



VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1
MARCH 2014

The PROGRESSIVE

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



The President Speaks...

Progressive Constituency, Special Guest, and Friends:

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

God has blessed us to see another year. This year we convene in the City of Tampa, home of the Buccaneers, Lightning and spring training for the Yankees. But most of all, it is the host city for the 100th Annual Session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.

There's something special about a One Hundred celebration. One Hundred is the number that stands for God's Election of Grace, or The Children of promise. Isaac, a child of promise, was born when his father was a Hundred years old.

Progressive, we are committed to our theme of: "Remembering the past; Reflecting on the present and Reaching for the future!"

The Black church in her challenge of the past now stands as hope of the future. If the Black church is to remain relevant, she must convert a praying people into a positive power-conscious people. Today, too many Blacks are living in hopelessness with no hope in sight. Blacks need somebody or something to transport hope in this hopeless world. The Black church should be that means of transport; it should be the vehicle of hope to a hopeless people. Just as the church must be the vehicle, Progressive M & E must be the vehicle of hope. We must not stop working until there is Justice for Trayvon in Sanford, Justice for Jordan in Jacksonville and justice for all people, of all races, creeds and colors.

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Theme:

**“The Church:
Remembering
The Past,
Reflecting On
The Present,
and Reaching
For The Future”
Exodus 13:20-22**

The President Speaks...



Continued from page 1

Our Convention is a fellowship of churches working together on a voluntary basis for the accomplishment of Kingdom objectives, mutually acceptable to the churches of the Convention. We can accomplish together what no one church can ever achieve alone.

Thanks for your support of our yearly scholarships to our young people. Many of them have attended and graduated from colleges and universities because of the Progressive scholarships. Through Mission and Education, we can change lives.

I am most appreciative to the Centennial Planning Committee and the Tampa Pastors for their help in making our Centennial Celebration a success. They have done a tremendous job of preparing for this session. I know a lot of work has gone into ensuring that this session will be productive and enjoyable.

I would like to thank God for the work of all of the pioneers who labored in the vineyard so faithfully to help our Convention achieve this 100 year milestone, including our former Presidents: Reverend Robert H. Pittman (1913-1915); Dr. John E. Ford (1915-1920); Reverend Lawrence N. Anderson (1920-1922); Reverend Charles Johnson (1922-1951); Dr. J. C. Sams (1951-1985); Reverend Flagger George Hilton-Interim President (1985-1986); Dr. H. T. Rhim (1986-1996); Dr. Ned S. Sanders (1996-2006).

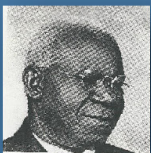
Because He Lives,

Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr., President
Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention of Florida Inc.



WELCOME TO THE CENTENNIAL SESSION OF THE PROGRESSIVE MISSIONARY & EDUCATIONAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF FLORIDA, INC.

P. M. & E. Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc. Past Presidents



Pittman



Ford



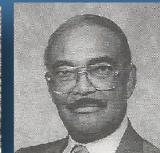
Anderson



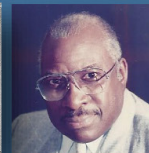
Smith



Sams



Hilton



Rhim



Sanders



From the First Lady

“This joy I have the world didn’t give it to me. Since the world didn’t give it, the world cannot take it away.”

It is with Jesus Joy, that I take time to say thank you and to everyone for praying for me. I thank God for this 100th year celebration. It is only God that allowed us to make it for 100 years.

I thank God for the Souvenir Book, Awards Committee and Banquet Committee. All praises to Rev H.D. Rucker, Sr., my advisor on the Awards Committee; to Sis. Barbra Wright, Chairperson of the Banquet and Souvenir Committees along with, Bro. Charlie Ball, Jr., Sis. Patricia Ball, Sis Elaine Miller, Sis. Betty Love, Sis. Annette Dunn, Sis. Teryal Dennard, Sis. Elizabeth Rosier, Dr. Andrew Burgess and President Banks for allowing me to take on the task. Without you, Progressive M & E, buying the tickets and ads, we would not be celebrating this great event. So thank you Progressive M & E. Again, I say thank you

