



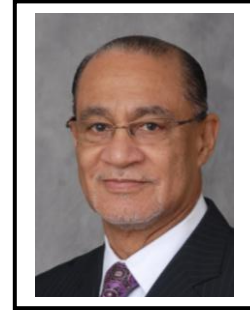
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, Sr., President Rev. Kip B. Banks, Sr., Interim General Secretary

“Securing Our Future”

II Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 62:10; Nehemiah 4:6 & 19-20

Psalms 119:57-60; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47



Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, Sr.

July 1, 2014

Dear PNBC Family & Friends:

Greetings and blessings from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with great anticipation and excitement that all roads lead to the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.'s (PNBC) 53rd Annual Session, August 4-8, 2014, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Please know that I appreciate your commitment and participation and look forward to a mighty move of God in Fort Lauderdale!

Our PNBC theme for 2014 is, *“Securing Our Future: Turning - A People of Peace.”* I am honored to be your 19th President during this critical time in our nation and world. During my tenure, I have served you with great character and integrity while representing our convention in all sectors of society. Being intentional in our stewardship, I have been able to tighten spending and streamline various PNBC processes to *secure our future*. I've kept you informed of the convention's growth and progress by pushing critical documents and statements, through each of the five PNBC regions that address issues in America and the world. I recently learned that these documents and open letters are being used in colleges and institutions to help shape students' values, morals and consciousness. Most of all, with God's guidance we have remained true to the reason for PNBC's birth and existence; which is being a voice for human and civil rights, equality and justice, and fighting the causes of the least of these.

It has also been my great pleasure to serve you during our historic moments in the PNBC. The PNBC celebrated its 50th Anniversary and our departments, states and local associations have also celebrated their 50th year as Progressive. We have witnessed the two historic elected terms of our first African American President and Commander in Chief, Mr. Barack H. Obama. It has been my distinct honor to serve as your 19th President during both of his terms. As you know, partnering within President Obama's administration has helped to solidify PNBC's position and provide greater visibility and dialogue with key policy makers. We have regained old fellowships and acquired new ones to ensure that the clarion voice of the PNBC is heard in the market place, echoes in the halls and chambers of our law makers, and cries out against all injustices around the globe. Most of all we are once again positioned at the tables that influence the world's decisions. This was one of my goals when I became your PNBC President in 2010; to restore PNBC's position and prominence in all areas and sectors of society. And, because of God's favor we have accomplished all of this and more for the Kingdom of God. Without a doubt, I am passing the baton in full stride to my successor to continue the tremendous progress made during my tenure in *securing our future*.

We have experienced many firsts as a convention. We've had personal audiences with President Obama, his top advisors and appointees; participated as a presenter at the first White House Summit

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addressing human trafficking/sex slavery; served as a panelist at the EPA, sharing the PNBC/religious role in environmental stewardship pertaining to global warming; and invited to Capitol Hill as a Steering Committee participant to shed light and bring clarity to pivotal issues.

The PNBC was privileged to assist Vice President Joe Biden in drafting meaningful gun legislation. Our collaborations with the Congressional Black Caucus in tackling hunger, poverty, joblessness, mortgage fraud, education and other related issues where new legislation needs to be crafted, has shown PNBC's unwavering support as we work for a better America. The PNBC teamed with First Lady Michelle Obama on her "Let's Move" initiative and others. We are proud that the PNBC was the first organization to reach the one million miles goal in the, "Let's Move" campaign. Additional teaming took place with Secretary Duncan on educational endeavors; Secretary Sebelius of Health and Human Services on mental health, affordable health care, and other initiatives; and with Attorney General Holder of Justice and Secretary Perez of the Labor Departments on fairness in our courts, prisons and the workplace. I have consistently shared information with you during my tenure as I have received it from these encounters, which has enabled the PNBC constituents to navigate through the red tape, gain access to new initiatives and have knowledge of new funding sources. Just last month I shared several grant opportunities with individuals in each region, and requested that they push the information to others on their distribution lists and throughout the convention so that all will have the opportunity to help *secure our future*.

