

## VITA

Reverend Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr.



Reverend Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr., is a native of Jacksonville, Florida and has resided in Tallahassee, Florida since 1986.

He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Central Florida Junior~College, Ocala, Florida (A.A. Degree); a B.A. Degree from Malone College, Canton, Ohio; a MA. Degree from Methodist Theological Seminary, Delaware, Ohio; and a Doctoral Degree from Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia.

He is married to the former, Gloria Price of Jacksonville and is the father of three- children.

Dr. Holmes has been in the ministry for twenty-five years, during which time he has served as Youth Pastor at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Canton, Ohio; Associate Minister at Second Baptist Missionary Baptist Church. Delaware, Ohio; Pastor of the First Timothy Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, and is presently the Pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Florida, one of the leading and largest churches in the State of Florida with a membership of over 6500 members and thirty-five (35) active ministries, such as *Evangelism/Soul Winning, Married Couples, Children/Youth, Women/Men, Senior Citizens, Health Care, Economic Development, etc.*;

- Founder of Bethel Christian Academy grades Prek-6, which opened in 1992.
- Led the church in building a *4.5 million-dollar Family Life Center* which opened January 2000.
- Led the church in building a 5-million dollar facility for the elderly, *Bethel Towers, which* opened in the Fall of 2002.
- Founder of the *Bethel Family Restaurant* and *Bethel Mall*.

- Author of a book entitled, The Private Christian School in the African American \_ Church: It is Needed,

Bethel has grown tremendously under the leadership of Reverend Holmes.

Dr. Holmes is actively involved in numerous community, state, and nation organizations. To name a few:

- CEO and Chairman of the Board of Bethel Family Restaurant which opened in 1996;
- Chairman of the Board of the Bethel Family Counseling Center and Bethel Empowerment Board of Directors;
- President of the National Congress of Christian Education, an auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.;
- Member of the Board of Trustees, Florida Agricultural and Mechanic University, Tallahassee, Florida;
- Member of the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission;
- Founder of the C.K. Steele-Leroy Collins Community Charter Middle School, the first of its kind in the State of Florida;
- The 100 Black Men of America;
- Served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and the United Way;
- Past President of the Tallahassee Housing Authority;
- Past President of the National One Church, One Child Program of America;
- Past President of the Florida General Baptist Congress of Christian Education;
- Founder and Chairman of the Board of Project CREATE, Inc.,
- Past Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Juvenile Justice Commission, Inc.;
- Owner of W T A L 1450 AM, Tallahassee's oldest radio station;

Among numerous awards and recognitions are the following:

- Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award (*Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce,*)
- Business Leader of the Year (*City of Tallahassee*)
- Martin Luther King Leadership Award (*FAMU*)
- Humanitarian Award (*FAMU*)
- NAACP Community Service Award

Dr. Holmes is a gifted visionary preacher-teacher. He enjoys outings with his family and sports during his spare time. His greatest joy is *teaching* and *preaching* the Word of God.