for everything you do. Thanks to my St. John Family for allowing us to serve, and for being the greatest church this side of heaven. I thank you for your support and prayers. Thanks to the Greater St. Paul for praying for me and my mother, and stepping in when I could not be there. Thank you, Progressive M & E, for being the greatest state convention on this side of Heaven. Thanks to my personal assists, Sis. Catherine Waddell, Sis. Anesha Randle, Sis. Leda Newberry and Sis. Katrise Black. I thank God for the support of Sis. Joyce Stevens, my prayer partner Dr. Ada Davis, and my friends at WRXB 1590 where I am heard on Saturdays 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Thank you, President Banks, for being the world’s greatest husband this side of Heaven. To God be the Glory.

Lady Vanessa Banks



SENIOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY



March 2014

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 to each of you in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We give praise, glory and honor to our awesome God for allowing us to come together in unity and love on this, the Centennial Celebration of Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention, Incorporated.

As we reflect on the grace and mercy that God has bestowed upon us over the years, we are most grateful! We are both joyful and excited that God has given us another chance to celebrate Him and all that He has done for our Convention.

As we remember our past, we recognize and express our thanks to God for the many Senior Women that worked tediously and tirelessly along with the Pastors and other ministries to make our Convention as great and notable as it is to this day. We stand on the shoulders of those that dedicated their lives in faithful service and devotion to Progressive. One hundred years ago, the foundational agenda was clearly set and currently remains, with much improvement and growth, in the Progressive Mission and Educational Baptist State Convention! We are committed and conscientious in our efforts to maintain our focus on the Kingdom's work initially established in:

- Mission at Home and Abroad as we reach out to the "least of these. (Matthew 25:34-40).

- Evangelism at Home and Abroad as we reach out to the "lost, unsaved and unreached"(Matthew 28:19-20)
- Education, spiritually and academically as we reach out to teach through our ministries, congresses, district associations, as well as, our State Congress.(II Timothy 2:15) In addition, support of our Secular Colleges/Universities, more specifically, Florida Memorial University that has been a key part of Progressive over the years. (Proverbs 9:9)

As we leave this session, having reflected on the past, worshipped, praised and celebrated the present, let us be reminded to put into practice the inspiration that we will, prayerfully, receive for the advancement of God's kingdom. We are challenged to continue our missionary movement from inspiration to aspiration, participation and demonstration as we follow His direction in being the Ministry and Convention that He would have us to be.

Lastly, it is our prayer that as we leave this place, we can truly say, "God has smiled on us" and that our call to commitment and accountability has been renewed for action, deeds and the work that stands before us.

In His Service,

Barbara F. Wright
Barbara F. Wright



Deaconess Council

Sister Gerri McCallister

Salutations in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Deaconess Ministry of Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention of Florida eagerly await and anticipate the historical Centennial Celebration of this, our 100th Anniversary in the beautiful city of Tampa, Florida! Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments (Psalms 133:1-2); It is our prayers that through worship, witnessing and working as one in unity that the anointing will leave a residue diffusion within your very being that emulates the Glory of God!! We look forward to fellowshiping with all of the convention's constituents this week. Please join us for the Deaconess Council 8th Annual Session.

To God Be the Glory for All That He Is Doing!

Sister Gerri McCallister, President
State Deaconess Council



Brotherhood

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"

Greetings!!! In the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Brotherhood Ministry, we welcome you to this our historic 100th session. We gather together this week to Remember the Past, Reflecting on the Present and Reaching for the Future. It is our prayer that we will let go and let God manifest Himself in us so that we may carry out the work that has been placed before us. We pray for Dr. Banks and his cabinet as well as all of the Pastors that make up this great convention. Let us come together in brotherly love one with the other, let us enter into His courts with thanksgiving and into His gates with praise and behold the great wonders of God. The brotherhood Ministry has planed a spirit filled program this week and we need you and you and you to help us carry it out.

