



**Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs**

## **Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs**

Julius Richard Scruggs was born in Elkton, Tennessee to Reverend and Mrs. Earl Scruggs, Sr. and reared in Toney, Alabama. He is a graduate of Council Training High School in Huntsville, Alabama. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, he also completed requirements for the Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degrees at Vanderbilt University School of Divinity in Nashville, TN. On December 9, 2011, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Normal, Alabama.

His pastoral experience began at age 18 at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (Harvest, AL) where he served 1960-1965. From 1965-1972, he pastored the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church (Nashville, TN). He continued to follow the Holy Spirit's call and pastored the Antioch Baptist Church (East Chicago, IN) from 1972 to 1977. Since January 1977 he has been the shepherd of God's people at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville.

Dr. Scruggs has authored four books: *Meditations on the Church*; *Baptist Preachers with Social Consciousness: A Comparative Study of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harry Fosdick*; *God is Faithful*; and *How to Study and Teach the Bible*.

He is a man of deep social consciousness, which is apparent in his contributions to religious and community causes. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at American Baptist College, member of the National Board of Directors, NAACP, former board member of the Selma University and former President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention (President Emeritus). Locally, he is a member of the Huntsville Human Relations Commission; member and former president of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF); Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Kappa Boule'; and provides advisory support to a wide range of community movements.

On September 9, 1999, Dr. Scruggs was elected Vice President-at-Large of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. As a part of the leadership team, he has helped to bring vision, integrity, structure, and accountability to the largest African American church organization in the nation.

His accomplishments have been recognized in "Who's Who in Religion," "Outstanding Young Men in America," and "Personalities in America Hall of Fame." Additionally, he is the 1998 recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award presented by GHIMF and Alpha Phi Alpha Unity Award recipient.

Dr. Scruggs is a much sought-after minister for his biblically-based, doctrinally sound, and life-centered preaching and teaching. His servant-leadership style and his personal integrity have molded and shaped the thrust of First Missionary Baptist Church's Christian Education emphasis, outreach ministry, stewardship

commitment, physical growth and spiritual maturity.

During his more than 33 years in the pastorate at First Baptist, the church has initiated witnessing/evangelism teams, jail ministry teams, scholarship funds, and health fitness and recreation ministries. The Christian Education ministry has been enhanced with weekly Bible study for all ages, and a licensed Child Development Center and Academy serving children age 2<sup>1/2</sup> through third grade. The church property consists of a twelve-acre lot on which the church and parsonage are located and the four phases (Sanctuary, Educational Complex, Family Life Center and Administration/Educational Wing) have been constructed. In 2009, Pastor led the church in starting the FMBC Foundation, a mission and education foundation made possible by gifts of two million dollars by two families in the church.

More than 4,643 members have united with the church during Dr. Scruggs' tenure. He has led the church in giving to Home and Foreign Mission causes annually. The church has built and paid for 17 houses in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, allocated funds annually to the program, and members of the church have assisted in building fourteen other Habitat homes.

On September 10, 2009, in Memphis, Tennessee, Pastor Scruggs was overwhelmingly elected as the 17th President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

However, more significant than Dr. Scruggs' many pastoral accomplishments and academic credentials, is his genuine love for the people of God. He is a "tender shepherd" who takes his calling seriously.

He is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton and they are the proud parents of a daughter, Jennifer Juliette Scruggs and a son, Rev. Morris E. Tipton II. They have three grandchildren: Morris E. Tipton III, Morgan Taylor Tipton, and Elizabeth Francina Scruggs.

