

The Historic Mother Shrine
Telling Our Story
by Bishop William “Mbiyu” Moore

Carrying forward the rich seventy-two legacy of community involvement, social, political and economic transformation, the Mother Shrine has developed over a dozen institutional mechanisms to address the needs, issues and concerns of our beloved Detroit community. In 2000 we opened the Akwaaba Community Center, a community hub for youth education, cultural enrichment, social action, and economic opportunity. In 2001, the Pan African Ministry was established to build a platform for industrial and cultural exchange, and to build a network of communications and partnerships across West Africa, which includes work in: Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and now in Liberia. Bishop Moore has served as the U.S. representative for the Africa Cultures International Institute and taken dozens of politicians, business folks, and cultural groups to visit and learn the storied connection we share with these African countries. In 2003, an phase two of the Tree of Love Prison Ministry was launched in Detroit, volunteering with Ryan and Mound Correctional facilities until they closed in 2013, then moving to Macomb Correctional Facility where weekly classes covering a variety of topics from Fatherhood & Parenting, Self-Improvement, Emotional Intelligence, and Leadership Development.

In 2011, we established two churches in Monrovia & Ganta City Liberia, which was featured in the Swedish Film Institute’s documentary film, A Pan African Mission. The film which highlights the missionary work being done in Liberia, was released in the Spring of 2023, and has been shown in over a dozen foreign countries to date. In the fall of 2017, the Mother Shrine established its own Detroit Independent Freedom School which serves hundreds of neighborhood youth with Saturday school academic classes, art, African history, meditation, music and black literature. In 2018, in partnership with the Detroit Black Food Sovereignty Network, the Shrine Food Warriors program was initiated, featuring a community garden with raised beds yielding an abundance of crops, being regularly distributed to local neighborhoods. The Food Warriors continues today, educating youth about food systems, agriculture, food preservation, and recycling. In 2019, the Beulah Land Summer

Youth Camp was initiated.

This annual summer camp provides city youth with the opportunity to experience a fun-filled, four weeks of cultural enrichment, agricultural training, and group building in a rural setting, at our 3,800 acres farm, in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina. In 2020, the PAOCC Food Pantry opened its doors, distributing food to over 6,000 families in need since the covid-19 pandemic. In 2024, the Mother Shrine opened her doors to a new collaboration with Building Black Brick Masters, a local mentoring, training and development program for black boys and men was birthed. This partnership is currently working to revise the traditional Freedom School model, so that it can be replicated across the metro Detroit Community proving greater impact to more youth and their families. The Mother Shrine continues to expand our vision and mission to collectively cultivate a more abundant life through the spiritual pursuit of personal and social transformation for Black people at home and abroad.