

Mt. Zion Northeast Coast Missionary Baptist District Association  
55th Annual Congress of Christian Education  
July 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

\*Nationally accredited by the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.



Rev. Michael E. Mitchell, Jr. – Moderator  
Dr. Quintin P. Woods, Sr. – Congress President  
Sis. Cheryl A. Brooks – Congress Dean  
Sis. Linda Taylor – Oratorical Coordinator

2026  
Oratorical Theme, Scripture and Guidelines For  
Collegiate (Undergraduate Students)  
Junior (Grades 9-11)  
Intermediate (Grades 5-8)  
Primary (Grades 1-4)

**THEME:**  
**“Words Matter”**  
**(Scripture: Proverbs 18:21)**

**\*Scripture:**

**Proverbs 18:21** - *"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."* (NIV)

**Proverbs 18:21** - *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."* (NKJV)

**\*Focus:**

I can build others up and speak life into myself by using words that reflect God's love and strength in my life.

**When:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Greater Friendship Baptist Church  
539 George W. Engram Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

**Certificates and Prizes:** All contestants will receive a certificate for their participation. Winner will receive certificates and monetary awards.

# GUIDELINES

## PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for students to develop oration skills that will allow them to confidently share the Word as well as benefit them in their life endeavors. Likewise, the written speech reflects spiritual knowledge, development, and appreciation of God's Word as well as evidence of intellectual thinking and positive expression. Your speech should be about life, society or human nature/condition that needs to be turned toward God's love and light.

- Fosters Faith
- Encourages Christ-centered Communication
- Promotes Writing, Public Speaking, and Reading
- Builds Self-confidence

## In-Person

The Oratorical Speeches will be held "In-Person" Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at Greater Friendship Baptist Church, 539 George W. Engram Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL. 32114.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Oratorical participants must be:

- **Collegiate (Undergraduate Students):** Must be registered student of a post-secondary institution. And must provide a letter proving membership from your home church. The letter must be from the church's head Pastor.
- **In the 1st - 11<sup>th</sup> grades (2026/2027 School Year)**
- **Home church must be a part of the MZNEC District Association**
- **Only one participation per church, per division**

## Organization of Speech

- The speech must use the key scripture and at least two (2) other scriptures to support your position.
- **Orations must be memorized. No sing-song tones, props, or aides.**
- All speeches must be original, prepared, and written by the contestant.
- Any use of quotes and wording, not by the oratorical contestant, must be properly identified and cited, including AI (Artificial Intelligence) software.
- **The speech must be typewritten, organized, and submitted in a "PDF format" in "Times New Roman", 12-point black font, double-spaced. Minimum requirement of 300 words. Maximum requirement of 800 words.**
- The speech must progress logically, be correct in form and content, be relevant, and address the established them and scripture.
- Presentation should be 3-5 minutes in length.

- There should be no typographical or grammatical errors in the final submitted copy. The speech must document all references or copyrighted material cited in the oration. All supporting documentation must be neatly printed, complete and accurate.

### **DELIVERY**

- Participants are to stand, state the topic and begin their memorized oration.
- Participants are not allowed to use introductions or reference protocols.
- Participants shall not state their names or any other identifying data during the oration.
- Participants shall avoid using a sing-song tone, sermonette format and avoid excessive gestures in their presentation. Likewise, no dancing, rapping, etc.
- Special props, costumes, clothing or prompts are not permitted.
- Any violations of the guidelines will automatically disqualify the contestant.

### **The Presentation attire is as follows:**

**Males:** Long pants, dress shirt, tie and suit coat

**Females:** Dress or Suit with hosiery

### **Submission and Participation Guidelines:**

- 1.) Advance through your home church Oratorical contest.
- 2.) Ensure contestants' church is registered and will be attending this upcoming 55th Annual Session of the Mt. Zion Congress of Christian Education in July.
- 3.) Email complete entry form and oration in the required format by deadline as noted below.

### **The participant's Oratorical Coordinator/YPD Director must submit on behalf of the participant the following:**

- **A copy of the typed speech**
- **A copy of the completed Contestant Entry Form**

**\*\*All items must be received by Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 11:59PM**

**Via email to:**

- Sis. Linda Taylor, MZNEC Oratorical Coordinator  
Email: [sundaymorndew@yahoo.com](mailto:sundaymorndew@yahoo.com)  
Contact #: (321) 746-1534

Copy (CC)

- Sis. Cheryl Brooks, Congress Dean  
Email: [CLSDeanBrooks@mtmoriahmbcpb.org](mailto:CLSDeanBrooks@mtmoriahmbcpb.org)  
Contact #: (321) 960-0419

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**2026 Mt. Zion Northeast Coast Missionary Baptist District Association  
Oratorical Contestant Entry Form**

Contestant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Collegiate \_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_ (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>) Intermediate \_\_\_\_ (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)  
Primary \_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address, City and Zip)

Parent's/Guardia's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name and Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Director/Directress: \_\_\_\_\_

Oratorical Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardia's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_