

# **Children's Rally 2018**

## **State Congress Production**

### **Opening**

**Good evening:**

**Florida General Baptist Convention President- Rev. Dr. C.P. Preston, Jr.**

**Congress President- Rev. Jeffrey L. Mack**

**Congress Dean- Rev. Dr. Abraham Robinson**

**Assistant Dean- Sis. Virginia Hayes**

**Pageant Director- Sis. Lakeshia Flint**

### **Welcome**

**We the children and the youth of the Florida General Baptist Convention, Congress of Christian Education welcome you to the W.O. Wells Children and Youth Rally Pageant entitled, "How Can we Reconnect when there's a Disconnect? I bet you are trying to figure out what are they referring to? Great! Glad you are having those thoughts because we ask that you listen tentatively with your ears and hearts, so you can adhere, acknowledge, and accept the message and lessons in tonight's presentation. Again, we say welcome and enjoy our pageant, "How Can We Reconnect when there's a Disconnect?"**

### **Pledges for Congress**

#### **Pledge to the American Flag**

**I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**

### **Pledge to the Christian Pledge**

**I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.**

### **Pledge to the Bible**

**I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.**

### **Monolog One: What Happened?**

What happened to our Youth Departments? (Pausing) What happened to Youth Sundays? (Pausing) What happened to Bible Vacation School? (Pausing) What even happened to Proverbs 22:6? **(Pausing) Proverbs 22:6 says, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.** I'm just confused because I don't see these (stretching hands out) large youth departments anymore. It seems like we meaning the children and the youth are not as important as we use to be. So please tell me, "What Happened?"

### **Monolog Two: "Do You Remember When?"**

Do you remember when the Youth Department was the place to be? Do you remember in the Youth Department when we learned how to sing in the choir, how to be an usher, how to build friendships, learn respect and discipline, learn how to be leaders, and most importantly learn God's word and to trust and believe in him always? Do you remember when the church use to be packed with children and youth? Or even better, do you remember when we use to have the Pageants at school auditoriums because that is how many children and youth would be here at Congress ready and excited to share with you what they learned all week? **Matthew 14:19 says, "But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."** I just want you to take a moment to reflect, (Pause)now that you had a moment to reflect, can you start to see the disconnect? (Pausing) "Do You Remember When?"

### **Monolog Three: “We Are Just As Important”**

It seems like today churches have forgotten how important and paramount the youth department is to the church. The youth department is where you train up pastors, preachers, deacons, missionaries, evangelists, teachers, and leaders. We are the church of tomorrow. Now, it seems and feels like if we're here we're here and if we're not then it's not a concern. Back in the day when parents couldn't bring their kids to church, then the church would send a van to pick them up and bring them to church for Bible Study, Choir and Usher Rehearsal, Sunday School and Church. Wow, how the times have changed. We want to learn the Word of the God and give him praise just like yawl do. **In Matthew 21:16- “They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?” “Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’”** See if you get us, reach us, and teach us then we will give God praise. Every other ministry or auxiliary is important in the church, but “We Are Just As Important.”

### **Monolog Four: “How Can We Reconnect when there's a Disconnect?”**

How can we Reconnect when there's a Disconnect? (Pausing) There's a disconnect between our Youth Departments and the church in its entirety. (Pausing) How can you reconnect something when you don't even realize something is disconnected? Well, I think someone of ya'll know something is disconnected, but don't desire to reconnect it or just don't know how to reconnect it. (Pausing) See the church has to take action, with or without feelings. We have to identify the things that are disconnecting our youth from the church and God. **The bible says in 1John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us all from unrighteousness.”** We have to confess that there is a disconnect and trust God because he is faithful and fair, and will forgive us and clean us up from all wrong doing, all laziness, all lack of dedication, and everything else that is disconnecting the youth from the church. The disconnect starts at home, and then trickles down to the church, and into our schools; but it stops now. We have to show the devil he is defeated and has no power over our youth departments any longer. Until something is done, “How Can We Reconnect when there's a disconnect?”