



1873 Est.

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."*

From the President's Pen...

What a delight it is for me to pause at this moment to extend greetings to the 2019 Home Mission Forum.

With what words does one ascribe to the fundamental and foundational task of the church? At our core, the local church's primary involvement must find its center in missions. After all, it was our Christ who taught us to "go into the hedges and the high-ways and compel those who are lost to come in that HIS house may be filled." The Great Commission of the church is epitomized in the words of Jesus found in Matthew 28:19-20. Simply put, it says, "Go...and make disciples! Everything we do as a convention body must find its rest in winning lost souls to the kingdom.

It is both providential and noteworthy that this Forum is taking place in Black History Month. We celebrate such a rich history. From the first gathering of Baptists in 1773, led by George Leile, a former slave, "who organized the Silver Bluff Baptist Church in Aiken County, South Carolina, these 'Baptized Believers' involved themselves in missions. They not only were successful in erecting a physical structure, just a few years later that would become known as the First Colored Baptist Church, of Savannah, Georgia...circa 1788, but they sought to express their faith and commitment to God through preaching, evangelizing, witnessing and providing 'mission assistance' to the destitute and suffering in their local community and surrounding area."

To that end, I want to commend the Home Mission **Auxiliary** chairperson, Dr. J. T. "Billy" Simon, along with his co-chair, the Rev. James Pullings, for giving leadership to such a noble task. Let me hasten to commend all of the member churches of the First Central District Association for your loyal support of this effort. My hat goes off to the fine people of Greater Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Jasper, FL for serving as the 2019 host church. Blessings upon all of you!

I greet every participant of this Forum and challenge you to take full advantage of this great opportunity before you. I encourage every Florida General Baptist Convention constituent to be inspired, motivated and to grow in your respective churches and Home Mission ministries to make a lasting and profound impact in the communities in which you serve and the Kingdom of God at large. Enjoy your session!

Because of Him I remain,

Dr. C. P. Preston, Jr.,
Convention President

Dr. J. B. Sampson,
President Emeritus

Dr. Michael D. Warren,
Vice President at Large

Dr. Jerry B. Alexander,
General Secretary

Dr. Carl Johnson,
Moderator's Auxiliary
President

Rev. Keith Blunt,
Young Pastors &
Ministers President

Mrs. Audrey A. White,
Women's Auxiliary
President

Mrs. Cecilia Pittman,
Young People's Auxiliary
President

Deacon Thomas Adams,
Laymen's Auxiliary
President

Dr. Isaac L. Williams,
Congress of Christian Ed
President

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