# Dr. Julius R. Scruggs

## A Prepared Leader

- Doctor of Ministry Degree, Vanderbilt University School of Divinity, Nashville, TN (1975)
- Master of Divinity Degree, Vanderbilt University School of Divinity, Nashville, TN (1968)
- Bachelor of Arts Degree, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN (1965) High School Diploma, William Hooper Council Training, Huntsville, AL (1960)

## A Faithful Servant

- Nearly 50 years of Faithful Service
- Pastor, Pine Grove Baptist Church, Harvest, AL (1960-65)
- Pastor, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Nashville, TN (1965-72)
- Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, East Chicago, IN (1972-76)
- Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL (1977-present)
- Associate Professor of the Old Testament, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN (1968-72)
- Writer of Sunday School Literature, National Baptist Publishing Board, Nashville, TN (1969-76)
- Instructor, Huntsville Bible College, Huntsville, AL (1978-88)
- President, Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. (1995-2006)
- Assistant Dean, National Baptist Congress of Christian Education (1986-99)
- Vice President-at-Large, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (1999-2009)
- President, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (2009-present)

## A Transformational Pastor

- Under the leadership of Dr. Julius Scruggs, First Missionary Baptist Church has seen tremendous growth and transformation.
- Led by Dr. Scruggs, First Missionary Baptist Church has:
  - Built a new church facility currently valued at more than 10 million dollars.
  - Started a Child Development Center and Academy, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year.
  - Increased staff from 2 part-time employees to 32 full-time and 25 part-time employees.
  - Received 4,152 new members during Pastor Scruggs' tenure.
  - Built and helped to pay for 14 houses through *Habitat for Humanity*.
  - Donated \$610,000 to American Baptist College to help endow the Pastor Leadership Chair (\$500,000) and the Boddie Chair of Excellence (\$110,000).
  - Given \$100,000 to Selma University for scholarships.
  - Developed more than 30 viable ministries.
  - Created a weekly television ministry.
  - Grown from a \$72,000 annual budget in 1977, to \$3 million in 2008.
  - Committed to giving a tithe of the annual church budget to Home and Foreign Missions.
  - Established the FMBC Foundation with donor gifts of \$2 million.

## Milestones

### ***Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention***

- Led the State Convention and Selma University in liquidating a \$2.6 million mortgage and saving Selma University's 253 acres of land in Hale County, AL.
- Led State Convention to give Selma University more than \$3.5 million during his 11 years tenure.

**NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, Inc.**  
**SOLIDARITY**  
**WITH THE SAVIOR**

**THE PLAN**

- **Live the theme “Solidarity with the Savior” by continuously recommitting the Convention’s resolve to preaching, teaching and spiritual healing ministries.** Establish an intentional program focus on young and aspiring preachers, teachers, and leaders to assure long term stability, growth, and life of the Convention.
- **Build on the Convention’s rich heritage of providing universal service that advances the work of Christ throughout the world.** Accomplish through home and foreign mission initiatives, Christian education development and training programs, integral partnership with the American Baptist College and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, comprehensive relationship with the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration, and institutions of higher learning.
- **Evaluate and enhance the Convention’s organization and management structure.** Accomplish greater synergy among operating entities relative to mission, administration, finance, and operating procedures. Position the Publishing Board to embrace more entrepreneurial concepts and opportunities. Establish long term funding partnerships that leverage fundraising with long term national funding objectives, thereby significantly contributing to the Convention’s revenue needs.
- **Establish a Public Policy Group.** Create a strong viable voice in the media, local, state, and national communities, on issues and concerns that are important or directly affect our members of the whole body of Christ.

# **NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, Inc. FACT SHEET**

**The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.**, one of the oldest African-American organizations in the nation, shapes the religious and often beliefs of several million Christians throughout the world. The Baptist World Center, national headquarters of NBC, USA, Inc., is located in Nashville, TN.

## **HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

In 1880, one hundred-and fifty-one people from 11 states met in Montgomery, Alabama, to organize what was called “The Foreign Mission Convention.” In 1895, two other organizations—the National Baptist Education Convention, and the American Baptist Convention—met with the Foreign Mission Convention in Atlanta, GA, and formed the National Baptist Convention. In 1915, the National Baptist Convention was incorporated and became the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

## **MISSION**

The purpose of the Convention is to promote home and foreign missions, encourage and support Christian education, publish and distribute Sunday School and religious literature, and engage in whatever other Christian endeavors that may be required to advance the work of Christ throughout the world.

