



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*"I recognized the need for spiritual and religious fellowship so we may exhort one another to personal piety, sociability, and shared understanding of the challenges and aspirations common to our Christian pilgrimage; foster and encourage Christian evangelism and education, religious goodwill and spirituality, moral and social progress among our people; economic empowerment of the faith community and achieve the great will of God through Christian witness that is attainable through coordinated effort."* This Administration will provide such leadership to the various ministries and constituents to achieve the mission as set forth and passed on to us.

I have prepared for Convention Officers, District Moderators, Clergies, Church Leaders and Laity that we might be educated so that we might realize mutual respect for the Administration of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc. To have an effective leadership, there must be a collaboration of competent individuals who have their focus on the mission and educational objectives of the Convention. The challenge of leadership can be met when individuals have clarity of purpose, confidence in procedures, commitment of personnel, and capital for programs. Again, I will assist you in accomplishing the task that is before us in this present age.

I recognize a mutual theme for the work that is before us is essential. There has been much discussion concerning the development of a relevant Convention for these times. It is with this in mind that I ask the Convention to embrace with me the following as our Biblical emphasis *"Making Disciples."* The emphasis comes from what we know as "the Great Commission" in Matthew 28:19-20. Having this emphasis will allow us to plan and develop the Convention's focus with an absolute regard for who Christ would have us to be and what He would want us to do.

So often, there is the tendency to procrastinate and haphazardly approach that which is significant to our being. It is my prayer that each District Association, Clergy, Christian, and Churches, will embrace this work for the sake of reaching humanity for our Christ.

Because of Him,

*Rev. Dr. Marvin Mercer, Sr.*

Rev. Dr. Marvin Mercer, Sr., President

Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.

# Convention Theme

*“Go and make disciples...teaching them to obey...”*

## **Matthew 28:18-19**

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 20. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. NKJV*

Each year, we will recognize a Sub-Theme. A Sub-Theme will be developed and presented along with various lectures during the Convention year. Each ministry will be required to design its focus to embrace the Biblical emphasis and sub-themes of the Convention.

## **First Year Sub-Theme**

***The Gospel Uniting Believers in Christ for Effective Ministries***

Matthew 28:18 – “...Jesus came and spoke...”

## **Second Year Sub-Theme**

***The Gospel Equipping Us to Face Lost Souls***

Matthew 28:19 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”

## **Third Year Sub-Theme**

***The Gospel Empowering the Church to Transform Lives***

Matthew 28:20 – “teaching them to observe all things...”

## **Fourth Year Sub-Theme**

***The Gospel, Proclaiming our Faith for Victory***

Matthew 28:20 – “...and lo, I am with you...”