

# THE MISSIONARY MESSENGER

20TH QUADRENNIAL

JUNE DAILY 2023



# FLORIDA



*Marian Hannah*

We greet you from the 5<sup>th</sup>'s southernmost city of Miami with its sunny beaches and historic Overtown community. In the 1900's, Overtown was a black diaspora community of American southerners and Caribbean immigrants who came to Miami to work on Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast railroad. In Overtown's golden age from the 1930s through the '50s, Overtown was considered the "Harlem of the South."

We greet you from the Venice of America, the beautiful city filled with waterways, Fort Lauderdale, where African Americans from Georgia, South Carolina, and the Bahamas blended with native-born Floridians and Seminoles to lay the foundation for the Greater Fort Lauderdale City. The city boasts the Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park that was named in 2016 to commemorate the African American activists who led the fight to desegregate Fort Lauderdale's beaches.

Let's head to western Florida where we will find white sandy beaches and emerald green waters off the coast of Pensacola, where 100 African Americans landed in 1559 with Don de Luna, a Spanish explorer and conquistador. The city of Pensacola has erected a marker named the Middle Passage that marks Pensacola as a major port of the slave trade. Parts of Pensacola is known as the Chitlin Circuit where artists such as James Brown, Aretha Franklin, BB King and others performed. The Johnson Beach is in Pensacola, named for Pvt Rosamond Johnson whose heroic death saved three American soldiers in the Korean War. Pensacola is also the home of General Chappie James, who was the first African American to become a four-star general in the US Air Force. The city can be entered on the Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Bridge which connects the Gulf Breeze to Pensacola.

Also, on the western part of the state is the capital city of Tallahassee, the first city in the state where the Emancipation Proclamation was read May 20, 1865. The John G. Riley Center and Museum for African American History & Culture, Inc. represents the black neighborhood that was known as Smokey Hollow just east of downtown Tallahassee. It is a reminder of the accomplishments of the black middle class, which emerged in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Let's glide back across the state to the theme park city of Orlando in Central Florida, located 65 miles northwest of Melbourne and 85 miles northeast of Tampa. The Walt Disney World Resort and other theme parks dominate tourism in the city. But, 25 minutes from Orlando's tourism districts is the historic town of Eatonville, incorporated in 1887. It remains today one of the oldest self-governing, all-black municipalities in the US. In the early 1900's Zora Neale Hurston's family moved to Eatonville. Zora Neale Hurston's best-known novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is set in Eatonville and nearby communities. Eatonville continues to honor Mrs. Hurston with Festivals and Fairs throughout the year.

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# ALABAMA

By Mary Thompson



It's a great day to greet each one of you to the fabulous flourishing 5th Episcopal District. The number 5 has significance. It is a symbol of God's grace, favor and goodness. The meaning of #5 in the Bible is mentioned 318 times in the Scriptures. Number 5 is a symbol of balance. It represents human perfection.

The 5th book in the Bible is Deuteronomy. It denotes prosperity, justice, knowledge, and mathematical understanding. It also represents rationality, purity, and holiness.

Alabama is part of the 5th District. It is known for peanuts and cotton, and for its famous Bar-BQ.

We have 3 Regions in the state—Alabama, Birmingham, and Florida.

Sister Natalie McCants Johnson serves in the Southeast Region starting with the Mobile Bay. Born in this area are Hank Aaron, Evander Holifield, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and the late

Yvonne Kennedy.

Montgomery is the birthplace of the “Unforgettable” Nat King Cole, and actor Octavia Spencer from the movie “The Help.”

We can't leave out the home of Lionel Richey and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Serving in the North Central Region is Sister Yvonne Elliott. Another notable person is Deonte Wilder. Our most famous people are Bishop Sylvester Williams and Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas. This Region extends to the Rocket City of Huntsville, where Mae Jemison, the first Black woman astronaut and our illustrious Senior Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick were born.

Birmingham is the Civil Rights City. It is the home of legendary Willie Mays.

Question—the number 205 was made popular by who? Our own Reuben Studdard.

Condeliza Rice, and Carl Lewis, and many more have roots from Alabama.

If you drive in or fly, you'll see a sign that reads “Alabama the Beautiful.” One beautiful thing is that we have the highest number of HBCU's and Miles College represents us well. We have our first female president, Dr. Bobbie Knight. Birmingham has 2 former mayors who are graduates of Miles, and today Miles is celebrating 125 years of educating students. Two philanthropists, Charles Barkley and Dale Thornton did a beautiful thing when they donated over a million dollars. So it's no wonder with these type of donations, we call them “The Golden Bears.”

Of all the colors we'll be wearing this week, the most beautiful thing we could all wear is a smile.

*Presented by Mary Thompson*



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Twenty-five minutes north of Orlando's tourism district and close to Eatonville is Hannibal Square. Hannibal Square is part of Winter Park and was founded in 1881 and consisted of African Americans who worked for the South Florida Railroad and Winter Park's wealthy families. On Oct. 12, 1887, it became the site of one of the country's earliest Civil Rights marches when a group of Black residents crossed the railroad tracks to vote in the election that incorporated Winter Park, including Hannibal Square. Two Black residents were elected aldermen, serving from 1887 to 1893.

Here we are in the River City, the Bold City of the South, Jacksonville, FL, founded in 1822, is the largest city by area in the contiguous United States as of 2020. The Kingsley Plantation is the city's oldest residential home and the last standing slave plantation with slave quarters, the barn, kitchen and other buildings remaining from as far back as 1814.

In 1838, Reverend James McDonald led the founding of Bethel Baptist Church, formerly Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, with a mixed group of worshipers including, white, black, slave owners and slaves. It was the first organized Baptist Church in Jacksonville and stands today a flourishing spiritual giant in the city.

In 1866, Edward Waters College (now Edward Waters University) was founded. It is the oldest historical black college in Florida and is named for Bishop Edward Waters, the third bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1871, Noted educator, lawyer, journalist, writer, and civil rights leader, James Weldon Johnson, was born in the LaVilla neighborhood of Jacksonville. John Rosamond Johnson, his brother, was also born in LaVilla and went on to have a successful career as a song writer and composer.

Founded by local African Americans with support from the Freedmen's Bureau was Stanton Institute. It was the first public school for African Americans in Florida. Later, under the direction of James Johnson, it became the first public high school for African Americans in Florida.

The Boylan Industrial Training School for Girls by the Women's Home Missionary Union Society of the Methodist Episcopal

Church was established in 1886. It was located at the intersection of Davis and Duval Streets in LaVilla, the school was created with the purpose of educating young Black women to become missionaries and tend to the needs of the sick. Growing out of the school's training for the general care of the sick, Brewster Hospital and Brewster Hospital School of Nursing were established in 1900. It was the only hospital and nursing school available to African Americans in the city.

In 1889, A. Philip Randolph was born in Crescent City, Florida and moved to Jacksonville in 1891. He organized the first black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first written as a poem. But it was performed for the first time by 500 school children in celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 in Jacksonville, FL. The poem was set to music by Johnson's brother, and soon adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song.

In 1926, Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to obtain a pilot's license, died in an airplane accident in Jacksonville while practicing for an air show. In Jacksonville, more than 5,000 were in attendance for her services at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, followed by another service at St. Philips Episcopal Church. After a service in Orlando, Bessie Coleman was buried in Chicago at the young age of 33.

In 1935, American Beach on Amelia Island in Nassau County was founded by A.L. Lewis and the Pension Bureau of the Afro American Life Insurance Company as a vacation destination for African Americans during segregation. American Beach remains one of the only predominantly African American residential beach communities in the country.

