

## Meet Laura Banks, Ph.D.

By Joyce Lovelady



Laura N. Banks, Ed.D. is a native of Tucson, Arizona. Presently, she resides in Helotes, TX. She has earned four degrees from the University of Arizona: Bachelor of Science, Master of Education, Education Specialist and Doctorate of Education.

For 39 years, she served as an educator in Tucson. During that time she served as a teacher, Peace Corps Lecturer, Principal, District Reading Coordinator and Assistant Superintendent. Presently, she is President/Owner of LNB Enterprises, an educational consulting firm.

Dr. Banks is an avid community worker and volunteer. She has served on numerous local, state and national boards and commissions. Her positions include past president of the Tucson YWCA, NAACP, Urban League, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Women at the Top; a member of the YWCA National Board for 11 years; a Paul Harris Fellow (Rotary International); International Advisory Board for the University of Arizona/College of Education; Advisory Council/UTSA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, 1999-2002; National Secretary Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc.; National

Recording Secretary of the Links, Inc.; and Charter member San Antonio Chapter, Coalition of 100 Black Women.

She has received many outstanding awards and commendations. They include the University of Arizona Black Alumni Phenomenal Women Award, University of Arizona Distinguished Citizen Award, YWCA's Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, Shriners Award for Excellence in Education, NAACP Diamond Life Member and Robert L. Horn Award recipient. Additionally, Dr. Banks is listed in seven different editions of "Who's Who" and is featured in the 1997 edition of the Southern Arizona Women's Fund Book; and received the UA/COE Distinguished Service Award. An elementary school in Tucson, Arizona was named in her honor in April 2002 and dedicated in February 2003. The Barrio Anita Association honored Dr. Banks for achievement and community service by including a 15 foot portrait of her in glass mosaic tile in a 400 square foot mural.

She and her late husband, Jack, were owners of Jack's Original

Barbecue for 42 years. The business was inducted into the Arizona Restaurant Hall of Fame in 1994. Her life is personified through Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much is required; And from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." She has served as guest speaker for many churches and organizations. At Second Baptist Church, her involvements include membership in the Hospitality Committee, Deborah Circle, Women's Missionary Union and Personnel Committee. Dr. Banks will be married to Mr. Eugene Reed of Bakersfield, CA, on March 25, 2006.

*Pastor's Comments:* Dr. Laura Banks is truly one of God's servant educators. Her life reflects faith. It is faith with new movement, new ways of thinking and new ideas. She is a perfect example of one who uses her faith to give encouragement and to motivate thousands to seek the best scholarship and Christian beliefs.

Who can find a virtuous woman? (Prov. 31:10) We have in the life, legacy and love of Mrs. Banks.



*The Barrio Anita Mural Project*