## **THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Julius R. Scruggs was elected President of NBC, USA, Inc., in September 2009. Dr. Scruggs began his pastoral experience at the age of 18, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Harvest, AL. He served as Pastor of churches in Nashville, TN and East Chicago, IN, before becoming Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL, in January 1977.

# NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, Inc. MEETING AND CONVENTION LOGISTICS

The Congress of Christian Education and Annual Session generally have a \$20—\$40 million economic impact per city.

<u>Major Annual Meetings</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
Mid-Winter Board Meeting	January	3,500-5,000
Congress of Christian Education	June	30,000-40,000
Annual Session	September	15,000-25,000

Numerous small local and regional meetings and conventions are held annually. NBC, USA, Inc., comprises several auxiliaries: Moderators, Women's, Laymen's, Ushers and Nurses, Congress of Christian Education, Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Baptist Student Union, and Sunday School Publishing Board. Each auxiliary holds a number of functions, specific to their group, during each meeting and convention.

## **The role of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and its impact on your community**

What effect does NBC, USA, Inc., have on area churches, organizations, communities and cities? NBC, USA, Inc., meetings and conventions have a 20-40 million dollar economic impact per city. Religious, business and civic leaders vie for the opportunity of hosting these meetings and conventions.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, Inc.**  
**Historian's Report: 2009 Annual Session—Memphis, Tennessee**  
**By Fred Campbell, Convention Historian**

*Preamble*

The history of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. is intertwined with world history. It is an intricate part of the human story. The Baptist story helped to shape the American story. However, it cannot be confined to American history. The Baptist story is the unfolding of the history of the Church of Jesus, the Christ. It is a part of the building ministry of Jesus, who declared to His disciples that He would build His Church through them. Since we are a gathering of churches, the National Baptist Convention's history has root in the Pentecostal beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ.

***An Overview of the History of the National Baptist Convention,  
USA, Incorporated***

The birth of the National Baptist Convention in 1880 in the city of Montgomery, Alabama owes its existence to the pioneering work and sacrifices of slave preachers and pastors like George Liele, Andrew Bryan and Jesse Peters; to the tenacious plantation churches, like First African Church of Savannah and Springfield Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia; and to the missionary zeal of men like Lott Carey and William W. Colley who led in creating a spirit of cooperation for the sake of missions. The strong resistance to Black Churches organizing into cooperative groups was weakened by the presence of cooperative mission groups, such as the African Baptist Missionary Society, of which Lott Carey was a central figure.

While in the South there was a struggle to develop associations of Black Church, Black Churches in the West were already forming associations. In Ohio in 1834 the Providence Association was formed; in 1836 the Union Association; in 1839 the Wood River Association in Illinois was formed; and in 1841 the Amherstburg Association in Canada and Michigan were formed. These Associations are mentioned because they pioneered the gathering of Black Churches for the purpose of doing work together for the cause of Christ. It appears that they saw no dichotomy between the social and spiritual ministries.

In 1844, the Wood River Association organized the Colored Home Missionary Society which formed the Western Colored Baptist Convention lasting from 1853 to 1859. However, in 1864 the Wood River Association in conjunction with the Providence and Union Associations formed a regional cooperative group called Northwestern and Southern Baptist Convention consisting of eight states. This regional convention was second to the American Baptist Missionary Convention formed in 1840 at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City prior to the



emancipation. This convention was purpose driven. Evangelism, education and emancipation were its focuses.

The year 1866 was significant. It marked the merger of the two regional conventions; becoming the Consolidated American Baptist Missionary Convention. This convention had its first official meeting in August 1867 in Nashville, Tennessee. The scope and the constituency of the CABMC rendered it a national convention. But the convention only lasted for twelve years. There were several factors responsible for the demise of the CABMC which made cooperation very difficult.

