



Welcome to this SPECIAL edition of, "The Cornerstone," containing news and information for Riceville Members. The goal of this SPECIAL edition is to provide the Congregation with a progress report regarding the work the Deacons are undertaking in the Pastoral selection process and the Church Constitution. We hope you will find this report informative.

## Rejoice One With Another

### Comments from the Deacon Staff

The Deacon Staff is proud to announce Reverend Melvin R. Bates to the role of "Transitional Pastor" of Riceville Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church effective immediately. In his role Rev. Bates will serve the church as we prepare for the transition to a new Sr. Pastor. Rev. Bates will enjoy all the privileges afforded a Pastor during this time period. Please pray for Riceville and Rev. Bates for "standing in the gap" during this critical phase of our spiritual journey as we prepare ourselves for the calling of a new Pastor.

Yours in His Service,

The Deacon Staff



Reverend Melvin R. Bates accepted Christ in 1973 at the age of ten (10) at the St. Davis Missionary Baptist Church of Houston, TX under the leadership of the late Reverend Ralph Jones. He accepted the call to Gospel Ministry in 1980 at the age of nineteen (19).

Rev. Bates preached his first sermon on October 12, 1980 at the Bethany Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Robert Wilson.

He was licensed and ordained to the Ministry on June 25, 1981 by the St. Davis Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. B. R. Bradley, where he served as associate minister for five (5) years.

In 1982, Rev. Bates served as Interim Pastor of the Greater Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, TX. In June of 1982 he received his call to Pastor the Greater Progressive Baptist Church and served in the capacity for six (6) years until 1990.

Rev. Bates presently serves as an Associate Minister of Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Rev. Bates graduated in 1980, from Jefferson Davis Sr. High School, in Houston, TX and received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Mount Carmel International School of Religion in June of 1986.

He is the proud father of four (4) wonderful children, Natasha Ron'e, Melvin Jr., Stephen-Michael and Marie Katherine. He is blessed to be married to the most wonderful woman in the world, Mrs. Angela M. Bates.

#### Inside this Special Edition :

- Comments from the Deacon Staff;
- Rev. Melvin R. Bates Biography;
- Procedures and next steps for the Public Review of the Proposed Church Constitution.

"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

**Habakkuk 2:2-3**

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of him that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!"

**Romans 10:15**