my life to the Lord for whatever He wanted to do with it. If He wanted me to go to Africa, the Islands, India, China or Japan; wherever, it did not matter.*

After diligently preparing for the mission field by completing a four year course of study in Bible and Missionary Training and receiving a diploma from Prairie Bible Institute, Missionary Sellers eagerly applied to several mission boards. They all turned her down. She was disappointed but not discouraged, stating, "I was shocked when they turned me down because I was a Negro. When I saw that I could not easily get to Africa, there was nothing to do but wait." The young, determined missionary in waiting took a job as Registrar at Carver Bible Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. While there she was given the opportunity to teach and meet missionaries who often visited the school. In 1955 Carver organized one of the first interracial mission boards. It was organized with

one primary mission: to send Naomi Doles to Liberia! Her testimony after that experience: “When there is no door, the God we serve can make a door!”

The rest is history. Missionary Sellers served from 1956-1987 as one of the most accomplished and beloved missionaries in the world. Her achievements include:

- Co-founder of Monrovia Bible Institute of Liberia, West Africa
- Co-founder of Conic Mission, Sinoe County, Liberia, West Africa
- Co-founder of Church of Christ Holiness of Liberia, West Africa
- Co-founder of Women’s Corp of Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.
- Teaching and training others for work in the mission field
- Learning several African dialects in order to communicate and share the Gospel
- Leading countless men, women, boys and girls to Christ through Sunday School, Bible Clubs and Bible Studies
- Inspiring COCHUSA and other denominations to commit more time, energy and resources to missions

We thank God for the tremendous ministry of Missionary Sellers who, as a young person, committed her whole heart to the Lord. By naming this grant in her honor, we endeavor to further publicize her inspirational life story while challenging young people today to follow her lead.

### **III. Awards**

- A. Three (3) grants of \$400 will be awarded to deserving applicants during the annual session of the National Sunday School & HYM Congress
- B. Grants may be used only for the purpose of defraying costs of mission trips sponsored by the World Mission Board of the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.
- C. Funds will be disbursed to applicants pursuant to the following terms:
  1. The National Congress President must receive confirmation from the Chairman of the World Mission Board of the scheduling, for a date certain, of a short term mission trip
  2. The short term mission trip must be youth oriented or youth inclusive as so designated by the World Mission Board
  3. Funds must be utilized to defray costs of a short term mission trip within a six (6) month period after distribution of funds to applicant
- D. Each winner shall receive, in addition to the monetary award of \$400, a copy of *All Because of Calvary, The Naomi Doles Story*.

## **IV. Eligibility**

- A. Applicant must be between fifteen (15) years of age and twenty-one (21) years of age *at the time of the mission trip*.
- B. Applicant must be member of Sunday School, HYM or YAM of a Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.
- C. Applicant must be either in high school, trade school, technical school, junior college, or graduate school. Otherwise, scholarship applicant must demonstrate that he or she has applied to one of the aforementioned educational institutions or that he or she is gainfully employed.
- D. Applicant may not receive more than two (2) grants.

## **V. Naomi Doles Mitchell Sellers Grant Committee**

- A. The President of the National Sunday School and HYM Congress shall appoint a standing Naomi D.M. Sellers committee of three (3) persons.
- B. The President shall consult with the chairman of the World Mission Board and shall endeavor to ensure that one member of the World Mission Board serves on the Naomi D.M. Sellers Grant committee.

## **V. Application Process**

- A. All interested persons must complete the official Naomi D.M. Sellers Missionary Grant Application.
- B. Applicant must submit letter of recommendation from his or her pastor and either Sunday School Superintendent, HYM Coordinator or YAM Coordinator.
- C. Applicant must submit typed essay of at least 250 words on one of the following topics:
  - 1. "My Education: How God prepared me for Missions"
  - 2. "My Explanation: Why I Want to Complete Short Term Mission Trip"
  - 3. "My Example: How I was led to the Mission Field"
  - 4. "My Engine: My Drive to Get Involved in Missions"
  - 5. "My Epiphany: How the Lord Showed Me the Importance of Missions"
- D. Applicants must be interviewed by the standing Naomi D.M. Sellers Committee.

E. All documents (application, essay and recommendation) must be submitted to the chairman of the Naomi D.M. Sellers committee during the annual Pre-Congress Executive Board meeting or 90 days prior to the scheduled mission trip as set forth by the World Mission Board of the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.

## **VI. Winning Criteria**

- A. Applicant may receive up to 25 points for recommendations
- B. Applicant may receive up to 25 points for essay
- C. Applicant may receive up to 50 points for interview
- D. Grants shall be awarded to applicants with highest scores based on above criteria as determined by the standing Naomi D.M. Sellers Grant Committee.