As it were, the demise of the Consolidated American Baptist Missionary Convention did not kill the spirit of consolidation, collaboration and cooperation. Three new groups of churches came into existence. In 1880 the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention of the United States of America came into being. They first met in Montgomery, Alabama, November 24, 1880 with a foreign and domestic mission agenda. Reverend W.W. Colley, a White preacher, viewed as a Negro because of his affinity with the cause of the ex-slaves, served as corresponding secretary of the BFMCUSA, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia.

Then in 1886 the American National Baptist Convention organized in St. Louis, Missouri. Reverend William J. Simmons led the organization of this convention and served as the first president. This convention was more national in scope and constituency than the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention; and because of their strength they met resistance from the northern White Baptists.

There was a third convention organized by Reverend W. Bishop Johnson in Washington, D.C., in 1893 with educating and training clergy and missionaries as its focus.

In 1894, Montgomery, Alabama, in the annual meeting of these three conventions, a motion was made proposing their merger into one convention. A feasibility committee was appointed to report the following year on their findings. *On September 28, 1895, in Atlanta, Georgia* the merger took place and the three conventions became the *National Baptist Convention, USA*. To incorporate the emphasis of each convention, three boards were established: Foreign Mission, Home Mission, and Education. We celebrate at the annual session in Memphis, Tennessee our one hundred and twenty-ninth birthday with the understanding that the 1880 formation of the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention is the recognized year of inception. It has been a journey of defeats, challenges, victories, and accomplishments. This convention remains in the forefront of the other bodies that left the fellowship.

Reverend Elias Camp Morris was elected president of the National Baptist Convention in 1895, serving for twenty-seven years. This Baptist pioneer's greatest achievement was the formation of the National Baptist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee in 1896. It was also one of his greatest challenges. The

previous split in 1887 when a group of National Baptist pastors left the convention forming the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention was his first challenge but the split that occurred in 1915 concerning the ownership and operation of the Publishing House was no doubt the most challenging. The National Baptist Convention of America was the product of the Richard Boyd rebellion. He gave leadership to the Publishing Board which claimed independence from the Parent Body of the National Baptist Convention, USA. Therefore, in 1915 Boyd and his supporters seceded from the fellowship of the National Baptist Convention, forming the National Baptist Convention of America. Dr. Morris' leadership was foundational to the growth and effectiveness of the convention, steering it safely through troubled waters. He died in office on September 5, 1922. Dr. Wesley G. Park, vice president-at-large served as president until the Annual Session. His desire to continue as president did not materialize; he lost the election to Dr. L.K. Williams in 1923 at the Annual Session in Los Angeles, California.

The L.K. Williams era was marked by the unfinished business of President Morris. The Publishing Board building and the training school's relationship to the Women's Convention challenged this new president. However, under his leadership the laymen were organized. The Cooperative Plan was implemented leading the convention in working with other groups of faith. The American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee is the result of that cooperative effort between the National Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The College became a reality in 1925 and operates today in Nashville, Tennessee as a National Baptist Convention school.

The L.K. Williams' tenure is distinguished by the purchase of land for the new Publishing House, and the building of the same. Dr. Williams recommended that the name of the New Publishing House be named the Morris Memorial Building in honor of Dr. Elias Camp Morris. This historic building still stands today and functions as the literary capital of the convention. The building site was reported to have been a place of slave trading, but now serves as a resource for spiritual liberation.

In 1930 another challenge and crisis confronted the administration of President Williams, the murder of the auditor of the convention. The murder was a mystery and unsolved to this day, but it was unsettling for the convention and Dr. L.K. Williams.

Dr. Williams led the convention through some turbulent times, but with class and dignity. His tenure ended abruptly, he died in an airplane accident on his way to address a gathering in Flint, Michigan. Vice President D. V. Jemison assumed leadership of the convention.

