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### **BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY TO OFFER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**

*Distinguished alumnus scheduled to engage spring 2007 graduates in spiritual reflection and community worship*



*Bishop Victor T. Curry, D. Min., D. Div.*

**MIAMI GARDENS, FL [APRIL 12, 2007]** – Bishop Victor T. Curry, Senior Pastor / Teacher of New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International and 1986 graduate of Florida Memorial University, will serve as the keynote speaker during the institution's annual Baccalaureate Service on Friday, April 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. The service will be held in the Susie C. Holley Religious Center on campus located at 15800 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Miami Gardens. The Baccalaureate Service is a traditional religious occasion that precedes the annual Commencement Ceremony and is intended to unite the Spring 2007 graduates, their families, and their friends in worship, song, and prayer. Guests attending this service are encouraged to engage in spiritual reflection and express appreciation for divine blessings. Additional information regarding the service can be obtained by contacting Dr. Sandra T. Thompson, Florida Memorial's Executive Vice President / Provost, at (305) 626-3186.

Having emerged as one of South Florida's most passionate and fearless spiritual leaders, Bishop Curry has become one of the most distinguished and notable graduates of Florida Memorial University. In 1986, Bishop Curry earned a bachelor's degree in Community-Clinical Psychology from the institution. He continued to expand his knowledge base for his ministerial calling by graduating with a Master of Ministry degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary. He also received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Divinity from St. Thomas Christian College in 2004.

During Bishop Curry's years of faithful service to New Birth Ministries, he has acquired a long list of accomplishments for the kingdom of God. In March of 1995, Bishop Curry's incisive leadership enabled New Birth to purchase AM 1490 WMBM, the first Black-owned gospel radio station in Miami which was recently named the 2007 recipient of the Stellar Award. In June of 1997, the Vision To Victory Human Services Corporation was founded, followed by the Dr. E. V. Hill Bible College (formerly known as New Birth Bible Institute), which received full accreditation in May of 2004. In August of 2004, the John A McKinney Christian Academy was added to the ever-growing New Birth portfolio, with New Birth Enterprise Recording Studio and Omari Chronicles Publishing being the most recent additions to the New Birth Ministries umbrella.

Widely recognized as a passionate community servant, Bishop Curry has obtained honors and awards that include the following: Citizen of the Year, Pastor of The Year by the *Miami Times* newspaper, Future Leader of America, Humanitarian of The Year, the NAACP-Image Award, and the 2003 J.M. Family African American Achiever Award for Business and Entrepreneurism. Moreover, the *Miami Business Magazine* tabbed Bishop Curry as one of the "100 Most Powerful People in Miami."

Despite his demanding schedule, Bishop Curry catalyzes countless civic endeavors to affect change. In addition to serving as a member of Florida Memorial's Board of Trustees, Bishop Curry is also the third Vice Moderator of the Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association, one of Florida's largest Baptist alliances. Through a new organization called Progressive Race Inspired and Dedicated to Empower (PRIDE), Bishop Curry has made a firm commitment to ensure equity in both political and financial processes throughout the county, state and nation by serving as the group's president. He now serves as President of the Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization. During his previous tenure as President of the Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP, Bishop Curry led the organization to exceptional levels of membership. Under his leadership, the Branch commendably educated and empowered the community through town hall meetings, political forums and "Get Out the Vote" campaigns.

Bishop Curry is also a published author of three books titled *The Stewardship Test*, *The Stewardship Task Workbook*, and *Where Your Treasure Is*. These publications are designed to minister Godly stewardship principles for effective lifestyle management. The forthcoming biography, which chronicles Bishop Curry's life and ministry, is titled *A Charge To Keep I Have*.

Bishop Curry is the loving father of three daughters: Victoria, Veronica, and Victory; and one granddaughter, Damari.

*Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution offering 41 undergraduate degree programs and 4 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the university has upheld a commitment to providing a solid foundation for thousands of young people and opening doors to educational opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. As South Florida's ONLY Black university, it is widely recognized for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." For more information, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (305) 626-3624.*

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