



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Region 6
Louisiana, Mississippi
New Mexico, Oklahoma
Texas, Indian Nations

819 Taylor Street Room 8A38
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6177

January 1, 2010

Dear Pastor:

Each new year is an opportunity to correct mistakes of the past. But unfortunately, each year we continue to see lives lost from the same preventable mistakes. Many of these mistakes happen on our community's streets and highways, and deaths and injuries as a result of motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death for all people ages 3 - 34. Last year our nation's seat belt use rate rose to 84 percent, yet in a given year, over 60 percent of African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained at the time of the crash. Please help us reach out to families in our community with lifesaving traffic safety messages, starting with your congregation.

You can help by being a voice for traffic safety, sharing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 6 Clergy Kit of lifesaving messages for January through March with your congregation and community.

In this quarter, the messages emphasize use of seat belts, plus reminders about teens, impaired driving, child passenger safety, and other suggestions for responsible driving. In addition, you'll find a Sunday school word scramble activity for distracted driving.

The Clergy Kit contains:

- Church Bulletin Safety Announcements for January - March 2010
- Pastor Notes for a Traffic Safety Sermon Message
- Weekly Safety Reminders
- Sunday School Activity for teen drivers and passengers

If you need additional information or other assistance to help promote traffic safety within your church, please contact Ministers Against Crime Regional Diversity Outreach Liaison Luther Perry at 817-978-0661, or visit www.coremessages.com for downloadable versions. Thank you for your efforts to prevent tragedies in your community!

Sincerely,

Georgia S. Chakiris
Regional Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration