The Foreign Mission Movement. Although the creation of the BFMC in 1880 reflected a longstanding commitment of black Baptists to foreign missions, the story of the foreign mission movement is not germane to the story of the formation of a black national denomination. [2] Nonetheless, a closer look at the ideology of this convention illustrates its major contribution to the unification movement.

The BFMC operated on the assumption that it would conduct foreign mission work, mostly in West Africa, while local associations and state conventions, which the assistance of the ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Society), would meet the evangelistic and educational needs of their local communities. Although there were several state conventions that supported African missions, this division of labor generally worked quite well so long as the brethren limited themselves to traditional forms of evangelism. But increasing discrimination against blacks in areas such as education, public accommodations, and job mandated a broadening of the preacher's understanding of evangelism. Some leaders began to accept the enormous problems of constituents were social irresponsibility. Most them wanted to change the nation, not to escape from it. (pgs. 414-415)

Washington, James M. (2003). The Making of a Church with the Soul of a Nation. In C. West, & E. S. Glaude, *African American Religious Thought* (pp. 414-415). Louisville, Kentucky, USA: Westminster John Knox Press.