Because of PNBC's history of speaking peace and understanding, our voice has journeyed around the world. We dialogued with leaders from Israel and other Palestine nations to interpret the viewpoint of each side. As a result, the PNBC led the way in crafting a white paper used as reference material for our nation's leaders and other stakeholders in dialogue and decision making. Invitations to our world leaders' homes and offices for additional dialogue represent great accomplishments for the PNBC. Recently, I represented the PNBC as a "Social Justice Elder" along with other notable civil rights and religious leaders to discuss racial bias in the world. I also had the opportunity to conduct mentoring sessions with a diverse group of emerging leaders.

We realize that the struggle for equality and justice is not over. As your President, I have led the convention in addressing many of our social justice and human rights challenges head-on through several initiatives and working with faith-based and civic partners. Our work with the families of Trayvon Martin, Troy Davis and other individuals in the prison system has been challenging. Tackling voting rights and suppression, along with equal education opportunities for minorities are still ongoing issues. There are hundreds of thousands in our nation who testify of racial profiling, civil and human rights violations, disparities in healthcare access and treatment, lack of employment opportunities, induced poverty, human trafficking and sex slavery. I have brought experts and even victims to participate in discussions to provide clarity and equip you with effective tools to guard against and systematically eradicate these ills of society. Although we have a long way to go, each accomplishment has brought us closer to realizing the dream of freedom, liberty and justice for all of humanity. As Progressive Baptists and the "civil rights" convention of the world, we must continue to stand our ground and *secure our future*.

I cannot speak enough of your continued support for initiatives such as "St. Jude: Sunday of Hope", supporting cancer research and helping to save countless children's lives. Our "Disaster Preparedness & Relief" initiative continues to gain momentum and has graduated hundreds of first

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responders who have been actively deployed to assist with disaster relief through a partnership with the American Red Cross. PNBC is stronger and healthier today as we continue to partner with those of like mind and spirit to *secure our future*.

The political, social and economic climates dictate that PNBC's upward climb and clarion voice among humanity and in the marketplace continue. We cannot forget our past lest we repeat it in the very near future. Last year we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the "*Emancipation Proclamation*", and the 50th Anniversary of the "*Civil Rights March On Washington*" led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of PNBC's favorite sons. During our last annual session, PNBC commemorated the 48th Anniversary of the signing of the "*Voting Rights Acts of 1965*" with a special civil rights service. This year we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of "*Brown v. Board of Education*", a landmark decision that secured equal and quality education.

We know that the issue of gun control is of great concern to all of us. I was moved to convene the African American Clergy Gun Control Coalition (AACGCC) that formed to provide a voice for our clergy on Capitol Hill. I pray that the PNBC will continue the "*Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr. Hour of Prayer*", to earnestly seek God's face to *secure our future*. During the 2014 Midwinter Board Meeting, we addressed clergy suicide through open and frank discussions with our PNBC clergy. My prayer is that these critical discussions and others similar in nature will develop more and continue to bring healing.

Please join us for our annual session in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where we will continue to address crucial issues with panel discussions featuring national and global civil rights icons and other guests. We will also have additional awareness information and exciting and progressive entertainment for you as we celebrate the goodness of the Lord! As previously stated, I am passing the baton in full stride to my successor to continue the tremendous progress made during my tenure in *securing our future*.

In closing, if we sincerely try to fulfill God's agenda and do the work of ministry, I believe that He will allow us to continue the upward pace that we have as a convention, and show us much grace and favor. We will accomplish a great deal more if we continue to pray earnestly, give cheerfully and work together for the good of our beloved PNBC.

May God richly bless you and keep you is my prayer.

Securing our future,

Carroll A. Baltimore, Sr.

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19th President

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