Selah: Forum for Issues in the Black Church, Volume 2, 1987

John Richard Foulkes Sr.

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MEMPHIS 88

Although the next biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will not be held until August 1988, one registration for the event has been received already.

When the Convocation Board of Trustees met in Indianapolis, December 11-13, 1986, and began planning for the August 1988 meeting in Memphis, TN, the Rev. Robert W. Dickerson, Cleveland, OH, paid his registration fee to show his enthusiasm for the upcoming event.

The Convocation is hoping the Memphis session will attract one of the largest number of Black Disciples to ever attend a session. The Board is planning regional promotional events in 1987 and early 1988.

The Rev. Alvin O. Jackson, Memphis, Convocation president, said 1988 will be a good year for the session because it will be an election year, South Africa will still be an issue of concern and Greenwood Cemetery of Nashville will be celebrating its centennial anniversary.

In other action, the Board accepted a report from its Task Force on the Pension Fund's Investment with South Africa which commended the efforts of the Disciples' Pension fund for its prudent business practices and divestment procedures concerning South African investments.

Chairman of the task force, the Rev. Booker T. Dickason, Washington, DC, said after meeting with the Disciples' Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee, "We learned that we are not bankers and how morally committed they are. It is a monumental task to pull out of South Africa."
He reported that the Pension Fund had divested all of its South African holdings except 100 shares in Citicorp which it will hold until the spring shareholders meeting in order to have a voice at that meeting. The National Benevolent Association has divested all of its South African holdings except IBM which has said it will pull out of South Africa.

"We feel confident that the church is doing all it can and what it should be doing," said Dickason.

New Direction

The Committee on Black and Hispanic Concerns of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrated its 10th anniversary when it met last December.

"The committee is just beginning to come to its fullness in terms of understanding what its purpose is, working in partnership with the general units to identify strengths and weaknesses in existing programs and working on solutions together," said the Rev. John R. Foulkes, Sr., Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation.

A new direction for the 10-year-old committee is reflected in a proposed name change, approved at its December 10-11, 1986 meeting. If approved by the Disciples' Administrative Committee, the body will become the Committee for Racial Ethnic Inclusiveness and Empowerment.

In recommendations and concerns addressed by the committee, the Hispanic caucus recommended to the Council on Christian Unity that a joint United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ Hispanic committee be established to consider the implications of the UCC/Disciples partnership for the Hispanic membership.

The caucus expressed its concern about the "English Only" movement and asked the Rev. John O. Humbert, the church's general minister and president, to speak in opposition to the movement.

The group also listed some negative implications of the United States Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and urged the church to continue its ministry to undocumented persons in the U.S. The Hispanic caucus also recommended that a Consultation for the Eradication of Racism be sponsored by the church.
The Black caucus applauded some units in their efforts to employ minorities but expressed concern at low number of minorities on other unit staffs. The National Benevolent Association and the Pension Fund were commended for the manner in which they have handled South African divestment.

The Black caucus suggested the Disciples of Christ Historical Society tape conversations with older Black leaders to fill in the gaps in the history of the Black Disciples. They also want to work with the Historical Society to prepare for the 1988 centennial celebration of Greenwood Cemetery in Nashville.

Jimmie Ward Ordained

Jimmie L. Ward, a recent graduate of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX, was ordained into the Christian Ministry on September 21 at the Twelfth Street Christian Church. Mr. Ward is also a graduate of North Carolina Central University in Durham and of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and attended Howard University Divinity School. He and his wife, Ronnie, and four children are residents of Washington, DC.

Present With The Lord

Edna Dixon Brown, Indianapolis, an active member of the National Convocation, aggressive supporter of the Star Supporter Fund, member of the General Board, member of the Indiana Region Commission on Ministry, and member of Downey Avenue Christian Church was born into eternity on December 25, 1986.

Harold Watkins, Alex Cade, Harold Johnson, and Robert Brown identified the following characteristics of Edna's life: contagious, influential, effective, caring, full commitment, transparent personality, wisdom, mutual respect, concern for children, dedication to family, accessible, available, able friend; a lovable, unique, strong-willed person that showed determination and strong faith. Edna was a person who was able to smile, laugh and joke. A person who carried the sentence of death in her blood, but lived life to its fullest.
Robert Brown closed his statement with a story of a car. The car had a good motor, but the rest of it had deteriorated. The owner of the car suggested we scrape the body and send the engine on.

# # #

Homegoing celebration services were held for Berniece Amber Holmes on December 17, at East 16th Christian Church, Oklahoma City, OK. Sister Holmes served for 14 years on the National Board of Christian Churches, 12 years on the National Planning Board of Christian Women's Fellowship and was a lifetime member of the Oklahoma Sixth District Planning Committee of Christian Churches.

We, The Black Americans

There are more of us ... In 1790, when the first census was taken, we numbered about 760,000 and represented about 19 percent of the U.S. population. By the start of the Civil War in 1860, our numbers had increased to 4.4 million but our percentage of the U.S. total dropped to 14.1 percent. Most of us were slaves, only 488,000 were counted as "freemen."

By 1900, our population had doubled over the 1860 figure, reaching 8.8 million. We passed the 15 million mark in 1950, and the census counted 22.6 million of us in 1970. By 1985, we numbered 28.2 million. (U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census)
The theme selected for the 10th Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is "Chosen by the Spirit; Challenged to Be ..."

The convocation's program planning committee selected the theme when it met in Indianapolis, February 13-14, to plan the session to be held in Memphis, Tenn., August 8-12, 1988.

In selecting the theme, there were the common words "challenged" and "chosen," in several of the suggested themes, according to the Rev. John R. Foulkes, associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation.

"We are trying to say that God chose us and through the activity of the spirit has come an ownership. Because of this ownership, we are challenged to live out our faith," he said.

Foulkes explained that Luke 4:16-21, a statement of Jesus' mission, will be used as the sub-theme for the daily sessions. On Monday the sub-theme will be "Good News to the Poor;" Tuesday, "Release to the Captives;" Wednesday, "Sight to the Blind;" Thursday, "Liberty to the Oppressed;" and Friday, "the Acceptable Year of the Lord."

The opening service of the session will be held Monday, August 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, said Foulkes. All other sessions and workshops will be held at the Memphis Convention Center.

The musician for the session, Gale Jones Murphy, Memphis, has written an original song for the event entitled "We are Chosen ..."

The committee for the Greenwood Cemetery Centennial Celebration also met to plan for its 100th anniversary activities which will precede the convocation, August 6-7 in Nashville.

The Greenwood Cemetery celebration will focus on Preston Taylor, founder of the convocation's predecessor, the National Christian Missionary Convention. Taylor, a former slave, founded Greenwood Cemetery. It was part of his
estate which was willed to the National Christian Missionary Convention. His gifts left an endowment which still funds the National Convocation office, according to Foulkes.

**JARVIS' DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Jarvis Christian College, is commemorating its seventy-fifth birth year.

Jarvis has reached this point in history as the result of the efforts of our Black churches and the boundless blessings of God. In recognition of its birth, its justification for continued existence, the thousands of young people, who but for a JARVIS, might not have had an opportunity for higher education, and its dedication to continue to serve the needs of young people, both history and the needs of young people cry out for our churches to respond at this time. Our DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION lifts up rich traditions, commitment, affirmation of thankfulness and dedication to the future. Resultingly, we do not want history to record that a single one of our Black churches did not seize upon this momentous opportunity to demonstrate its thanks for a JARVIS, belief and faith in a JARVIS and a determined will for its future.


