



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

October 1, 2008

Dear Pastor:

African American communities in the United States have long considered drinking and driving to be a great traffic safety problem. In 2006 alone, 13,470 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, and traffic crashes continue to be the second highest cause of death for African Americans between 15 and 24 years of age.

To prevent tragedies in *your* community caused by traffic crashes, the enclosed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 6 Safety Clergy Kit is designed to provide you with safety messages for October through December.

In this quarter, the reminders for your congregation emphasize the importance of making good decisions to protect families and loved ones from dangers on the streets and highways, including wearing safety belts and never drinking and driving.

The Clergy Kit contains:

- Church Bulletin Safety Announcements for October through December 2008
- Pastor Notes for a Traffic Safety Sermon Message
- Weekly Safety Reminders
- Sunday School Activity

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](http://www.coremessages.com) for downloadable versions.

Sincerely,

Georgia S. Chakiris  
Regional Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration