



VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1
MARCH 2013

The PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.



The President Speaks...

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised for all of His goodness toward us!

I greet each of you, delegates, special guests, visitors, other attendees, and Progressive constituents, in the Mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

Welcome to the 99th Annual session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc. I am reminded that we are gathered in this great city of Jacksonville on the eve of our Centennial Celebration in 2014! Next year will be a year of reflection and Jubilation, when we shall “look where the Lord has brought us from!” God has been gracious to Progressive, and history will reflect a legacy of great accomplishments that He has allowed us to achieve.

We are looking forward to a blessed and glorious session this year, and I hope you have come to share the blessings that we all will receive from being here in Jacksonville. Special thanks to our hosts; Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown, Reverend Dr. H. T. Rhim, and Reverend Torin Dailey, along with the East Florida and Bethany Association, for all of their labor to ensure the success of our session this week. We salute you and your congregations for a job well done!

We pray that you will enjoy your stay in Jacksonville and most of all that you will be spiritually revived through our worship experiences this week. Have a safe trip back to your various homes.

Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr.
President

Theme:
The
Church:
Christ
Centered,
Mandate
Cultured,
Ministry
Commissioned

99th Annual Session



**WELCOME
TO THE
99TH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE PROGRESSIVE
MISSIONARY & EDUCATIONAL
BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
OF FLORIDA, INC.**



From the First Lady

It is with Jesus joy that I bring this greeting to you. I am so happy to be with you, the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida family. Thanks for all your cards, phone calls, monetary donations, and prayers. The Lord is still in the blessing business. It is just good to be on the Lord's side.

Now I know what it means when the hymn writer wrote, "I once was blind, but now I see." One thing I can truly say is when your body tells you something, you must listen to it. I praise God every day for my husband, the Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, who stayed by my side through every doctor's appointment, my hospital stay, and every procedure and surgery, and he is still by my side.

I praise God for my St. John family, my mother Directress Rosier, my driver Karen Peoples, my personal assistant Mrs. Lathorne Gallman, my daughter Barmeithia Banks, and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you Progressive

M and E for praying for me. Thank you Dr. Barbara Wright for always being a listening ear.

If it had not been for the Lord on my side, where would I be? Through any danger, toils and snares, I have already come. The race is not given to the swift, but to the one that endureth to the end. I know the Lord didn't bring me this far to leave me, and there is still much work to be done. So, I will keep on praying and trust in God for a complete healing. Again I say, **THANK YOU.**

We look forward to working with you and planning our centennial and having a great time in the Lord.

To God be the glory!

Lady vanessa Banks





March 2013

SENIOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of
Florida, Incorporated

Dr. Barbara F. Wright, Ministry President

Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr. Convention President

Greetings and Salutations to you in the Name Of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we gather for the 99th session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Incorporated, I reflected on the fact that we have so very much for which to be thankful. God has truly blessed us through the years. Our founding fathers and mothers had a grand vision in their quest towards unity, love, fellowship and support of one another as they broadened our outreach in kingdom building. Each generation has made a positive impact in the growth, spirituality and longevity of this convention. Can you believe it? As God wills, we're about to reach our Centennial Celebration. We can joyfully thank God for His divine favor!

In reflecting on our convention, past, present and the years to come, I perceive that one of our greatest needs is to evaluate our positioning on our "passion for purpose". Evidence abounds that we have majored in "being" while minoring in "purpose". Whatever reward the Lord has for us will not be given for our having been present. The reward is only for the service rendered to the kingdom of God.

Genesis 12:2b describes God's purpose for His gracious call. It says, I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." This verse speaks unequivocally of God's

purpose; that the chosen, "will be a blessing." It is evident in these words that much of the reason for the present day church's dilemma is that of not being a viable and effective tool in the hands of the Master to reconcile this world unto Himself. Is there evidence, for the most part, that we care about presence rather than purpose? Let's think about it.....

- Are we guilty of seeking to bless ourselves, which directly contradicts, "I will bless you"?
- Are we attempting, in contradiction to the Word, to make our names great? The Word says, "I will make your name great!
- Is it our aim and purpose to be a blessing to others?

We must not allow ourselves to look for glory when the Lord allows our mission efforts to meet with success. We must give God the glory for the things He hath done, because the glory belongs to Him.

We are called of God to break the ties of former things and "go out". God's first promise is..."I will bless thee". God has promised us this blessing as we work to please Him. We need to be reminded of our purpose, and we know our goals. There is much to do, if we want to be blessed:

- Evangelistically, we are to reach the lost with a direct focus on saving souls by

Continued on page 5

sharing the Good News found in the Word of God, locally, state and worldwide. We must go and tell men who He is and what He can do. We must tell them that He is willing and able to save their souls.

- Educationally, we must promote Biblical literacy through workshops, seminars and trainings in the preparation of the edification of the Kingdom of God.

Our youth need assistance in developing, not only a strong Christian Education, but a sound secular education that will provide them the tools necessary to live as productive Christians in our ever - changing world.

- We must reach out and serve others as needs exist, wherever they exist.
- We must exalt God as we enhance and intensify our adoration and praise.

The second of God's promise in this scripture is that, "I will make your Name great! The desire for a great name has been the ruin of many. He alone gives our name renown. The names of the Apostles and others of the New Testament were made great because they lived true to their calling and within the purpose sanctioned and sustained by the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lastly, there is a promise that, "thou shalt be a blessing." The measure of our faith determines the blessings we shall transmit to others. The blessed are to become a blessing.

The Church is expected to be a treasure house of grace. The narrow and selfish concern for our own interests must be swallowed up in the highest vision of that purpose for which we are called- that of being the suffering servant of the human

condition. God has blessed us by the gift of His Son, Jesus.

To that end, we who are joined to the mystical body of Christ, are Abraham's seed, and because of that, He promised, "Thou shalt be blessing!" The sense of a positive appointment, of a destiny to live up to a purpose, is the most powerful motive of which the human mind is capable.

Whoever desires to be a blessing must be a people of faith, prayer, and love. A dark and dying world awaits our living up to our purpose.

Let us be reminded that the reward the Lord holds for us is for service to the Kingdom of God.

- If we want to be blessed.....we must serve!
- If we want our names to be made great.... we must serve!
- If we want to be a blessing.....we must serve!

May God richly bless and keep us during this 99th Session of our State Convention!

In His Service,

Your Sister and Servant,
Dr. Barbara F. Wright



Senior Women Reaching Out To Others

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During the week of January 26th, 2013, our National Baptist Convention of America Winter Board convened in Columbia, South Carolina. The Florida Senior Women attendees (Sister Barbara Wright, Sister Dorothy P. Davis, and Sister Eddie Lindsay) joined other ministries, i.e. WIA's and Junior Women, to assist in an out-reach project for the needy. Florida provided over 150 winter gloves and hats for the cold weather being experienced in the community. Their support was appreciated and even made the Evening News. We do honor and praise God for allowing us another opportunity to support those in need.



Honoring Dr. Barbara F. Wright

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Florida Memorial University, annually, reflects upon the founders of this great institution, as well as, recognize those whose generous efforts have allowed it to continue to build upon the noble principles and dreams of those that they hold dear as they "stand on the shoulders of giants."