The Second Annual Oreon E. Scott Lectures were held on Sunday, February 22, 1987 at 10:30 a.m., Sunday night at 7:30 p.m., Monday night, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m., and Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. at the Convocation.

**WILLOW ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

113TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE. Sunday, March 8, the pastor and members of Willow Street will observe its 113th anniversary. Special services have been planned. The theme this year is "Dare To March On!", giving special recognition to the 25th year that the church marched from its Broadway location to 404 Willow Street under the pastor of Dr. Raymond E. Brown. The guest speaker for this celebration will be Dr. Brown, now senior vice president of the Board of Church Extension, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Special music will be rendered by the Gospel Tones of Mexico, Missouri and special selections from the church's three choirs will also be presented. An all church and community fellowship dinner will also be held between worship services. (by Lucille Morrison, chairman of publicity, Willow St. Christian Church, Hannibal, Missouri)

**E.L. GRIFFIN'S 50TH YEAR**

The congregation of the First Christian Church of Shaw, Mississippi, will be celebrating Elder E. L. Griffin's 50 years of ministry on Sunday, March 29.
YOUTH WORKING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

In the December issue of SELAH, an article mentioned the fact that young people are not working in the Christian Church. Second Christian Church (Fort Worth, Texas) is more than proud to be an exception to that rule. For years Second Christian's youth have been a major and active part of church activities. Recently, new programs have been introduced to assure our youth full participation in our services. We believe there are many reasons for our youth participation success.

For starters, our youth are encouraged to be involved. They have a hand in many of the church's decisions; and they are asked to participate in activities such as skits, programs, and plays. Secondly, activities are not limited. We not only have programs by youth on special holidays, we have programs throughout the year. We also have programs designed just for our youth.

The youth are involved with choirs. They serve as ushers. We are very pleased with our junior deacons who are in training until they become adult deacons. Second takes a great deal of pride in one more activity. Every third Sunday our youth take over the church. They pray, sing, take offering, give announcements, and also usher. Just the idea of being able to become involved in the church keeps our youth coming in large masses. The importance of involvement stressed among our youth has paid off. The children are more respectful, attentive, and keen to learning. Their attendance at Sunday School is flourishing and our youth group works strenuously.

Second Christian Church believes the reason behind the youth's success is acceptance. They feel like they belong to something and that makes them want to work hard for its overall general success. We believe that through this acceptance, our youth will continue to grow into faithful Christians still working in the name of the Lord. Second hopes that churches with youth participation problems will take this example to heart and realize that given the opportunity, not only will the youth work, they will prosper. (By Laetitia Coleman, a senior in the International Baccalaureate Program at Wyatt High School and a member of Second Christian Church in Fort Worth)

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?

A.J. WARREN PARTICIPATES IN STUDY FORUM ON MLK

Archie J. Warren, Sr., pastor and founder of Calvary Temple Christian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, participated in the Vanderbilt Divinity School's Knoxville study forum. Rev. Warren's reflections on Martin Luther King are scheduled to be published in the divinity school's publication, THE SPIRE.
MISSION EFFORTS OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST AND THE UCC

Joint mission efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ must include advocacy elements and not perpetuate paternalistic styles of mission.

So said the Administrative Committee of the General Board guiding the two churches' ecumenical partnership in its meeting, January 30-February 2, Indianapolis, Indiana.

It is not enough, said the committee, to touch people's lives with needed services. The mission of the church also must "name the sin" and address those forces which "keep the community suppressed, keep the poor communities poor."

While affirming God at work in mission which humanizes, cares for the needy and offers human dignity, ecumenical mission must be "biblically authentic" and lead to renewal and interdependence, the committee stressed.

OVERSEAS CHURCH SERVICE

Have you ever considered serving the church overseas? The Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is seeking qualified persons to serve in exciting ministries throughout the world. In 1986 we had a total of 110 persons serving in 31 countries.

What requirements are there for overseas service?

- Strong faith commitment and active church participation.
- A college education, although there a few builders, mechanics, etc.
- Professional experience.
- Significant contact with persons of other traditions and cultures.
- Adaptability to changing conditions, able to relate easily to those in authority, able to respond well to stress.

Opportunities

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS - ZAIRE. Medical doctors and registered nurses. Experience in general or family medicine for service at Disciples of Christ Hospitals in relatively remote Zairian villages. Orientation in tropical medicine and language study provided. 3-year term.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER - NEPAL. Training or experience in community organization, ability to live in remote situation, and language learning skills essential. Commitment up to 6 years desirable.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR - JAMAICA. Design and coordination of programs related to the Disciples of Christ Church in Jamaica. 4-year term.
PROFESSOR FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - INDONESIA. Doctorate desirable. M.A. in Christian Education could qualify. Ecumenical support. Language study provided. 4-year term, longer commitment desirable.

For further information contact:
Julia M. Brown, Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

A CELEBRATION FOR BLACK ACHIEVERS

Many people have asked those of us who are interested in the history of Black people, "Why celebrate Black history?", "Why call attention to Black history?", "Is it not the same as any other history?", "Why would we set aside a day or month for reflection about Black history?"

All of these questions come into view when we attempt to write on the subject. There are two main reasons why we should take time out in order to call the attention of the whole world to the acts and deeds of the Black people, especially the Black people of this country.

First, because reflections offer a catalyst for academic efficiency. Secondly, because any casim in history leaves us unintelligent about the past.

We are told that the Black and Jewish races are the most persecuted races in the world. Historians have not come up with a definite answer as to the reason why, however, the Jewish race have vowed to not let their young generation forget the history of their race be it good or bad.

The Passover has been celebrated for hundreds of years. The Jews don't want their children to forget their escape from Egypt. The holocaust that occurred in Germany is not celebrated but April 10, 1945 will never be forgotten by the Jews because it is said that six million of them were executed under Hitler's regime.

Blacks have much in common with the Jews when it comes to human survival. The main difference between the two groups is that the Blacks were in their own homeland where they were supposed to be full fledged citizens, but were not allowed to enjoy the same privileges that others enjoyed. Many outstanding contributions have gone unnoticed because the history books of our public schools do not reflect them. Therefore there is a grave need for reflection on the acts and deeds of the forefathers of the Black boys and Black girls of our generation. The main purpose for historical celebration of Black people should not be for refueling prejudice nor segregation but to encourage young people to live so dynamically that no race or nation will ever seek to enslave them again.

There are many torch bearers whose acts and deeds have not been recorded in the academic arena, but whose footprints have not been erased by the winds of bigotry, prejudice nor segregation. Torch bearers have built the bridges over which we as Black people can cross the turbulent waters of ignorance and poverty. These, we should never forget.
Black people should forever revere the lives of men and women like Roy Wilkins, Joseph E. Walker, Barbara Jordan, Marjorie Lee Browne, and W.A. Scott. These are some of the unsung names who have planted stones and raised flags so that others of us will know that someone has been along this way, and who came out of the same kind of mold as we but made it through the fire. (By D.W. Heath, pastor and founder of First Christian Church, Rockford, Illinois)

DR. PETER WASHINGTON HONORED

The members of McCarty Memorial Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA, honored Dr. Peter C. Washington, Associate pastor of McCarty on February 22 at 3 p.m. Dr. and Mrs. Washington have served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for over 60 years and have touched the lives of many. Dr. Washington is a well-known educator and served as president of Jarvis Christian College.

IMPACT: A RALLY TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN

During the past 10 years, America has witnessed an astronomical and deadly rise, in what has surely become this country's most crucial menace, drug abuse among our children.

Coupled with increased gang involvement, destructive pregnancies, growing use of alcohol and a soaring school drop-out rate, our nation's children are under siege - and unfortunately in many cities, the war against these killers is being lost.

For us who love our children and believe they are our future, we must do more than promote the concept, "Just Say No!" Instead, we must offer immediate and viable alternatives to these destructive elements...Yes..."Positive Alternatives!"

"IMPACT...A Rally to Save Our Children", is a Christian based, community interface program offering young people a "positive alternative" to drugs, alcohol, gangs and elements which ultimately destroy young lives!

IMPACT is a reality with proven results offering a future for our children. IMPACT needs your help!

The doors of opportunity have begun to open for us to conduct "Impact Rallies" throughout the country. With your support, you would play a vital part in our grown and success. Together "we make" this dream of IMPACT a reality! Together, we can make the difference! (President and founder, Rev. Matthew R. Harris, serves as pastor of First Christian Church, Lynwood, CA.)

RACISM IN CORPORATE LIFE

Evidence from an investigation by John Fernandez, reported in Racism and Sexism in Corporate Life, indicates that problems still exist for minority employees.

Fernandez asked questions of a sample of 2,202 managers from 12 large companies. These companies, located throughout the country, have all been very active in striving for equal employment opportunities.
Out of the different groups - Asians, blacks, Hispanics, and whites - black men generally believed the most discrimination was present; white men the least. However, 89 percent of white men believed that minority people faced at least some obstacles in their companies.

In addition, 60 percent of white managers accepted at least some racial stereotypes, such as:

- Most minority managers use race as an alibi for many difficulties they have on the job;
- Minority managers come from different cultural backgrounds that are not conducive to their success in management; and
- Most minority managers are not as qualified as most white managers.

One particularly disturbing fact was that acceptance of racist stereotypes increased with rank in the organization. Thus, only 54 percent of first-level white managers accepted such stereotypical statements, while 69 percent of those at the sixth level did.

**Suggestion:** The struggle for equal opportunity is not over. Continuing efforts to reduce race and gender stereotyping is still needed. (The Pryor Report, March 1986)

**Change of Address**
Always give both old and new addresses when requesting change for mailing. If possible, enclose the address label from your latest newsletter. Send your changes to Board of Church Extension for SELAH Mailing List: P.O. Box 7030, Indpls., IN 46207.

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**AMERICA'S NEWEST LOST GENERATION**

Richard Wright drew a complex portrait of such disaffected young Black men in the character of Bigger Thomas, the antihero of his controversial 1940 protest novel *Native Son*. Today there is a new generation of Bigger Thomases in the U.S., thousands of Native Sons who can be seen hanging out on street corners, talking tough, listening to music boxes, dealing drugs, slipping into lives of crime.

While Black men account for only 6 percent of America's population, they make up half its male prisoners. The leading cause of death among young Black men is murder: they have a 1-in-21 chance of becoming murder victims, more than six times greater than the population as a whole. While the national unemployment rate is 6.9 percent, for Black men it is 15 percent, and for Black teens it remains more than 40 percent. Some 18 percent of Black males drop out of high school.

A report released by the Census Bureau and the Conference Board finds that a "large number of Blacks are falling out of the mainstream of our economic life." In 1950 the unemployment rate for young Blacks was 1½ times greater than that for young whites. Now it is more than two times greater. (Time, December 1, 1986)
SUPPORT FOR MINORITY BUSINESS

The United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will participate in shareholders actions against Sears, K-Mart, Church's Fried Chicken and Royal Dutch Shell.

The shareholder proposals for Sears, K-Mart and Church's Fried Chicken are urging these businesses to purchase more services and goods from minority and women sub-contractors in the interest of minority economic development. The Royal Dutch Shell proposal is asking that company to cease doing business in South Africa.

WE, THE BLACK AMERICANS

Where we live . . . .

Though we live in all regions of the country, our roots are distinctly Southern. In 1910, about 90 percent of our population lived in the South. But fueled by a desire for better job opportunities and living conditions, we began leaving the South in large numbers. In the 1940 decade alone, about 1.6 million more of us left the South than moved there. However, during the last half of the 1970s, spurred by improved opportunities in the region, more of us moved back to the South than moved out. Today, just over half of all Blacks live in the South. (U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census)
BLACK MINISTERS' RETREAT

Preachment for Preachers

DALLAS, Texas (DNS) -- Ministers of black congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were given the "preachments for preachers" during the Disciples' Black Ministers Retreat held here March 3-5.

The Rev. Robert H. Wilson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Christ, Dallas, was the guest speaker at the 13th annual retreat sponsored by the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries through its department of ministry.

Speaking on three occasions during the retreat, Wilson told the ministers about the dangers of fame and doubting God. With God as the leader the victory against Satan is assured.

In his opening sermon, Wilson said that Jesus set the perfect example on how to handle fame. When the crowds came as his fame spread, Jesus retreated into the wilderness for prayer.

Fame is like a dangerous poison and the antidote is prayer, Wilson said. Fame comes from good works. The opposite of famous would be infamous which results from evil, he noted.

Preachers have a greater opportunity to achieve recognition because of the church's place in the community, said Wilson. Sometimes this fame can become an addiction and a pastor may compromise to gain more recognition.

"Some of us love status trappings more than we love the One we are called to serve," he added.

The preacher/pastor needs to take time alone in prayer, in honest self-appraisal and trusting the "divine other" to combat the trap of fame.

In his second sermon, Wilson said that the preacher's doubt can interfere with a blessing from the word. "A person who does not believe God cannot be God's messenger. Unbelief is not merely the opposite of belief. It is an assault on the character of God," he said.
The presence of a preacher in the pulpit does not necessarily mean the presence of a "preacher" no matter how many manuscripts or Bible verses are read, warned Wilson. The tragedy is that the congregation may not know the difference, he added.

"Too many times a congregation expects nothing to happen in worship and that is exactly what it gets," said Wilson.

The church does not have greater impact in the community because it and the pastor are not in prayer with God, explained Wilson.

On the last day of the retreat, Wilson said that ministers are human and are vulnerable like everyone else. But the knowledge that Jesus interceded with prayer helps in the battle against evil. He warned that Satan is real and can disguise temptation in all forms. "No matter how strong we are, trouble can come."

Saying "the devil made me do it" is good comedy but bad theology, according to Wilson. "Satan cannot force you against your will but can provide the opportunity and encourage you," Wilson warned.

The Minister Working with the Church Board

DALLAS, Texas (DNS) -- There were other people besides pastors here when the black ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) met here March 3-5.

This year's theme for the 13th annual retreat was "The Minister Working with the Church Board" and board chairpersons were invited to attend along with the ministers.

Four workshops were conducted by clergy-layperson teams to discuss the working relationship between the pastor and board chairperson.

Leading the workshops were the Rev. Paul A. Sims, Southwest associate regional minister, Fort Worth, Texas; Roderick Fisher, Dallas, Texas; the Rev. John R. Foulkes, associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation, Indianapolis, Ind.; Worth Hadley, Oklahoma City, Okla.; the Rev. Emmett J. Dickson, Indianapolis; Carneal E. Chambliss, Jackson, Miss.; the Rev. William K. Fox, Indianapolis; and John A. Brown, Maumelle, Ark.

The workshop leaders focused on establishing good communication between the chairperson and minister and the responsible way to conduct church business.

Some key points that came out of the workshops were:

-- Good communication involves transferring meanings. The minister and board chairperson should work on talking to each other and not talking at each other.

-- A minister cannot effectively work with the church board without knowing how the congregation perceives its mission.
Leadership involves the processing of recommendation. When the board does not do its work properly, conflicts within the church can result. The minister and chairperson need to know how to effectively work the system so that all board and committee decisions are not dumped on their shoulders.

Church leaders should be trained in parliamentary procedures so they will know how to conduct business meetings.

**Salvation and Ministering in Unholy Places**

DALLAS, Texas (DNS) -- Salvation is a gift of God and cannot be earned, the Rev. Claude Walker, pastor of Bonnie View Christian Church, told those attending the 13th annual Black Ministers Retreat of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held here March 3-5.

Fortunately, salvation is given and God does not judge us by our works, Walker said in the opening sermon of the retreat. "Our task in life is to accept that salvation.

"All of us experience in life as Christians a time when we realize that we have accepted the fact that God can save us," said Walker.

There are a lot of people who have strayed from God or have had trouble accepting this salvation. While God and His salvation are not foreign to them, they are searching for some meaning in life.

"God is not lost. We have to invite him in to share in the fullness of life," said Walker.

We need to be reminded that there are people who have the prayers of their mothers and fathers "gnawing" at the back of their minds, he said.

"The church spends too much time working with those who are already a part of it rather than those who are seeking to know how to make their life better than what it is," said Walker.

On Wednesday evening the Rev. Deborah Thompson, pastor of Park Hill Christian Church, Denver, Colo., said the holy must sometime go into some unholy places. She recounted a recent visit to New York City where some of her church members had to walk through the streets of the ghetto.

"God called us into a worldwide ministry. We must minister not only to those who are dressed up and look pretty but minister to all of His people," she said.

Unholiness surrounds us, with wars, fighting among families and nations, a spiraling divorce rate, high unemployment and battered children, Thompson pointed out. But as we move through these places of unholliness, there is a well of rest in Jesus, she said.

Ministers are not superhuman, she said. In order to be the real people of God, they need to be real with each other. People come to the churches looking for someone who is real and can relate to some of their experiences. Instead what
they frequently get are actors and actresses, said Thompson.

Together in Mission
Easter 1987

The Easter offering, one of four special offerings for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Basic Mission Finance days, highlights involvement overseas and at home. The offering will focus on ministries in Africa, youth, leader development and women's work.

We, The Black Americans

... Into the cities.

About 60 percent of us lived in central cities of metropolitan areas in 1980. We moved to these places in search of better job opportunities. Some of us were able to improve our lifestyles. Many of us prospered and sent back "down home" for relatives and friends.

In 1980, of the 100 cities with the largest Black population, 17 cities had Black populations of 50 percent or more. We make up about 70 percent of the total population of Washington, D.C., the nation's largest capital. But the city with the highest proportion of Blacks is East St. Louis, Illinois; almost 96 percent of its residents are Black.

Twenty-eight cities had Black populations that exceeded 100,000. New York had the largest Black population (1,784,337). Second largest was Chicago (1,197,000), followed by Detroit (758,993), Philadelphia (638,878), and Los Angeles (505,210). (U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census)
FROM PRISON CHAPLAIN TO SUBURBAN PASTOR

Cynthia L. Hale, an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has spent eight years of her young life bringing Christ to the inmates in Federal Correctional Institutions. As a chaplain in the Federal Prison in Butner, NC, and Chaplain Instructor in the Federal Prison System in Glynco, GA, she zealously fulfilled a vow she had embraced in youth to serve her faith.

These days, the 34 year old clergy woman preaches to a different segment of society. She is pastor/developer of Ray of Hope, a new church family coming together in metropolitan Atlanta, GA. Just as she enthusiastically served the men and women in prison, she is now giving spiritual leadership to the new Black middle-class in Decatur, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. Instead of prison uniforms her parishioners are garbed in designer dresses and three-piece suits.

Cynthia, who became pastor/developer of Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) one year ago, is one of a growing breed: the suburban missionaries.

In the Atlanta suburbs, where new housing tracts can spring virtually overnight out of sloping farm land, and impressive single family dwellings are changing from White to Black ownership, several major religious denominations are sending pastors door to door to recruit members. Cynthia and her church family, who are presently meeting in Columbia High School, like so many
others are holding services in schools, pizza parlors and bowling alleys in an effort to build new congregations and establish themselves as anchors in the community.

Raising large sums of money is crucial for a new church, primarily because of the costs of constructing a building. Rev. Hale contends the Lord has eliminated this problem for her because a church building has become available to her at an unusually moderate price. The negotiated price is less than one-half the replacement value of the structure. It has high visibility and ideally located in a new and developing residential area of suburban Atlanta, just off I-20 in DeKalb County.

The region of Georgia is supporting the congregation in a three-year (1987-1989) capital campaign in an effort to purchase the property. This new congregation, under Rev. Hale's leadership, is averaging over eighty persons weekly in worship. "The need for adequate facilities is now," she said.

Rev. Hale, a native of Roanoke, VA, has held various leadership positions at the national level for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1.4 million member denomination, including member of the General Board and president of the National Convocation.

Humbert Arrested for Protest

WASHINGTON, D.C. (DNS) — The Rev. John O. Humbert, Indianapolis, In, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was among five Protestant and Roman Catholic church leaders arrested in the rotunda of the nation's Capitol here March 4.

Humbert and four others were engaged in a personal act of civil disobedience in a protest over United States' support of Nicaraguan Contras when asked to "cease and desist" praying in the Capitol rotunda by Capitol police.

Charged with illegal entry and parading and demonstrating without a permit, Humbert was fined $10 in court costs and sentenced to time served—four hours in processing and four hours in a District of Columbia jail cell—as were the others.

The fine—which came from Humbert's personal funds, not church money—will be paid into a District of Columbia victims fund.

The sentences asked by the prosecution were a $100 fine and a maximum six months time served for the illegal entry charge, and $500 and a maximum six months served for parading and demonstrating without a permit.

Arrested with Humbert were the Rev. Arle Brouwer, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; Fr. Joseph Nangle, Conference of Major Superiors of Men; the Rev. Avery D. Post, president of the United Church of Christ; and Doris Anne Younger, general director of Church Women United. All are from New York City. All pleaded guilty as charged.
In his statement on the Capitol steps, Humbert cited Disciples' General Assembly support for an end to the civil strife in Nicaragua and U.S. involvement in it through sale of arms and other financial support.

Humbert's intercessory prayer for those suffering in Nicaragua called the ashes and sack cloth of Ash Wednesday symbols of reality for a new day in Central America.

During a news conference before the service, the leaders called for an end to U.S. aid to Contras and for support of a regional peace treaty sought by Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia and Panama.

"The consent of the governed (U.S. citizens) is not behind killing and maiming civilians or destroying health care facilities. It is not morally justified to destroy Central America in order to save it from leftist governments," they said.

Church Woman Exec. to Retire

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (DNS) — The head of the women's office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will retire December 31. Frances S. Craddock, Indianapolis, has been executive for the Department of Church Women and corporate vice president of the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries since 1975.

In announcing her retirement, the Rev. John R. Compton, division president, said "In the tradition of Jessie Trout and Helen Spaulding, Fran Craddock has left an indelible mark on the Disciples of Christ in their concern for women in the church. Through her efforts, both the World and International CWF structures have been strengthened and the Church Women's Coordinating Council has been brought into existence. She will be missed sorely, but others will build on her solid foundations," Compton said.

