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Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.

Office of the President Dr. C. P. Preston, Jr.

"Reaching the world for Christ through preaching, teaching, education, fellowship, evangelism, and mission."

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:19-20

April 15, 2019

Calvary greetings and Heavenly salutations to all Officers, Moderators, Pastors and Messengers!

What a mighty God we serve! Since we last met a year ago, many things have challenged us but our faith remains strong. I'm encouraged by the words of Paul, the Apostle, in Acts 20:22 where he says, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

Divine providence and time afforded us the opportunity to meet in the heart of Florida, which accordingly, is one of the world's most popular tourist attractions. We were, in fact, just down the road from Disney World. Without question, "It's a small world after all." As we gathered to celebrate our 144th Annual Session, we again, rose to the occasion and met the challenge of the opening line of our theme, "Reaching the world for Christ...."

Many of you have been coming this way for a long time, thank you. Some of you even go above and beyond and respond enthusiastically every time there's an appeal, thank you! Without your committed and unwavering support we wouldn't have a convention. Florida General Baptist Convention needs every one of you in order to remain financially vibrant, and fiscally sound to continue to do the many ministries that we're engaged in on the Homefront and throughout the world. I want to thank every Moderator, Pastor, Convention worker, Leader and Messenger for your past generosity and continued support to this great work.

Finally, let me take a moment of personal privilege to thank you for your many prayers and unwavering support this past year. As we move forward, remember that the convention is not a one man show, rather "It's Our Time" to make a difference in a dark world. Let our witness and our work be felt this week and throughout the coming year as we seek to do business for the Master.

We pray that this 144th Annual Session left you both refreshed and encouraged to go back to your respective churches to run on and see what the end is going to be. Thank you for joining me in your various ministries and departments in giving God all the praise and glory due his name!

Pressing Toward the mark,

Dr. C.P. Preston

President