



**Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Jr.**, is Senior Pastor of the Bethel Church, located in Jacksonville, Florida. Bethel is the oldest existing Baptist church in the state of Florida, being founded in 1838. Under Bishop McKissick's leadership, the church has experienced exponential growth to over 10,000 active disciples. Bishop McKissick has established himself not only as a prolific proclaimer but also as an academician,

teaching as an adjunct professor at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Religion at Virginia Union University. Bishop McKissick is the author of several books and an accomplished musician with several critically acclaimed music projects.

Bishop McKissick has been afforded many national platforms for proclamation, as the morning preacher at the prestigious Hampton University Ministers and Musicians Conference as well as the featured conference preacher in the evening, the conference preacher at the John Malcus Ellison Convocation at Virginia Union University (now the John Ellison/Miles Jones Convocation) and induction into the Morehouse School of Religion Board of Preachers.

Bishop McKissick also serves on various boards, including the National Action Network founded by Rev. Al Sharpton, the Board of Trustees for Florida State College at Jacksonville, and the Advisory Board to the President at Virginia Union University.

Bishop McKissick holds a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University with a double major in the field of music: one in opera and the other in sacred church music, with a minor in pipe organ performance. He holds a master of divinity degree from The School of Theology at Virginia Union University, now the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Religion at Virginia Union University, and a doctor of ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary. Bishop McKissick has been awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from both Bethune Cookman University and Virginia Union University. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Sigma Pi Phi Boule.

He is married to the former Kimberly Joy Nichols, and they are the proud parents of three beautiful children: Jocelyn, Janai, and Joshua.