Ministry to Families

Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will explore issues related to the family in their 1989-90 study series. "Celebrating the Family" will be the overall theme for the Christian Women's Fellowship studies, according to Frances Craddock, exec. for the Dept. of Church Women, Division of Homeland Ministries.

The Bible study for the series will center around "Every Family in Heaven and on Earth" and will look at families throughout the Bible rather than concentrate on one book. "Women are hungry for learning the Bible and how it relates to the present," said Craddock. A personal enrichment study will cover the variety of families.

Change of Address
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Family Week—May 3-10—will affirm the faith development and spiritual needs of all persons from children through older adults. The church enables spiritual growth through family worship and intergenerational experiences.

WE, THE BLACK AMERICANS

... And we are spreading out. Recently, more of us began moving from the city to the suburbs. Our population residing in suburbs grew by 43 percent between 1970 and 1980. Still, we make up only 6 percent of the nation’s suburban population.

Our state totals are growing, too. .. We live in every state, ranging from about 1,000 in Vermont to 2.4 million in New York. Overall, 12 states had a Black population of one million or more in 1980, an increase of three states (Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia) over 1970.

(U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census)
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

As you know, Jarvis Christian College is commemorating its seventy-fifth — DIAMOND — Anniversary this year. The activities and events of the College this year will highlight those things typical of such a commemoration.

Among our expressed emphasis this year are (1) aggressively recruiting students from Disciples of Christ Churches and as well as young people who are not a member of our church and (2) encouraging our Black churches to commemorate seventy-five years of the contributions of the College by donating to our fund drive which is a vital part of this year's commemoration.

We would like to have the names of all members of your church who are graduating from high school this year. Additionally, we invite the names of other prospective graduates who are not members of your church.

Secondly, it is our hope that each of our Black churches will make a donation during this significant year.

We continue to hope that the records will show that EVERY BLACK DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CHURCH made a donation to Jarvis Christian College (its college) during the DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY of the College.

CUMMIN'S SPEECH. The future vision of Jarvis Christian College will be fashioned around two central themes — community and wholeness. In the coming age we shall find ourselves in the high technology of an informational environment with an intensified demand for the values of human dignity, spiritual repair and the wholeness of human community. Jarvis will be educating a constituency that has been deeply fragmented in recent decades and is now in search of personal moorings. The new constituency will:

- expect a synthesis of faith and culture;
- expect that faith will not wither or be intellectualized into a vapor devoid of any sense of justice or moral coherence;
- expect for its children that
the journey of their minds occur in communities of learning which offer the wisdom of wholeness so that their lives will be deepened rather than narrowed;
- expect scholars to be leaders of integrated thought enabling specialized knowledge to converge into unity;
- expect teachers to see persons as total human beings rather than consumers of a skill;
- expect a new and more inclusive educational community that includes opportunity for the economically disenfranchised and the educationally undeserved; and
- expect educational leadership to have a global awareness which will recognize the need of fulfillment and dignity for the whole human family.

It is around these expectations that the future of Jarvis Christian College will unfold and take form. Commanding every resource and opportunity that is available, it will respond to the challenge with daring new vision.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD. Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards at Jarvis are Dr. Emmett J. Dickson (Indianapolis, IN), Mr. Kenoly Frost (Big Sandy, TX), Mrs. Ruby Red McFarland (Chicago, IL), Jewel Rand (Los Angeles, CA), Mr. Winston Simmonds (Chicago, IL), Mr. James Leon White (Dallas, TX), and Dr. Peter C. Washington (Los Angeles, CA).

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?
1946, which now stands #15 in assets and deposits.

Now we must remember that this man was a devout Christian who never forgot the church. Dr. Walker was congruently allied to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He was the first treasurer of the National Christian Missionary Convention and remained so until his death. He built churches wherever he went. There are two churches in Memphis, TN which stand as living memorials to him and his wife.

Dr. Joseph Edison Walker was a pillar of the National Christian Missionary Convention, an outstanding layman and elder of the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis who raised the flag and planted the stone of economics and religion so that Black boys and girls would know that somebody made it out of the forest because we will see the signs.

Faulkner Receives M.Div.

Congratulations to Charles L. Faulkner, past president of the National Convocation and pastor of University St. Christian Church in Houston, TX, who received his M.Div. degree on May 16 at the First Christian Church in Houston.

NC Dinner at the G.A.

Glimpses of the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation is the theme set for the Convocation's dinner at the Louisville General Assembly this fall. The dinner will be on Saturday, October 17, 1987 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Convention Center. Tickets will be sold at $10.00 each. More information about ordering tickets will be available in the next issue of SELAH.

Peace Pentecost 1987

"Would that you knew the things that make for peace." Luke 19:42

On Pentecost Sunday, June 7, Christians across the United States will call our nation away from the false promise of Star Wars and toward the way of peace. In hundreds of communities nationwide, ecumenical worship services will be held in public places to make visible the church opposition to the Star Wars space weapons system.

Star Wars is ultimately a religious and theological issue. It holds out the promise of god-like creatures in the heavens to protect us from the consequences of our own sin. In so doing it asks us to put our faith and trust in the products of human minds and hands, the very definition of idolatry. To this we must say no.

As Christians, our faith, security, and hope for a peaceful world can only be placed in God. Throughout the scriptures we are reminded that peace comes not by amassing military technology but by following the way of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Real peace and security come only through acknowledging the humanity of our enemies, seeking reconciliation with all people, and establishing justice for the poor and oppressed.

For the past five years, a growing number
of churches and Christian communities across the United States have taken up the tradition of Peace Pentecost as an occasion to make the Pentecost message of reconciliation concrete in our time. Again this year Christians are taking the gospel of peace from the churches into the streets and public places across the land.

On the first Pentecost, when the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they were empowered to leave their hiding place and go into the streets and public squares of Jerusalem proclaiming Christ's victory over death. On that day people of all nations were reconciled and a new community of peacemakers was born.

Peace Pentecost 1987 will show for the first time the breadth and depth of church opposition to Star Wars. On June 7, Christians nationwide will pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that we would turn away from false security in false gods and truly know "the things that make for peace." We hope you will join us. (Sojourners Peace Ministry)

The Pentecost offering is one of four special days observed by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our participation in these offerings supports the regional, educational and world work of the Disciples.

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Rev. Eugene W. James, Sr. — Present with the Lord

Rev. Eugene W. James, Sr., (Oakland, CA) who was born into life, April 12, 1917; he was born into eternity May 9, 1987. A retired minister and pastor, he served as resident manager at St. Mary's Retirement Apartments from 1981–1986 when poor health forced him to retire.


He served as president of the Interdenominational Alliance of the East Bay. He was as active member of the Ministerial Alliance of each city where he served as pastor. He served on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pension Fund Board, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. He served as president of the National Christian Missionary Convention in 1965.

Dr. John R. Compton, president of Division of Homeland Ministries, used as text for Rev. James' eulogy II Timothy 4:7-8 pointing out his faithfulness as a patient man, a pastor, a preacher, and a participant in the wider church as evidence of his having "kept the faith." Dr. Compton concluded the eulogy with a verse from James Montgomery's WELL DONE.

Servant of God, well done! Rest from thy loved employ: The battle fought, the victory won, Enter thy Master's joy.

