



Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs is Pastor Emeritus of First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, AL. He is a preacher, teacher, author who has spent over 50 years preaching and teaching, and has been the shepherd of God's people at First Missionary Baptist Church since 1977, retiring in 2018 after 41 years. In 1999, Dr. Scruggs was elected Vice President-at-Large of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; and as a part of the leadership team, he helped to bring vision, integrity, structure and accountability to the largest Black church organization in the nation. Reverend Scruggs was overwhelmingly elected as the 17th President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., in 2009.

Julius was born in Elkton, TN to the Reverend and Mrs. Earl Scruggs, Sr., and reared in Toney, AL. He graduated from Council Training High School in Huntsville, AL. He earned his B.A. degree from American Baptist College in Nashville, TN; his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degrees from Vanderbilt University School of Divinity in Nashville, TN. Julius received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letter from Alabama A & M University, Normal, AL in 2011.

Ministry and Career

Dr. Scruggs' pastoral experience began at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Harvest AL, where he served from 1960 to 1965. From 1965 – 1972, he pastored the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Nashville, TN, and 1972 – 1977, Antioch Baptist Church, East Chicago, IN. January, 1977, he began his pastorate at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, AL. During his more than forty-one (41) years in the pastorate at First Missionary Baptist Church, more than 5,200 members united with the church. The church initiated witnessing/evangelism teams, jail ministry teams, scholarship funds, and health fitness and recreation ministries. The Christian Education ministry was enhanced with weekly Bible study for all ages, and a licensed Child Development Center and Academy was started for ages 2 through fifth 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 Scruggs led the church in starting the FMBC Foundation, a mission and education foundation made possible by gifts of 2 million dollars by two families in the church. He led the church in giving to Home and Foreign Missions causes and made benevolent contributions of more than \$500,000 per year. The church built and paid for 20 houses in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, allocated funds annually to the program, and members of the church assisted in building 14 other Habitat homes. The church contributed a gift of \$100,000 to Selma University for scholarships and operation in 1997; contributed a gift of over \$100,000 to American Baptist College Chair of Excellence in 1991; endowed a \$500,000 Chair in Pastoral Leadership and Preaching at ABC in 2001; assisted in building an HIV/AIDS clinic and Chapel in Swaziland, Africa in 2004. In 2005, the John R. Lewis and Julius R. Scruggs Center for Leadership Training was dedicated at American Baptist College.

Published Works

Reverend Scruggs has published the following works: Meditations on the Church, Baptist Preachers with Social Consciousness: A Comparative study on Martin L. King, Jr and Harry Fosdick, God is Faithful, and How to Study and Teach the Bible. How to Study and Teach the Bible has sold over 20,000 copies.

Religious and Civic Organization Involvement

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 of the American Baptist College, former member of the National Board of Directors, NAACP; former board member of Selma University and former President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention (President Emeritus). He is also a member of the Huntsville Human Relations Commission; member and former President of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF); member, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Kappa Boule', and provides advisory support to a wide range of community movements. While attending American Baptist College in the '60's, Reverend Scruggs almost lost his left eye during the sit-ins in Nashville. In 2012, Dr. Scruggs gave the main speech for the 50th Anniversary of the Bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL where the 4 little girls were killed.

Accomplishments and Recognition

Dr. Scruggs' accomplishments have been recognized in "Who's Who in Religion," 1979; "Personalities of America Hall of Fame," 1979; "Outstanding Young Men in America," 1979; Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Award, 1988, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; "25 Most Influential Black Christian Male Newsmakers," 2011; "70 Most Influential Black History Makers," 2012; in 2018, the Child Development Center Academy (FMBC) was named the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center Academy. Also in 2018, Dr. Scruggs was part of President Obama's National Prayer breakfast group while he was in office and was asked by the President to give the prayer for the Easter Prayer Breakfast. President Obama recognized Dr. Scruggs for his many civic and religious accomplishments upon his retirement in 2018.

Dr. Scruggs is sought after for his biblically based, doctrinally sound, and life-changing teaching and preaching. His servant-style leadership and his personal integrity molded and shaped the thrust of First Missionary Baptist Church's Christian Education emphasis, outreach ministry, stewardship commitment, physical growth, and spiritual maturity. First Missionary Baptist Church calls him a "tender shepherd" who takes his calling seriously.

Personal

He is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton, and they are the proud parents of a daughter, Jennifer J. Scruggs, and a son, Morris E. Tipton, II. They have 3 grandchildren: Morris E. Tipton, III, Morgan T. Tipton, and Elizabeth F. Scruggs.