May God continue to bless is our Prayer

President Wayne Herring
Brotherhood Ministry

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOST: Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention of Florida



Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr., President



Women's Intermediate

Auxiliary

*Sis. Bonnie G.
Belford,
Ministry Leader*



FINAL TRIBUTE!

The honor of your presence is requested as we pay a final tribute to our Ministry Leader, Sister Bonnie G. Belford, on Wednesday, March 19th at three o'clock in the afternoon.

We plan to shower her with love as we commemorate her tenure of leadership to the WIA. Your presence will make her day complete.

On Thursday evening, March 20th, at 7:00, Sister Belford's Pastor and her New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church family will be in charge of the WIA worship experience. You do not want to miss Dr. Kendrix J. Gardner as he "rightly divides" the Word of God or the dynamic singing of New Mt. Zion's choir.

Additionally, Rev. Deryl Jones will bring the Wednesday message. Please join us for an awesome Word from this anointed man of God.

And of course the magnificent Advisor for the WIA Ministry, will conduct a workshop Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

A drawing will be held following Thursday evening worship. Visit the WIA ministry and get your tickets for an opportunity to win one of several baskets or a gift card tree that will be on display in the meeting room from Tuesday through Thursday. Funds realized will help the FL WIA ministry bring the trophy back. Sister Gloria Broadnax of St. John Progressive was successful in her 2013 bid to reign as queen. Let us lend the same support to Sister Vivian Walker of New Hope as she vies for the 2014 crown.

Bonnie

Children's Auxiliary

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*"Children obey your
parents, for this is right."
Ephesians 6:1*

As I look back over my life I cannot help but thank the Lord. God is a good God and I can truly say thanks be to Him. I started this journey a long time ago and I decided to work with children because I discovered you do not have to move with age.

I would like to take this time to say thank you. Thank you for praying for me. I have had many ups and downs, but because of your prayers and because of your faith I am still here. So thank you. Thank you Greater St. Paul for always being there. Thanks to my pastor, Dr. N. S. Sanders. Thank you Progressive M & E Children Auxiliary. Thanks to my Boys, (some who are now Pastors), Associate Ministers and productive citizens; My Boys who always come by and see me all the time and never forget me.

Thanks to the Banquet Committee and everyone who bought tickets and ads. Thanks to everyone that helped us get over the top - and that is just like you. We praise God everyday and we do not take His blessings for granted. We thank God for 100 years and we are looking forward to 100 more. All praises to God.

I truly thank God for my Son, President Bartholomew Banks, Sr. and Lady Vanessa Banks, my daughter. Thanks to my God-daughters, Pam, Sonia and Valeria. Thank you Jesus for keeping me.

Sis. Elizabeth Rosier



Junior Women's Auxiliary

Sis. Francesca Kirkman, Ministry Leader

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The time has come that we embrace the celebration of our Centennial year.

Our goal for the Junior Woman is to have 100 Junior Woman enrolled. I am depending on each of you to help us strive to meet this goal. We are asking each District to have at least 10 young ladies enrolled. I am excited what God has planned for the ministry. Pray for the ministry as we walk into what God is doing for us. But it can't be done alone, we need you.



During the 2013 year session of the convention, the Junior Women started a JW choir. These ladies got together with only one practice and blessed our souls. We had an awesome session. The choir was directed by our very own Advisor Deryl Jones.

*Thanks to all who supported
the celebration of our
marriage.*

**Eldric and Francesca
Kirkman**



**WELCOME TO THE 100TH
ANNUAL SESSION**

100th Annual Session

NOW AVAILABLE

Lady Vanessa Banks
presents



BOOK

*Marriage and the Bride:
What To Do While You
Wait For Your Godly Mate*
\$15.00



Music CD

*It's Christmas
Time*
\$15.00



Music CD

*Challenged,
But Not Conquered*
\$15.00

Please see Lady Vanessa Banks for your copies today or
visit www.banksministries.com
813-989-1056



THANK YOU

FOR ATTENDING THE
CENTENNIAL SESSION OF THE PROGRESSIVE
MISSIONARY & EDUCATIONAL BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION OF FLORIDA, INC.