The pains of death are past, Labor and sorrow cease, The life's long warfare closed at last, Thy soul is found in peace.

Compton Re-Elected

By a unanimous vote, the Division of Homeland Ministries board has renewed the Rev. John R. Compton, Indianapolis, IN, as president of the division.

Compton, who has been president of the division since January 1982, will be serving a six-year term beginning January 1, 1988.

James Millan, Bowling Green, MO, board chairperson, expressed the board's appreciation to Compton for the excellent job he has done in the last five and a half years. He added his personal appreciation to Compton for undergoing a rigorous review by an assessment committee since February.

In his report to the board during its May 11-13 meeting, the 61-year old Compton, outlined many of the changes that have come under his administration.
During his tenure, the division has conducted several studies which have resulted in a new budgeting process; better program planning; greater partnership with regions, general units and congregations; professional staff portfolio realignments; and an improved support staff system.

Together in Mission

Nurturing Congregational Life. The transition between ministers can be a most vulnerable time for a congregation. Regional ministers are ready to provide a presence and support when the congregation is engaged in the ministerial search process. In addition, they give counsel for pulpit supply and interim candidates. Regional ministers are committed to helping congregations find the best possible leadership. Pentecost dollars make this service possible in every region.

Over the Top. Patria Agustin, a pastor-developer in Alameda, California, is going door-to-door in her effort to start a new Filipino congregation through Church Advance Now. As of this writing, 107 new congregations have been initiated, surpassing our goal of 100 in the 1980s.

Your Pentecost gifts make it possible for James L. Powell, director of New Congregation Establishment, to provide special leadership training for Patria and the other pastor-developers. The spirit of Pentecost is at work in the building of new communities of faith.

"Prescription" for Congregational Growth. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) cares about the growth and health of its congregations. That’s why the Department of Evangelism and Membership exists. From the basic understanding that congregations grow in many ways (numerical, spiritual, fellowship, personal discipleship, stewardship and mission outreach) the "Prescriptions for Growth Series" was developed.

This series is five resources geared for the laity. The programs are designed to help people get involved in doing ministry rather than just planning and talking about ministry.

Thom Albin, director of evangelism program resources, is available to congregations as a consultant/workshop leader. There is no fee for his work. Your gifts through the Pentecost offering enable Thom to help you write a personal "prescription" for your congregation’s healthy growth.

A Ministry of God’s Love. Recently, the ecumenical movement has given major effort to the tasks of educating all Christians and all churches to become more sensitive to the ministry of persons with disabilities. Not ministry to such persons, motivated out of pity or a desire to offer "our" comfort and caring, but the ministry these persons bring to the church in their witness to the dignity and humanity of every person as a unique child of God.

The Consultation on Church Union has sponsored several national workshops which have brought together specialists in this field to develop resource materials for congregations to help them overcome the barriers preventing full participation by persons with handicaps — not just the physical barriers of architecture and accessibility, but the attitudinal barriers of fear, ignorance, stereotypes and embarrassment.

Your gifts through the Pentecost offering and Basic Mission Finance have supported the participation of the Disciples in these meetings. These contributions make possible this ministry of God’s love.

Pentecost lies behind us but also before us. The news we bring of God’s love in Christ is continuous. Through congregational life, the very heartbeat of the church, we share common joys and concerns; a belief in God and the hope for the future — a covenant of love which binds us to God and one another.

Through workshop services, evangelism, church schools, shepherding programs and training opportunities for ministry, we renew and enrich our congregations. Your generosity, through the Pentecost offering and Basic Mission Finance, helps to keep Disciples congregations and our bond of Christian faith alive and growing.

Claudia Highbaugh Joins Yale Staff

Dr. Claudia Highbaugh, an ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), recently received a call to become Associate Chaplain at Yale University in New Haven, CT. On July 1, 1987, she will join Harry Baker Adams, Chaplain, and Leander Keck, Dean of Yale University Divinity School, who are also Disciples.

Claudia’s responsibilities will include service to the Yale community through worship, counselling, and advocacy for ethical concerns on campus. She will also give staff support to the Black church at Yale.

Claudia has a strong background in higher education. For the past three years she has served as Associate
Minister at First Christian Church, Orange, CA. Although her experience with this local congregation has been a welcomed challenge, she looks forward to returning and continuing her ministry in the University setting.

Frank Bradley & Kenneth Hall Receive Doctorates

Congratulations to Frank B. Bradley who received has received the Doctor of Divinity degree from W. H. Waters School of Religion and Theology in Washington, DC; and to Kenneth E. Hall who received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Methodist Theological School of Ohio! Dr. Hall serves as pastor of Faith United Christian Church in Canton, OH.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO . . .

- Eric Brown, M.Div., Phillips University
- Jerome Clark, M.Div., Lexington Theological Seminary
- Diane Griffin, Masters in Christian Ed.
- Christian Theological Seminary
- Eugene Lenston, M.Div., Lexington Theological Seminary
- Louise Sanderson, MS in Business Administration, Alabama State University


New affirmative action guidelines adopted by the Executive Council in March could mean more national professional staff jobs for minorities, women and disabled persons.

The council also urged all UCC bodies to do more business with firms owned by members of affected groups or complying with Project Equality's guidelines.

Under the Executive Council guidelines, recommended for use over the next five to eight years, UCC agencies are asked to adopt goals and carry out hiring to achieve overall ratios of 35% racial and ethnic minorities, 45% women and 7% persons with disabilities on national staff. To attain these ratios, the EC urged hiring and promotion preferences for members of affected groups when they are equally qualified with other applicants or employees. While UCC national bodies have affirmative action policies, this is the first time overall numerical goals are proposed.

"What this does is spell out a way to implement the policy that the UCC already has in place," says Jesse N. Alexander, Jr., the denomination's EEO/affirmative action officer. "Setting goals gives us some way to measure if we've made some progress."

Currently, racial minorities make up 29% of the UCC's national professional staff, while women account for 42.2%. No definite figures are available on the number of exempt status employees with disabilities.

We, The Black Americans

How much money do we make? . . .

In 1984, our median family income was $15,430. In other words half of our families received more and half received less than $15,430. Twenty-nine percent of our families had incomes of $25,000 or more in 1984, whereas more than half of White families were in this income category. Our median income was highest for those of us who lived in the West ($19,210) and lowest for those of us residing in the South ($14,860) and Midwest ($14,370).

After adjusting for inflation, the median income of Black families in 1984 was not significantly different from 1980 - $15,430 versus $15,980. Black family median income was 56 percent of White family income in 1984. Stated another way, for every $100 a White family received, a Black family received $56.

One reason that our median incomes for families has not improved is partly because of the high proportion of our families with a female householder with no husband present, and the low incomes received by these families.

In 1985, 44 percent of Black families were maintained by women alone compared with only 13 percent of White families. The 1984 median income for Black families maintained by women was only $8,650, 37 percent of the median of Black married-couple families ($23,420). In White husband-wife families, the median income was $30,000 and $15,130 for families maintained by women with no husband present.

