

## ***Reverend Dr. Thomasina M. Portis***

Reverend Dr. Thomasina M. Portis is an internationally renowned Musician, Preacher, Educator, and Lecturer. She is the founding pastor of Renaissance Christian Tabernacle and Ministries in Washington, DC. Dr. Portis is among the first African American internationally recognized lecturers in Character Education and Multiculturalism. She also has been appointed as an Ambassador-At-Large to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. A fifth-generation educator, Dr. Portis served as an administrator in the District of Columbia Public School System, served as a superintendent, and was appointed a trustee of a parochial school district in Prince Georges County, Maryland. She is an internationally accredited Chaplain and Christian Counselor and remains active in social and civil rights matters.

Dr. Portis has made many contributions to music. She has written a training manual for the voice, commissioned by Mrs. Grace Bradford, past Supervisor of Music for DC Public Schools. She has performed many national and International vocal concerts to fund community service projects for the elderly and indigent, and to send more than 1000 inner-city students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As a Minister of Music, she has given numerous national lectures and held workshops in the many facets of Church music ministry. She also has conducted musical productions at the Kennedy Center, The Ford's Theater, Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, and at National Music and Christian Conferences.

Her other contributions include National Community Service projects at the invitation of two US Presidents, curriculum development in HIV/Aids for the Granada Minister of Education, programs in Integrated Academic/Character Education for the US Juvenile Justice System, a summer jobs program for college students, philanthropy projects to raise funds for operations for sick children from Ghana, and serving as Chair/President of Sisters by Choice, residential facility for emancipated mothers ages 14 through 21 in San Diego, CA. She was the first African-American woman to chair "Learning for Life," the educational component of the Boy Scouts of America.

She has published several works in the field of education and Christianity. They are: "The Required Reformation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School;" "GOD THE TRIUNE: Growing in the Holy Spirit;" "THE HABIT OF ACTION: Fulfilling the Great Commission;" and "WOMEN OF FAITH: Strengthening Their Spirit; Strengthening Their Ministry."

Dr. Portis has given many presentations, among which are being the Baccalaureate Speaker at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, a guest lecturer at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and a lecturer at the International Character Education Conferences in South Korea and Germany, as well as The White House Conference on Children and Youth, The National Education Conferences for American Teachers, The National Conference for Guidance and Counseling, the Music Educators National Conference, the 100 Black Women organization, and more than 900 US school districts. She has also been a guest plenary speaker at state and national Christian Conferences.

She is eternally grateful to her wonderful three children whom she loves deeply; Verenander III (Denise), Vernard (Cynthia) Portis and the late Tamarinice Portis (Anthony) Williams. Her beautiful grandchildren add to her legacy.