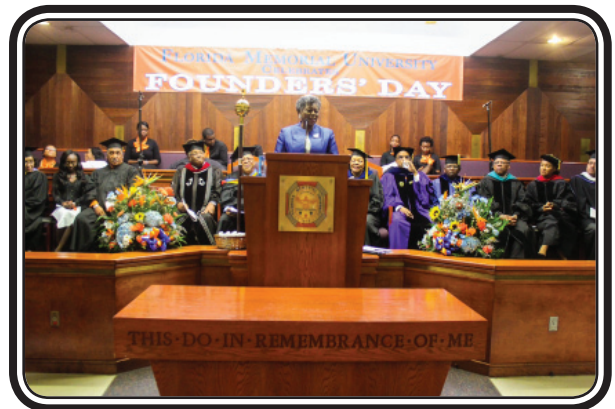
In thinking of today's giants, the Acting President, Dr. Mary A. O'Banner, thought of one whom we, too, hold very dear....**Dr. Barbara F. Wright!** She was considered as a result of her very generous scholarship dollars provided through Church Relations and our annual Donation Day! Her loyalty and support in these efforts has aided Florida Memorial University to deliver on its promise of a quality education for young people as they work to attain their dreams of a bright future.

On Tuesday, March 12th, 2013, **Dr. Barbara F. Wright** was awarded the Meritorious Service Award named for Dr. Sarah A. Blocker, an instructor at the Live Oak Campus and the chief assistant to Rev. Dr. Matthew Gilbert in establishing the Florida Baptist Academy at Jacksonville, Florida. Even more outstanding is the fact that this annual award is the highest honor that is bestowed upon a woman by this institution. It is awarded for exceptional service to the University and outstanding achievements in the honoree's community.

Finally, we, the Senior Women's Ministry, Dr. Banks and the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Incorporated, salute you, Dr. Barbara F. Wright, in having received the distinguished Sarah A. Blocker Meritorious Service Award. We are so very proud of you and thank God for allowing you to be a blessing to others.



Dr. Barbara F. Wright with (from left to right) Mr. Ray Smith, Trustee, Dr. Mary O' Banner, Acting President, Dr. Adriene Wright, Vice President





*"I give myself away so you can use me.
Take my heart, take my life as a living
sacrifice; All my dreams, all my plans, Lord I
place them in your hands; I give myself away,
so you can use me"*

Sister Gerri McCallister

Greetings, to all of my most faithful and dedicated fellow laborers in Christ.

I count it all joy to have the opportunity to fellowship with you again. We recognize that it is only because of your commitment and God's grace that we have made it through another year, and are still standing strong, and growing both spiritually and in numbers.

As we gather here in this great city of Jacksonville, celebrating our 99th Annual Session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention we can't help but to stand in awe of how God has blessed and kept us in ways beyond our understanding. I'm excited about the challenges ahead.

As I reminisce and think about 2012 and all of the unmerited favors that was bestowed upon us, of how we grew from all the activities that was so spiritually rewarding, of how he kept us encouraged, committed, and united with Him, of how He kept us in His spirit through love and fellowship with one another, of how he has kept us humble and blessed us beyond measures as we did all within our power to do His will makes me so proud that God uses this ministry to promote His love as we learn more about Him.

We are thankful to God for a beautiful spirit filled Winter Board gathering in Panama City, Florida. Hospitality given by the host church (St. John) under the pastoralship of the Rev. Dr. Delwynn Williams

was beyond reproach. We were blessed with a very powerful and informative session. Sister Helen Blair blessed us with an excellent presentation on "A Leader and Servant Crying Out For Help" using Psalm 86:1,17 for support scripture. Her focus was on servanthood and commitment to the cause. She emphasized "controlling other people lives is not a Godly leader's trust; but serving other people's need is what the Lord considers great." Our Harvest Basket project was a huge success. We blessed six deserving families Harvest baskets and gave five gift cards to deserving families. We were also blessed to add an additional service to our convention program.

Everyone was reminded that God has called us to represent His Kingdom, and if we live for Christ, we will glow like lights showing others what Christ is like; to let our light shine before men so they will see Christ in us.

