



Thursday, December 9, 2010

## **WARNING – SCAM ALERT for MCHCA Church Family**

Please be aware that there is a scam being perpetrated on the MCHCA church family. The story behind the scam is very believable and persuasive because the persons involved claim they have a very close relationship with Archbishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr. and have been sent by him for assistance. You are being presented with a story of a family in dire need and you are being targeted because of your spiritual desire to assist those in need. The persons who call seem to be well acquainted with the organizational structure of our pastoral staff contacting pastors in various states pleading desperate and dire circumstances that would require financial assistance to remedy.

The most recent story behind the scam is summarized below. However, remember that because this is a scam, the name of the clergy, church, names and details are likely to change.

MCHCA Pastors are receiving phone calls regarding a need for immediate assistance:

- The person represents himself as Bishop James Johnson from New Light Pentecostal Fellowship Church
- The person claims a close, long-term friendship with Archbishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr.
- Bishop Johnson asks for your help in taking care of a family that is traveling and needs your assistance in monitoring their safe passage to your area
- They ask for your personal contact information to give to the person traveling.
- That person contacts you later to inform you of a car accident that requires immediate repair to avoid being stranded
- You are referred to a business, bank or other institution that can accept your monetary assistance, for quick transfer of funds

### **What To Do**

- Do not provide any personal information about yourself
- Do not wire any funds or make arrangements to meet anyone to provide them with monetary assistance
- Immediately contact MCHCA office at (202) 529-4547

Blessings and Regards