



## **Barbara Nzapa McCarroll - Jones**

Sister Nzapa holds a Bachelor of Science degree, a Master of Arts and a Master of Liberal Studies all from Eastern Michigan University. She is currently a Ph.D.C. at Capella University.

In 1977, the mother Shrine of the Black Madonna selected Sis. Nzapa to run for a position on the Detroit Region One School Board. In this capacity, she served as curriculum chair person for five years (Jan, 1978-Dec. 1982). During her tenure as curriculum chair, it was brought to her attention that as new curriculum chairpersons for their individual school enter the position, they are not clear on what's going on or what their responsibilities are. This prompted her to authorize and partially author a *Curriculum Person's Handbook*, an action that had not been undertaken in the years prior.

Her campaign slogan was, *"concerned about youth, since her youth."* This slogan rang true since from the age of six years old she began feeding hungry children in her neighborhood. Additionally, she has demonstrated her concern for the young in various other ways. For example, from ages thirteen through sixteen, she worked as a volunteer with her mother, Sis. SalaDamaliAssata, as an assistant with a Girl Scout troop and a 4H club group for adolescent and teen girls. The 4H club's specialty was sewing. She wrote proposals for grant money through United Community Services for three years and directed summer youth programs. Two of the three years, she won awards for outstanding summer programs.

Sis. Nzapa was a house mother in the church's first Mtoto House and served as the cook as well. During the four years she worked with the Mtoto House, she never missed one day feeding the children. She also conducted arts and craft activities including sewing class, ceramics class, plants class, the God's eyes project, and more. At the end of the summer, the children set up an art gallery to display their works and the sewing class put on a fashion show that 'brought the house down.'

After the church acquired the BCN National Training Center in 1972, the training center staff, all of whom were volunteers, had to be fed. Sis. Nzapa became the breakfast cook, feeding the staff until the big kitchen opened. When the commercial kitchen opened, she along with a Maccabee were the first volunteer cooks in the big kitchen.

This sister has taken on many volunteer projects in her lifetime. Her most recent projects are the shoes for Liberian children and women collection and the church's monthly food program as well as working with her group (IFG 3) on special projects.

In addition to her volunteer work, Sis. Nzapa is busy teaching Fundamentals of Speech, Advanced Public Speaking, and Interpersonal Communication at Wayne County Community College District. She also teaches Speech Fundamentals at Henry Ford Community College. As an adjunct professor, she continues to feed people, not with food, but with knowledge. She enjoys teaching speech at the college level and with predominately black students because of the flexibility it affords her. In her own words, "my teaching position allows me to educate my people with knowledge that is relevant to our race and necessary for our very survival."

*Teachers open doors. You enter them by yourself.....A Chinese Proverb*