Paul encourages spiritual unity---stressing love for one another and working together with one heart and purpose. Our prayer is that you will join in with us, pray with and for us, as we continue to do the Lord's work

Sister Gerri McCallister, President
State Deaconess Council





Women's Intermediate Auxiliary **9**

Sis. Bonnie G. Belford, Ministry Leader

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

There are no words to express my appreciation for the wonderful Denim & Pearls Inaugural Luncheon you sponsored on my behalf in Jacksonville on last month. The affair was **FABULOUS!** Thank you one and all for coming to share with me for this event.

Expressions of gratitude to the Vice Ministry Leaders of the Progressive M & E along with our Advisor, Rev. Brian K. Brown, for planning and executing such an affair. I heard little snippets of frustration as they tried to secretly make their plans. You pulled it off in grand fashion. I LOVE the program! Wow!

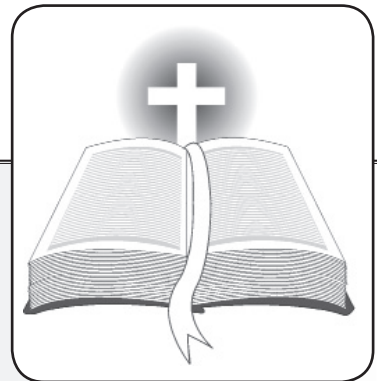
Thanks to "Maude and Company" of Jacksonville for catering this event. When people would ask "why Jacksonville?" my response was always because that's where the Johnson family resides! And they did their thing. . .chicken (fried and baked), ribs, peas and okra, rice, mac and cheese, string beans, potato salad, tossed salad, homemade cakes...everything was delicious - including the iced tea and lemonade!

So many of you came to share. . .my sister and cousin, my New Mt. Zion Church family, my St. Paul Church Family (including my nephew, best friends and sister-in-law), my Mt. Pilgrim family, my Panhandle family, Central Florida family, Arlena and Dea. Chisholm...everyone came! Even my N.B.C.A., Inc., Int'l. Vice President came and brought a new sister with her all the way from Gulfport, MS! I felt so blessed by everyone's presence!

A special thanks to my Pastor, Rev. Kendrix J. Gardener who not only brought a powerful Word but also played his saxophone! Glory!!!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you one and all! And don't forget...someone owes me a trip to New Orleans!

Much Love!
Bonnie



WELCOME TO THE 99TH ANNUAL SESSION

JACKSONVILLE, FL



Brotherhood

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We greet you in the matchless name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of Dr.

Bartholomew Banks Sr., and the Brotherhood Ministry of the Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention, we welcome you to this our Annual Session.

Our prayer is that as we come together in this great city of Jacksonville, to convene with the East Florida and Bethany Baptist Association and others from around this great state, we pause to say thank-you to Moderator Dr. Kelly Brown Jr., his Officers and Churches for welcoming us here this week and that we allow God to use us in a way that only He can as we partake on this great week of praise & worship. A heart-felt thank you to Brother Charles Warren Jr., Brotherhood President of the East Florida & Bethany Association for all the work you have done along with your assistants to make this week a success.

We have come this week with a purpose and our purpose is fourfold (1) to deepen the spirituality of men, (2) to promote religious intelligence, (3) to cultivate Christian fellowship, and (4) to win the lost to Christ.

Let us come together in Brotherly Love one with the other, "for how can two walk together except they agree." "Behold how good and pleasant it is for Brothers to come together in Christian Unity one with the other."

I pray God's riches blessings be upon you all.

President Wayne Herring
Brotherhood Ministry

99th Annual 10 Session Program

Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Incorporated

Reverend Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr.
President

99TH ANNUAL SESSION

March 18 - 22, 2013

Theme:

**The Church: Christ Centered, Mandate
Cultured, Ministry Commissioned"**

*St. Matthew 16:13-18, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, 1
Corinthians 12:12-31; St. Luke 24:44-48:
Acts 2:38, 41-47; St Matthew 28:18-20*

HOSTED BY:

East Florida and Bethany Association

Host Pastors:

Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown, Jr.,
Greater Mt. Vernon, Jacksonville
Reverend Dr. H. T. Rhim, *St. Joseph, Jacksonville*
Reverend Torin Dailey, *First Baptist of Oakland*

All Services Held At

Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk
1515 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32207

99th Annual Session

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Monday, March 18

7:00 P.M.

