



March 8, 2010

Mr. Daniel G. Stockin, MPH
The Lillie Center Inc. P.O.
Box 839 Ellijay GA 30540

Dear Mr. Stockin:

Post Office Box 40949
Memphis, Tennessee
38174-0949
PHONE: 901.789.1173
FAX: 901.785.5279
www.caapusa.org

As President of the Coalition of African American Pastors I am writing to document our opposition to water fluoridation. In learning about the developments surfacing now, we cannot support the idea of adding the chemical fluoride to drinking water. There are several reasons for this.

1. African Americans are at greater risk for so many diseases today, and since the National Research Council has stated that kidney patients and diabetics are especially vulnerable to harm from ingested fluorides, and since we all know that blacks are deeply affected by kidney and diabetes ailments, supporting fluoridation that provides uncontrolled dosing of fluorides does not make sense.

2. Fluoridation takes away people's choice - many people can't afford unfluoridated bottled water or a home water fluoride removal system. So these families have no choice but to drink fluoridated water if it comes into their homes. If people want fluorides, they can use fluoridated toothpaste. This retains people's choice.

3. Research shows that black children ingest significantly more fluorides than white children, and that black Americans have more staining of their teeth that demonstrates excessive intake of fluorides as a child.

4. Putting fluoride in water assumes a one-size-fits-all approach, that all people, regardless of body weight or medical history, can drink unlimited amounts of water with fluoride in it. As pastors we believe the Biblical truth that our bodies are the temple of God, and that we have a responsibility to take care of these temples. So we must take issue with bringing into our bodies unknown amounts this substance fluoride that comes at us from all directions in foods made with fluoridated water, beverages, water, drugs, pesticide and fumigant residues, etc.

Attempting to prevent cavities by medicating us in drinking water does not resonate as being a smart thing to do. We cannot support water fluoridation, and we encourage church members to educate themselves about this issue.

Sincerely,

Reverend William Owens

Board of Directors
Reverend William Owens
The Coalition of African-American Pastors (CAAP)
Metropolitan Church of God in Christ Memphis, TN
Deborah Owens
The Coalition of African-American Pastors (CAAP)
Memphis, TN
Bishop George McKinney
St. Stephens Church of God in Christ
San Diego, CA
David Dryer, Esq.
Dryer and Associates
Tulsa, OK
Edward Holliday, DOS
Tupelo, MS
Jim Holley, Ph.D.
Little Rock Baptist Church
Detroit, MI
Bishop Phillip Porter
Promise Keepers
Denver, CO
Rev. Robert Taylor
Taylors Chapel MBOFirst
Memphis, TN
Reverend David Welch
Houston Area Pastor
Council
Houston, TX
R. Darren Sanford, CPA
Memphis, TN