(U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of the Census)

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Meal Order Ticket Form

Glimpses of the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation

National Convocation Dinner at the Louisville General Assembly

Date: October 17, 1987
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Commonwealth Convention Center/Louisville
Cost: $10.00 per ticket

We look forward to you joining us in a familial atmosphere of fellowshipping, sharing, and making new and meeting old friends while we share with you "glimpses" of the Tenth Biennial Session in Memphis, August 8-12, 1988.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________________ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of tickets __________

Total check/money order enclosed __________
(Make payable to NATIONAL CONVOCATION)

Please return to: John R. Foulkes, Adm. Secretary
National Convocation
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206

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Homegoing Celebrations -

L. Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes

The Rev. L. Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes (Indianapolis, IN) was born into eternity on June 24, 1987. Joyce’s homegoing was celebrated on June 27 at the Light of the World Christian Church as life partners reflected on her ministries as mother, wife, and friend as she served as secretary to Indiana Supreme Court Justice Richard DeBruler for 18 years, secretary for the National Convocation Board of Trustees, member of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), moderator of the Christian Church in Indiana, and student minister at Light of the World Christian Church.

Joyce’s eight-year battle with cancer never thwarted her ability to witness the power of Christ in her life. Her husband, John, noted her intense belief that humankind was basically good and her commitment to liberate that goodness from everyone that she was in relationship with often to her own physical and psychological detriment. The church will miss Joyce’s physical presence but be nourished by the gifts that she shared with us.

Memorials for Joyce can be sent to the Christian Church in Indiana (1100 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208) for the Indiana region’s Fund for the Field Placement of Black Students at the Christian Theological Seminary.

Editor’s Note: The family of the Rev. L. Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes wishes to thank the entire church for its presence with us and with itself as we celebrate Joyce’s victory and our legacy. Please pray mightily for us that we live the rest of our lives building on that legacy. (Dr. John R. Foulkes)

** ** **

Allena Trevillion Harris

Mrs. Allena Trevillion Harris, daughter of Monroe and Rosie Trevillion, was born October 7, 1912, Jackson, Mississippi. There she attend public school and later Alcorn College. She was joined in holy matrimony to Mr. Clarence Harris on December 3, 1932, and out of this marriage six daughters and three sons were born.

At an early age she professed a hope in Christ and subsequently became church pianist at Pearly Grove Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi, before moving with her husband to Indianapolis in 1943.

She was a member of Light of the World Christian Church and truly loved her church, her pastor and his family. She departed this life on May 24, 1987.

Jarvis in Top Ten

Because of their traditional and continuing role in educating Black students for productive and creative participation in every aspect of life in the U.S., the 43 UNCF member institutions have special significance.
During the past century, these historically Black private colleges and universities have provided education otherwise unavailable to thousands of able and deserving youths. More than 45,000 students attend these schools, including those who are enrolled in the 10 richest Black colleges.

Jarvis Christian College, a Black Disciples' higher education institution, is listed among the top ten, ranking no. 7 (see list below).

1. Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia
   Dr. Johnnetta Cole, President
   Endowment: $33,381,800

2. Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama
   Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, President
   Endowment: $28,452,400

3. Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana
   Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, President
   Endowment: $14,332,812

4. Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia
   Dr. Leroy Keith, Jr., President
   Endowment: $12,674,146

5. Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina
   Dr. Marshall Grigsby, President
   Endowment: $12,588,996

6. Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia
   Dr. Luther Williams, President
   Endowment: $11,254,011

7. Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas
   Dr. Charles A. Berry, President
   Endowment: $11,103,871

8. St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina
   Dr. Prezell Robinson, President
   Endowment: $9,088,560

9. Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
   Dr. Cordell Wynne, President
   Endowment: $9,005,209

10. Rust College, Holly Springs, Mississippi
    Dr. William A. McMillan, President
    Endowment: $7,151,398

(ED Magazine, 6/15/87)

Why Fewer Blacks Are Graduating

Fewer and fewer Black college students in America are graduating. From 1979 to 1985, while the number of whites receiving bachelor's degrees remained steady, the number of Blacks getting college diplomas declined roughly 6 percent. Blacks who finish with advanced degrees are much more rare.

Blacks have lost ground at nearly every level of higher education, even though more Blacks than ever are graduating from high school and their average college-entrance-exam scores have come 41 points closer to those of whites in the last decade.

One reason why fewer Blacks are coming out of colleges with degrees is that fewer are going in. Also, behind the decline is a shortage of money.

The dropout rate at Black colleges is much lower—about 2 out of 3 students graduate. These schools enroll only 16 percent of America's Black students but award 40 percent of their degrees. In her book Blacks in College, Barnard College psychologist Jacqueline Fleming notes that Black colleges suffer from money shortages, old facilities, low admissions standards and faculties depleted by raider and major universities. Still, she concludes, "students in Black colleges seem to have a virtual corner on intellectual satisfaction." Students at Black colleges, she says, build ties with fellow students and faculty members and don't feel estranged.

Nearly every university is seeking ways to encourage Black achievement. At state colleges and universities in Maryland, Black seniors who excel meet weekly with younger Blacks who are struggling. But what's needed more, many educators says, is a stronger showing at an earlier level - in high school or junior high. One program that many experts will watch is just starting in the Midwest, where the University of Minnesota and the St. Paul public schools are spending $2 million to single out talented minority students as early as the seventh grade and prepare them academically and psychologically through high school for rigorous college work.

This, many believe, is the kind of bridge that Blacks need to cash in on the promise of higher education. To do without a bridge, says John Bracey, an Afro-American-studies professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is "to push off into deep water from sinking sand." (U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 6/8/87, Horizons, Ronald A. Taylor)
Meet Eric H. Brown

Rev. Eric H. Brown was called to the ministry in November of 1979. He preached his first sermon on the third Sunday in December of 1979. He served as an assistant to the pastor at the Evangelistic Baptist Church from December 1979 to October 1983. In October of 1983, he joined the Wildwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma City, OK. Pastor William Simms informed him of the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University, which he entered in January of 1984. He graduated May 12, 1987 and was ordained at the Wildwood Christian Church, May 17, 1987.

While in seminary, Rev. Brown served, and continues to serve as the pastor of the Second Christian Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He is currently in the relocation process in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Christ's Congregational Christian Church of Detroit

In the annual congregational meeting of United Congregational Christian Church held in February, 1986, it was motioned by Rev. LaMar Clark that Minister Ruth Sharpe, a member of United be elected to the position of "Director of Outreach Ministries" - the duties would be: 1) To locate and obtain a site for bible classes and worship; 2) Gather a minimal of ten adults who were willing to commit their prayers, participation and financial support to make the mission work; and 3) Apply for status as a congregational church.

The goal, of course, was to develop a mission on the eastside of Detroit. The motion was voted on and accepted by the congregation, and Ruth Sharpe was given the position of "Director of Outreach Ministries."

In April 1986, Sis. Sharpe gathered nearly 40 persons, who signed a covenantal statement committing themselves to be a part of the new congregation.

On April 21, 1986, a meeting was held in Sis. Sharpe's home at which time officers were elected, constitution and by-laws were reviewed, and a new church was born - "Christ's Congregational Christian Church of Detroit."

On May 4, 1986, at 5 p.m., Christ's Congregational Christian Church of Detroit held its first service. Services were held at 2587 Lakewood - the home of Sis. Sharpe. There were 33 people in attendance.

Since our beginning on May 4, 1986, we have become officially recognized as part of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, and also the Disciples of Christ. We are incorporated with the State of Michigan and are tax exempt with the Internal Revenue.

From May 1986, through December 1986, services were held in the home of Sis. Sharpe. During that time we received 16 new members, had 14 baptisms, 1 dedication, 130 people came forward during invitation for prayer. Our total Sunday attendance for that period of time was 757 people. For the same period of time, we had 377 people to attend our Tuesday night bible study class.