MUSICAL

(East Florida and Bethany Association in charge.
All officers and members are ask to please attend)

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 A.M.

OPENING SESSION

**Vice President at Large
Dr. Rufus Wood, Presiding**

Inspirational Singing The Music Department
Reverend Dr. Delwyn Williams

Devotional Period Deacon Robert Calhoun
Mt. Tabor, Marianna

Deacon John C. Lovett
New Mt. Zion, Tampa

Presentation of the President... First Vice-President
Dr. H. D. Rucker

Call to Order President Bartholomew Banks, Sr.

Directions for Enrollment .. Reverend Price Wilson

Presentation of the 2012 Convention
Host Church and Pastor
Reverend Fleming Tarver
*Saint John Missionary Baptist Church,
Clearwater, FL*

Music..... Saint John's Choir

Introductory Sermon Reverend Fleming Tarver
*Moderator Union Foreign
Pastor, St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Clearwater, FL*

Alternate..... Reverend Troy Adams, Sr.
*New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist
Church, St. Petersburg, FL*

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 P.M.

**ORTHODOXY HOUR
Dr. Rollie Murray, Presiding**

2:00 - 2:10 P.M..... Devotional Period
Reverend Dr. Kim C. Anderson
New Beginning, Jacksonville, FL

Reverend Eric Davis
St. John, Clearwater, FL

2:15 - 2:45 P.M..... Orthodoxy Speaker
Reverend Dr. Clifford Dollison
First Baptist, Winter Haven, FL

99th Annual Session

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2:45 – 3:55 P.M.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
Dr. G. I. Bradley, Presiding

ENROLLMENT & OFFERING

3:55 P.M. Sermon
Reverend Juan Mitchell
Union Baptist, Venice, FL

DINNER BREAK

7:00 P.M.

Third Vice President, Dr. Kelly Brown, Jr.,
Presiding
Reverend Torin Dailey, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL EMPHASIS NIGHT

Devotional Period Deacons of both Church
Selections Choirs of both Churches
Sermon Reverend Alonzo C. McKinsey
New Bethel, LaBelle, FL
Alternate Reverend Larry Harrell
Greater New Hope, Pahokee, FL



LATE NIGHT SERVICE

Reverend O'Hara Black, Chairman

Inspirational Message ... Min. Harold Anderson, II
St Joseph Missionary Baptist Church
Jacksonville, FL
Dr. H. T. Rhim, Pastor

Sermon Reverend Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.
Pastor, New Bethel, Detroit, MI

Wednesday, March 20

9:00 A.M.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
Dr. G. I. Bradley, Chairman

Devotional Period Reverend William F. Leonard
Greater St. Paul, Lakeland, FL

Reverend Gregory K. Davis
St. Mary, Nocatee, FL

9:15 - 9:30 P.M. "Theme Exposition"
Reverend Willie Farrow
St Luke, Panama City, FL

10:40 - 11:55 Pastoral Development
Conference Continues

LUNCH BREAK

99th Annual Session

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2:00 P.M.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Dr. G. I. Bradley, Presiding

3:55 p.m. Sermon
Reverend David Strapp
Mt. Mission M. B. Church, Daytona, FL
New Central Association

Alternate..... Reverend Dr. Odell Smith
Second Baptist, Jacksonville, FL

7:00 P.M.