In September 1941, Dr. D.V. Jemison was elected to the presidency of the National Baptist Convention. He carried on the vision of his predecessor, cooperating with other Baptist groups. His cooperative effort helped to finance

Selma University in Alabama. Dr. Jemison worked cooperatively with Miss Nannie Helen Burroughs who was president of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention. Although, Miss Burroughs was a strong leader, Dr. Jemison was able to manage conflicts that occurred between the Women's Auxiliary and the Parent Body of the convention. Rebellions and splits characterized the history of the convention. Dr. D.V. Jemison's leadership avoided the possibility of another. He also led the convention in retiring the debt on the Morris Memorial Building in Nashville, Tennessee (1942) and acquiring the Bath House in Hot Springs, Arkansas (1950). Dr. Jemison announced his desire to retire as president at the Mid-Winter Board Meeting, January 1953, effective September of the same year.

The storms and struggles of the past strengthened the convention, giving it global presence and prestige. Through its Boards, Auxiliaries, and Publishing House, the National Baptist Convention had become effectively functional. Who wouldn't desire to be president of such a Body of Baptist Churches? The race for the presidency gathered a stellar group of candidates: Dr. H.B. Hawkins of Chicago, Illinois; Dr. J. Raymond Henderson of the Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California; Dr. Joseph Harrison Jackson of the Olivet Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Dr. E.W. Perry of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dr. Sandy F. Ray of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York; and Dr. Marshall Shepherd of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In September 1953, Dr. Joseph Harrison Jackson emerged from this elite crowd of candidates as the next president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. He would lead this Body for twenty-nine years, longer than any other president. He would also become the last president serving without tenure.

Nevertheless, two years into Dr. Jackson's nearly three decades of being at the helm of the convention, he had to face the issue of tenure. He endured the challenge to limit his presidency. This historian believes that Dr. Jackson's persona, his powerful preaching, and his proficient presiding were factors in his longevity.

During Dr. J.H. Jackson's presidency, the issue of racism and the Negro's quest for civil rights confronted him and the convention. In the quest for civil rights, it was the strategies of engagement that troubled the convention's fellowship. The question of tenure never went away, but this matter of how to approach racism in this country was at the core of another split in 1961 of which came the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. In both issues of tenure and the approach to our quest for civil rights, the opponents reacted to what they saw as autocratic leadership. Dr. Jackson's approach to civil was more passive, but Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a member of the convention, and those of like mind in the convention were more aggressive in their quest for social change. The division in ideologies were somewhat captured in Booker T. Washington's and W.E.B. Dubois' different approaches to social change in America.

In 1960 in Philadelphia, there was a struggle for power where there were two elections held. One by those in support of Dr. Jackson, and another held by those who supported Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, both claiming legitimacy.

In Kansas City, Missouri another meeting was held. A court-supervisor conducted another election. Dr. Jackson won and was declared the duly elected president of the National Baptist Convention. Dr. Gardner Taylor and Dr. King accepted the election's results and called for unity, but before the convention was adjourned the aforementioned split was inevitable.

Other than the fights and splits, the Jackson era was marked by the addition of new commissions, the restructuring of the convention, giving of scholarships, and the purchase of the National Baptist Freedom Farm.

In 1983 the reign of Dr. J.H. Jackson came to an end. Dr. T.J. Jemison, whose father once served as president, was elected president of the National Baptist Convention. To lose the election was a great disappointment to Dr. Jackson. Dr. T.J. Jemison had served on Dr. Jackson's cabinet as General Secretary of the convention. He was loyal to Dr. Jackson, although his strategy for social change was more in line with Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Dr. Jemison served twelve years as president.

Tenure became a reality constitutionally and actually during his presidency. The crowning achievement of his leadership was the building of the National Baptist World Center, the headquarters of the Convention. President Jemison's vision was for this facility to become the center of a global ministry, living out our Lord's mandate of taking the gospel to the entire world. The World Center was dedicated on June 21, 1989, four years after the initial ground breaking ceremonies.

The surprise election of Dr. Henry J. Lyons of Florida in 1994 was a great victory in a race that featured such men as Dr. C.A.W. Clark of Dallas, Texas, Dr. W. Franklin Richardson of Mount Vernon, New York, and Dr. William J. Shaw of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Lyons' presidency was promising under the mantra of "Raise the Standard." Dr. Lyons established a unified program, reduced the debt on the Baptist World Center, freed the Sunday School Publishing Board of debt, added new commissions, and sought to include the younger pastors in the work of the convention.