In 1960, Forty African Americans, mostly from the Youth Council of the NAACP under the leadership of Rutledge Pearson, staged a demonstration in Downtown Jacksonville seeking access to "whites only" lunch counters. They were met by white men carrying axe handles and baseball bats that were used to injure many of the demonstrators with others seeking shelter at nearby Snyder Memorial Methodist Church. "Ax Handle Saturday" was a turning point in Jacksonville's civil rights movement. Led by 16

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FIRST TIME ATTENDEE  
**JA'VON ELSTON**

I was impressed to meet Ja'Von Elston, a first-time attendee of the 20<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Assembly. Ja'Von is 16 years old and in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He attends Hebron High School in the Dallas Fort-Worth area. Ja'Von is a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo and is entering his second year in the NJROTC program. He enjoys football, taekwondo, traveling, and attending church at Cedar Crest CME with his aunt and great grandfather. with his aunt. He has also been very active in the missionary society. Upon graduating high school, Ja'Von plans to follow in the footsteps of his family and become a 4<sup>th</sup> generation attendee at Prairie View A&M University. Ja'Von plans to enlist in the United States Navy. Ja'Von's demeanor and his dapper attire are what caused me to pause and ask him who he was. He was very articulate and definitive about who he is. Every time I engage with young people like Ja'Von, my spirit is filled with hope, knowing, and believing that the CME Church has young people who love the Lord and enjoy worshiping and serving Him. When I think of Ja'Von, the Rossie T. Hollis, Mattie E. Coleman, and Phyllis H. Bedford missionaries who are attending this Quadrennial Assembly, I am reminded of the words in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you hope and a future."

*Submitted by Rita Washington*



## TOWN HALL MEETING—June 27,2023

“Reach Out & Meet Virtually” –  
*How to effectively use Zoom and other available platforms for Meetings, Workshops, Outreach Sessions, etc.*

**Presenter: Dr. Theresa Duhart,**  
CIO & General Secretary for CIT  
for the CME Church

“Sharing the Good News Through  
Social Media” – *Establishing a  
presence and promoting activities  
using Social Media.*

**Presenter: Ms. Toya McQueen,**  
**Secretary,** Connectional Young  
Adult Ministry, CME Church.

“Cybersecurity & Privacy  
Guidelines” – *Protecting yourself  
and others from potential digital  
attacks.*

**Presenter: Mr. Doug Bryant,**  
**Jr.,** IT Security Manager of  
Incident Response and Digital  
Forensics for Black Knight

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year-old Rodney Hurst, the 450 member NAACP Youth Council staged a sit-in at F.W. Woolworth’s on April 5. Rodney Hurst and

Youth Council Secretary Margaret Meeks have the distinction of being the first blacks served at Woolworth’s white-only lunch counter.

In 1964, Jacksonville native, Robert Lee “Bullet Bob” Hayes won two gold medals, one in the 100-meter race and another as the anchor in the US 400 meter relay team at the Tokyo Olympics. At the time, Bob Hayes was called the “World’s Fastest Human,” and later went on to have a professional football career playing for the Dallas Cowboys, where he received two Super Bowl rings.

In 1995, Nathaniel Glover was elected as the first black Sheriff of the City of Jacksonville, and the second black Sheriff in the state of Florida.

That is an overview of our State of Florida.... And I haven’t even mentioned Holsey Temple with over 135 years of service to the Jacksonville community, or Sis Virginia Glenn, the first President of the Florida Region WMS who worked closely with Bishop Lucius Holsey, or Thelma Vivian Jackson Dudley the 5<sup>th</sup> International President of the Women’s Missionary Council.

The Bold City of the South, home of the up-and-coming Jacksonville Jaguars, the Florida Region of the 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, we welcome you with the Love of Jesus. And on behalf of Presiding Prelate Bishop Clarence K. Heath and Mrs. Lakeisha Heath, the Presiding Elders of the Florida Region, Rev. Oscar M. Massey, Rev. Dr. James T. Morris and Rev. Calvin Hopkins, Clergy, Missionaries and Lay, we hope that you will find us hospitable, open and kind. We are so happy you are here. From the Southernmost, to the West, the Central and North, we greet you, welcome you and hope that your stay will be enjoyable and memorable. Blessings to you!

