

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Dr. W. L. PARRISH, II, Executive Minister

**American Baptist Churches of the South
Baltimore, Maryland**



Dr. W. L. Parrish, II has served as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTS) since January 1979. He is the third person to serve in this position. He is the Senior Executive Minister in ABC/USA with over 28 years.

Prior to this position, Dr. Parrish served pastorates in Waynesboro, Virginia; Forest, Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland; Portsmouth, Virginia and Columbia, Maryland.

Dr. Parrish is a native of Huntington, West Virginia. He holds degrees from Lynchburg College and Virginia Seminary; (B. A., Masters of Sociology and Master of Divinity), Lynchburg, VA. Two honorary degrees have been conferred upon him. He has studied at the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research, Tantar, Jerusalem and in the U.S.S.R. (Russia).

In November 1986, Dr. Parrish spent 21 days in Tokyo, Japan, Beijing, Nanking, and Hong Kong, China; Bangkok, Thailand and Rangoon, Burma. A special focus on the time in Burma was to visit areas where missionaries had been excluded for more than twenty years. In October 1994 he was the guest of the Sudan government participating in an Inter-religious Conference, which brought together 250 religious leaders and scholars for a time of dialogue between those of the Christian and Muslim faiths.

In August 1995, Dr. Parrish was a delegate to the 17th Baptist World Alliance Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina with over 8,000 Baptists from 124 countries and 6 continents. Following the Congress, time was spent speaking in Santiago, Chile; La Paz and Cochabamba, Bolivia.

In August 2001 and 2003 Dr. Parrish led a Mission Preaching delegation to Lusaka, Zambia – Johannesburg –Soweto, South Africa where they ministered with the Baptist Convention of Zambia over 560 churches throughout Zambia. .

Dr. Parrish has spent many years in the Christian ministry as a lecturer, teacher, pastor, professional fundraiser and denominational executive. He has served on numerous boards and is a former Trustee, Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina.

Dr. Parrish is married to Carole J. Parrish, a retired high school teacher and they reside in Mitchellville, Maryland. They are parents to three adult children Dr. Walter L. Parrish III, Mr. William K. Parrish and Ms. Willette M. Parrish; and grandparents to four young boys, William Keever, Jr, Jonathan, Christian and Joseph Parrish.