In July 1997, the standard of the presidency and the convention started to crash. Allegations of misconduct and misappropriation of monies began to surface. Denial by the president would prove to be a gross deception on his part. The convention did not remove Dr. Lyons from office. His legal problems forced him to resign from the presidency. In 1999, Dr. S.C. Cureton, vice president-at-large replaced Dr. Lyons as president until an election could be held in September 1999.

Dr. William J. Shaw became president on September 9, 1999. Like Nehemiah, Dr. Shaw had the daunting assignment of rebuilding the walls of the convention and restoring confidence in the integrity of the convention. Therefore, he introduced "VISA" - Vision, Integrity, Structure, and Accountability. Since his presidency, the reputation of the convention has been restored within the United States, the Church community, and the world. He has boldly led us to be a Christ Centered Convention, under the slogan "Jesus Christ Only, Always."

His tenure ended this year, September 2009 in Memphis, Tennessee distinguished by these accomplishments:

- Retiring the debt on the Baptist World Center. A mortgage burning ceremony was held on January 21, 2003.
- Created a spirit of brotherhood by inviting Dr. G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Dr. George Smith, President of Consolidated Missionary Baptist Convention of Arkansas, Dr. E. Edward Jones, President of the National Baptist Convention of America, and Bishop Cecil Bishop, President of Congress of National Baptist Churches to be guests speakers during the mortgage burning celebration week.
- Settling numerous lawsuits and other debts against the convention.
- Establishing personnel policies and procedures.
- The constitution and Bylaws were amended to enable the convention's effectiveness.
- Created a collaborative relationship among auxiliaries and boards of the convention.
- Retirement plan created.
- During the Mid-Winter Board, on January 27, 2005, American Baptist College dedicated their newly constructed Leadership Center, named in honor of two of its most prominent alumni: Georgia Congressman John R. Lewis and Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama and Vice President-at-Large of the NBC, USA, Inc.
- Instrumental in organization and implementing the 2005 and 2008 Joint Meeting. The first Joint Meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee. The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Dr. William J. Shaw, President; the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. Dr. Stephen Thurston, President; the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Dr. Major Jemison, President; and the National

Missionary Baptist Convention, Dr. Melvin Wade, President. The theme for the first Joint Meeting was "Christ's People Empowered to Witness as One." The second Joint Meeting took place in Atlanta, Georgia. It included the same Baptist bodies. There was a session with the New Baptist Covenant. Theme of the gather was "Unity in Christ." The National Baptist Convention is an inaugural member of this alliance (New Baptist Covenant). This New Baptist Covenant reaffirms traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality, as well as their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

- In September 2008 in Cincinnati, Mrs. Michelle Obama, wife of then candidate Barack Obama, addressed the convention. It was an electrifying experience for the NBC, USA, Inc. It was a taste of fruit from the Promised Land of social and political possibilities. It was a memorable moment for African Americans.
- Under the leadership and influence of President Shaw, significant history was made in these Joint Meetings. The splits which marred our history were somewhat redeemed by the first and second gathering of Baptists.

The Shaw administration was one of relative peace. Dr. William J. Shaw effectively led the convention and now we prepare to elect a new president on September 10, 2009. Two men, according to the constitution have qualified to aspire for the presidency: Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, who is Vice President-at-Large of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama; and Dr. Henry J. Lyons, former President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and pastor of the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida. The candidacy of Henry J. Lyons is the first time a former president has run a second time for the presidency of the convention without being an incumbent.

In September 2009, Dr. Julius R. Scruggs was elected President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. The theme of his administration is "Solidarity With the Savior." Prior to becoming President, Dr. Scruggs served as Vice President-at-Large from September 1999 until his election as President in September 2009.

# Contact Information

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