THE MODERATOR'S NIGHT

Moderator A. L. Young, Chairman

Moderator Thomas Reed, Presiding

Devotional Period Moderator Rev. A. L. Young
New Gulf Coast Association
First Mt. Moriah M. B. Church
Panama City, FL

Moderator Rev. John Gardner
Union Baptist Association
Second Elizabeth, Quincy, FL

Sermon Moderator Dr. C. R. Taylor
First South FL Baptist Association
Bethlehem M. B. Church
Winter Garden, FL

Alternate..... Moderator Rev. K. C. Holley
St. Matthew, LaBelle, FL
Kissimmee Valley Association

LATE NIGHT SERVICE

Reverend O'Hara Black, Chairman

Inspirational Message Min. Deldrick Leonard
Associate Minister
First Missionary Baptist Church
Winter Haven, FL
Reverend Clifford Dollison, Pastor

Sermon Reverend Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.
Pastor, New Bethel Baptist Church
Detroit, MI

Thursday, March 21

9:30 A.M.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Chairman, Dr. G. I. Bradley, Presiding

Devotional Period Reverend Dr. A. L. Phillips
Reverend Dr. J. J. Pierce

9:45 - 11:20 A.M. Pastoral
Development Conference

11:30 A.M. Closing Sermon
Reverend Dr. G. I. Bradley
Chairman
Providence M.B. Church, Palmetto, FL



99th Annual Session

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Alternate..... Reverend Dr. Sam Maxwell
*First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Tampa, FL*

LUNCH BREAK

2:30 P.M.

SOCIAL JUSTICE HOUR

Reverend Kenneth Holly, Chairman, Presiding

Devotional Period Reverend James White
United M. B. Church, Pahokee, FL

Reverend Tyrone Broadus
*St. Mark M.B. Church
Flowersview, FL*

(Supplementary Program Provided)

7:00 P.M.

MISSION EMPHASIS

Second Vice President W. D. Sims, Presiding

Devotional Period Deacons of St. John

Selections St. John Choir

Sermon Reverend Dr. Delywin Williams
*St. John M. B. Church
Panama City, FL*

Alternate..... Reverend Mark A. Redmond
*New Hope M. B. Church
Lynn Haven, FL*

LATE NIGHT SERVICE Reverend O'Hara Black, Chairman

Inspirational Message
Minister Claude Cheatham, Jr.
*Associate Minister
Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church,
Orlando, FL, Reverend O'Hara Black, Pastor*

Sermon Reverend Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.
Pastor, New Bethel, Detroit, MI

Guest Choir

Friday, March 22

9:00 A.M.

Fourth Vice President Dr. J. J. Pierce, Presiding

Devotional Period Deacon Kenneth Curry
Zion Hope, Jacksonville, FL

Deacon Willie Pollock, Jr.
New Liberty, Bascom, FL



99th Annual Session

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10:00 A.M.

Annual President's Hour

Dr. Bartholomew Banks
President

(Supplementary Program provided)

Convention Business Period *President Banks Presiding*

Reports from Officers of the President

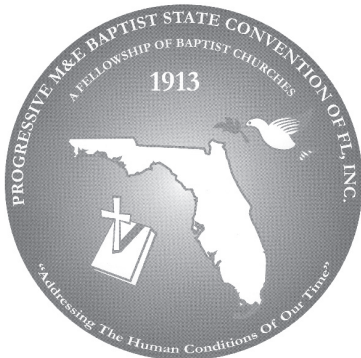
Financial Secretary

Treasurer

Place Committee

Announcements and Dismissal

CLOSING OF THE NINETY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION



99TH ANNUAL SESSION

Theme:

**The Church: Christ Centered,
Mandate Cultured, Ministry
Commissioned”**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOST: East Florida and Bethany Association And Our Host Pastors

Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown, Jr.,
Greater Mt. Vernon, Jacksonville

Reverend Dr. H. T. Rhim,
St. Joseph, Jacksonville

Reverend Torin Dailey,
First Baptist of Oakland

99th Annual Session



THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING THE
99TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
PROGRESSIVE MISSIONARY &
EDUCATIONAL BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION OF FLORIDA, INC.



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Music CD

Only \$15

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