Senior Bishop Lawrence L, Reddick, III, the College of Bishops and their spouses, Patron Bishop Charley Hames, Jr., International President Dr. Jacqueline I. Scott, Council Officers, Immediate Past President, Dr. Princess A. Pegues, Dr. Elnora P. Hamb, Past President, Dr. Judith E. Grant, President Emeritus, general Officers and their spouses, the Judicial Council, Connectional Officers, Head of Educational Institutes, Clergy, Laity, Executive Board and all my beloved Missionaries. a



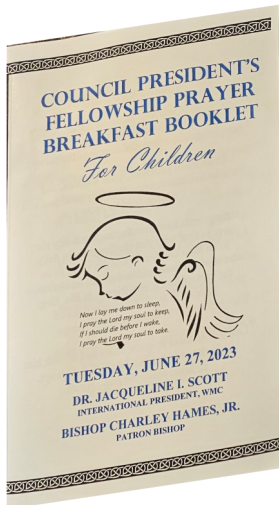
# COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Prayers for Children All Around the World, was the theme of the Council President's Fellowship Breakfast. As you entered the room, the song, We are the World, We are the Children, was softly playing. The decorations included pictures of children from all around the world and all different types and colors of children's shoes adorned the tables.

Committee chair and worship leader, Mrs. Juliet Waddell, Pittman, open the program by stating that many of our children are in crisis, and that we might not be able to do anything to help most, but we can pray for all of them. The program consisted of prayers for children, youth and young adults, by youth, young adults, and the Secretaries of those Departments. The songs were all congregational children's songs. Jesus loves me, He's got the Whole World in His Hands and This Little Light of Mine. Special prayers were given for our International President, Dr. Jacqueline I. Scott by Senior Bishop, Lawrence, Reddick, Patron Bishop, Charley Hames, Jr. and her bishop of the First Episcopal District, Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr.

A prayer booklet consisting of prayers for children was written by the committee members. This was given as a keepsake for all in attendance. There was a sweet, sweet spirit, in the place, and everyone knew it was the spirit of the Lord.

Co-Chair of the program was Mrs. Carol Ferrell; committee members were Ms. Kimberly L. Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Gosey, Mrs. Adrienne Speas, Mrs. Michele Jackson, Mrs. Alice Fleming, Mrs. Kimberly N. Harris and Ms. Lisa Waddell.



# REGION PRESIDENT KENYA—MARTHA MARURU

## EMBRACING A NEW ERA FOR GREATER SERVICE



### Abundance and Increase

“I was elected on 28th March 2020, it was during Covid period and we were only 8 women at the time, we have grown in number to slightly more than a hundred 100 currently and continuing to grow through our continuous outreach missions.”

### Women Empowerment

“We have a loans & savings project known as ‘Chama’ in Swahili where women missionaries give contributions for savings every month. These contributions are given out as loans at 10% interest. The loans and savings monies is collected at the end of the year and distributed to the women missionaries as give-back in accordance to once savings and loan interest. This enables the women to pay for their children’s school fees, boat their businesses, and empower the church through giving. We started with a donation of \$100 from Rev. Mary McKinney to start this initiative it has now grown to \$5,000 by end of last year.

We have a food program to support the missionaries among us who are needy. This was implemented at Kayole Cluster, Nairobi District where the missionaries contributed and donated food stuffs to 4 need women missionaries. The program is continuing every month where missionaries bring food stuffs and donated out.

We are currently registering a foundation for enhancement of our women empowerment programs to connect with various stakeholders for capacity building, co-create solutions, and for sustainability aspects.”

### Community Service

“We do community service by studying the needs of communities around us. We visit children homes, the elderly, schools, and the vulnerable, and donate food stuffs, clothes, cleaning materials and writing materials throughout—contributions from the women missionaries and friends.

In my 2023 report are details on our objectives and strategies and what we do plus photos for your perusal.”

Thanks, God bless.

Martha



Quadrennial Assembly Photos by Rev. Ore Spragin