Tributes to Dr. Gardner C. Taylor

“As we mourn the loss of Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, we know that the world has lost a preaching giant. The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC) family has lost the man who most embodied the Progressive spirit and ideals. We will greatly miss him, but his influence will live on through our work and our witness. For me and many generations of preachers, Dr. Taylor was a role model, a teacher, and a father figure. His passing is the end of an era. While he was a great preacher, he was also a great leader. Dr. Taylor was a counselor and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and in that fashion; he helped to shape the Civil Rights Movement of the sixties. The PNBC will continue its work in wedding spirituality and the gospel message of social justice as Dr. Taylor so greatly exemplified. We extend our prayers and condolences to his wife, Phyllis, and the entire Taylor family as well as Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, NY, where he was Pastor Emeritus and served as Senior Pastor for 42 years.”

-- Dr. James C. Perkins, President PNBC

“The Rev. Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor faithfully declared and nobly represented the magnificence, the majesty, the miracle and the message of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.”

-- Dr. Timothy Stewart, 1st Vice President PNBC

“Dr. Gardner Taylor is a legend who has gone on to meet his creator. I remember the last sermon I ever heard him preach, and he preached “How Long?, Not Long.” Dr. Taylor was waiting to see the master.
We’re going to miss him, a legend that will live in all of our hearts. The prince of preachers, God bless his family. We know one day all of us will see each other again.”

--- Dr. David Peoples, Second Vice President, PNBC

“Dr. Gardner C. Taylor was the living embodiment of the Progressive National Baptist Convention’s core principles of Fellowship, Progress, Service and Peace. Let us work to keep his legacy alive by stoking the fires of prophetic preaching and endeavoring to keep PNBC strong.”

-- Rev. Kip B. Banks, Sr., Interim General Secretary, PNBC

Dr. Gardner Taylor made his transition out of the waiting room of time looking into the face of eternity, having preached unto the ends of the earth, and he literally and truthfully touched every continent across almost a hundred years. He was one of the greatest preachers of the past millennium. His preaching -- I believe -- caused God to smile, angels to rejoice and Satan to weep in anger that God had anointed such a person to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When the angels came to escort him into eternity, they might have said to him, you have a cloud of witnesses waiting to welcome you home where Sabbath hath no end and every season is a season of jubilee, pain will be no more and a thousand years like yesterday! Thanks be to God for Gardner C. Taylor.

-- Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Pastor Emeritus, Olivet Institutional Church, Cleveland, OH

“Anybody who had the privilege of hearing him speak knows what power he had. He was a friend of Dr. King who used his spellbinding sermons to spread the gospel and open people’s hearts and minds. He was a personal hero of mine.”

--- President Barack Obama

“We’ve lost a legend. One of the world’s greatest preachers, the last of a kind.” Dr. Smith also said that Dr. Taylor was a living embodiment of PNBC’s core principles of Progress, Peace, Fellowship, and Service, but that he was that and much more.

-- Dr. Perry A. Smith, III a longtime friend and former PNBC pastor

“Dr. Taylor was the greatest preacher of the 21st Century. He was really was one of the people who helped to frame the Civil Rights movement and he was the soul of PNBC. He also was key in helping us to understand and appreciate the transformative and prophetic art of Black preaching.”

-- Dr. Tyrone S. Pitts, Former PNBC General Secretary

Dr. Gardner C. Taylor was a true “fisher of men”. All you had to do was to hear him once and you were hooked!

--Minister Frances Sims McCraw
The Eagle soars to heights unknown; man can only soar with in a limited zone, But, when God steps in; there is no limitation to his soaring.
God has once again showed mankind, that HE is an Awesome God.

    Dr. Gardner C. Taylor has taken his flight.
    • Thank you for the times you Taught
    • Thank you for your Leadership
    • Thank you for the times you Proclaimed His Word
    • Thank you for the Lighthouse of Life you Lived
    One that stood in the Shadow of the Light you Casted.

--Rev. Dr. C. Stephen Sanders
Greenville, South Carolina 29607