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Greetings Cousins,

Consistent with every blessing is the requirement to give thanks to God for our very existence and all blessings that flows our way. I once again return giving you thanksgiving for allowing me to work in your behalf, by electing me National Chairman of this great family this past June. I hope that my efforts will prove to be worthy of the continued faith that you have demonstrated in me.

My love and commitment to this family has and will always be paramount as we all traverse trough this new modern age, hand and hand together. Our sojourn this trip, will expectedly have a different flavor, which will require a more accelerated response as we move forward. We want and encourage "All" cousins to come back, step forward and get involved; "there is something that each of you can offer."

I am encouraged by the growing number of youth who have committed themselves (and parents) with seemingly renewed enthusiasm in attending several of our most recent reunions. The importance of this kind of commitment, by our youth bares the fruit of longevity, especially long after the seniors have given their very best and passed on.

I'd like to encourage each of you to login and obtain access to the Cousins website (<http://www.nationalcousinsreunion.org>) and Facebook page (The National Cousins Family Reunion) on a continuous basis; we are currently in the middle of upgrading our material on these sites and you will find many things of interest and importance in the days to come.

As a former educator, I remain concerned about our children's academic progress, and I encourage all our youth to excel in your studies. I am hoping that we have a record number of Scholarship recipient's in Washington DC at next year reunion. The revised scholarship requirements will be placed on the Cousins website, please become familiar with the changes.

As I close, I offer each of you reading the letter a challenge. If you are not a member of a Cousins chapter, "join one or start one". If you need help starting a chapter, call any member of the Executive Board. We will help you get started. Check the Websites for persons who are "Points of Contact" in various areas. There may be cousins all around you and you don't even know it. If you can't reach them contact me at, (313) 515-2008, omcgriff@sbcglobal.net. Tell me what's on your mind and, I'll get back with you.

Finally, I also want to commend all those who as leaders have continued to lead this family for so many years, in spite of the struggles and the demands of society; and held this family together to prepare for what will be our greatest achievement thus far, our 50th Family Reunion.



And most importantly, to those cousins who have been with us every year, through it all, we say God Bless You; we will see you in Washington DC. LST

Sincerely,

Othniel O. McGriff
National Chairman