On January 25, 1987, we moved into our temporary facility at 16605 East Warren. Since moving in, we have six new members and two more baptisms to add to our statistics.

To date we are still seeking permanent facilities where we can plant our roots and seek to be more effective in our Father's business.

Double Fifties

Elder and Mrs. G. Ellison Lakes celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary and Elder Lakes' fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the ministry on Sunday, the 21st of June 1987 at the Swope Parkway United Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.

GET INVOLVED!

Church Loyalty Emphasis
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Name__________________________________________________________

Address________________________________________________________

City_________________ State______ Zip Code______

Number of tickets ____________

Total check/money order enclosed ____________
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Please return to: John R. Foulkes, Adm. Secretary
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P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Editor: John R. Foulkes

Taken from the Psalms, "Selah" is a Hebrew word used in music to show where the cantor should be played. Our Christian journey can be compared to a Psalms. Sometimes smooth and melodious, sometimes not so smooth. SELAH is intended to be an interruption to that journey's flow forming our issues of concern or celebration that will enhance that journey.
CWF National Convocation

The following persons were elected to serve as officers of the CWF of the National Convocation for 1986-88. We solicit your support and prayers for these individuals as they endeavor to be faithful in service:

**PRESIDENT**
Isabell Smith
3658 Albermarle Road
Jackson, MS 32213

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Emily Jackson
1807 Fairmeade
Memphis, TN 38114

**SECRETARY**
May Reed
6203 Homeland Drive
Nashville, TN 37218

**TREASURER**
Marilee Leak
2550 Kemper Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

A Message From The President
To the Christian Women's Fellowship of the National Convocation

Dear Sisters in Christ:

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I appreciate the confidence you placed in me as your president for the next two years. I shall do my best to represent you and speak to the concerns of Black Women wherever I go.

I ask for your support and prayers these two years and would appreciate any ideas you may have to make our time together in Memphis an enjoyable and profitable occasion. I will be meeting in the coming months with the planning committee of the National Convocation, directed by Dr. John Foulkes. Janice Newborn, staff of the Department of Church Women, will assist with CWF activities.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me when I can be of help to you.

May God's love be present in your hearts. May God's blessing be upon you as you serve.

Yours in Christ,

Isabell M. Smith, CWF President for the National Convocation

A Special Note From Janice Newborn, Department of Church Women

The Department of Church Women needs to update the mailing list of all congregational CWF presidents. This will be particularly important for mailings regarding CWF activities and events at the National Convocation in Memphis of interest to women. Please fill out the section on the next page and return it to Janice, so that you will not miss vital information to be shared with women in your church. If you do not have a CWF - send the name of a contact person to receive mailings. Be informed!

A Reminder: Don't forget! Events for Women at the Louisville General Assembly

The Luncheon for Women
"Patterns of Faithfulness - A Tribute to Fran Craddock," Wednesday, Oct. 21, 12:20 p.m., the Galt House, $9.00.

Interest Group
"Changes and Choices in CWF: An Opportunity for Faithfulness" - Saturday, Oct. 17, 2:30 p.m.

The Well
A Women's Center - gather, discuss, relax. Each evening meet and dialogue with program personalities.

The Convention Center.
A Historical First

"And . . . She Came Forth A Woman"

On Wednesday, July 15, 1987, at 6:00 p.m., a day that continually threatened rain, some 2,000 Black women laughing, hugging, smiling, and crying gathered downtown in the city of Indianapolis, IN at University Square on the corner of Vermont and Meridian Streets to march to the Circle Theatre and celebrate the history of Black people in the United States, and the Black woman in particular.

In the seventeen-year history of Indiana's Black Expo event in Indianapolis' history, nothing of this magnitude has ever unified Black women from all walks and ages in life to work together for a common goal.

The theme for the march was "Black Women in Unity" and for the entire Expo celebration the collective theme was "And . . . She Came Forth A Woman."

Some one hundred-thirty Black Disciples women from Light of the World Christian Church and various other Disciples churches, as well as national staff women marched behind the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)’s banner.

Upon arriving at the Circle Theatre, anchor news report, Barbara Boyd, served as mistress of ceremonies; actress/singer, Mabel King; poetess, Mari Evans; and former Miss Black Indiana, Mary Denise Bently inspired the audience and celebrated the Black women.

In the best tradition of Black oratorical skill, Attorney Patricia Russell-McCloud returned to her hometown and skillfully retold the story of "And She Came Forth a Woman" to remind each listener of the dream, the responsibility, and what the journey of liberation is about. She affirmed women and reminded them that as being made in the image of God they were responsible to work, rekindle, and shape the best within themselves and others for in the language of music we are, as she said, "whole notes" in the score of history.

Other events at Indiana's Black Expo that included Disciples participation were the ecumenical service honoring women, held at Light of the World Christian Church, pastored by Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, with Dr. John Bryant of Bethel A.M.E. in Baltimore, MD, preaching; a number of workshops for and about women; luncheons; and exhibits.

As a pre-expo celebration, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson spoke at Light of the World Christian Church, July 13, for a campaign rally while in Indianapolis for a conference on counties.

Please note that we celebrate for the first time Jarvis Christian College and the National Benevolent Association had booths at Indiana’s Black Expo.

N.B.A. #1

A survey completed by the Long Term Care Magazine indicated that National Benevolent Association is now the Number One Provider among Non-Profits for Retirement Care in the U.S. Each of you have played a major role in this accomplishment, and we rejoice together that we are giving quality care in a financially responsible fashion. Certainly our Church has provided the impetus and strength for NBA to continue this important work in our society.

Richard R. Lance, President
National Benevolent Association
Cross Street Christian Church

The Cross Street Christian Church (Little Rock, AR) held a Seminar last June on "The Role of Elders and the Diaconate," "The History and Doctrine of the Christian Church" and "Why? The Convocation." It was informative and helpful to the church and members of the other Black Christian Churches in Arkansas.

Dr. Raymond E. Brown, senior vice president of the Board of Church Extension (Indianapolis, IN), was the seminar leader. He was presented a plaque for his years of service to the Christian Church and for being the oldest "Timothy" of Cross Street Christian Church.

Cross Street Christian Church also held a "Debt Reduction Rally" at the close of the Seminar and over $4,000 was raised to retire the debt on the church building. Rev. Robert L. Brown, brother of Raymond E. Brown, is pastor of Cross Street Christian Church.

DOM's Three-Point Emphasis

A three-point emphasis has been accepted by the board of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a way of temporarily highlighting specific aspects of DOM's ministry.

The three emphases to be in effect for the next three years are on ministries with people beyond poverty; ministries in response to the challenge of a pluralistic world with Christians in Marxist countries; and ministries in medical work and new church establishment with the Disciples community in Zaire, Africa.

"Sullivan Principles" Are Failing

The call by the Rev. Leon Sullivan for American businesses to pull out of South Africa supports the recognition by the churches that there have been no changes in the apartheid system, according to a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) international human rights executive.

"The churches have now been joined by Dr. Sullivan in the belief that apartheid is not being dismantled but rather growing entrenched; and therefore, there is no moral basis for any economic relationships with South Africa," said the Rev. Paul F. Wilson, Indianapolis, co-director of the Divisions of Homeland and Overseas Ministries jointly sponsored program.

Sullivan, a Philadelphia Baptist minister who authored the "Sullivan Principles" a code of conduct for U.S. companies in South Africa, announced during a June 3 press conference held in New York that his fair-employment principles have failed to end apartheid and called on nearly 200 U.S. businesses to pull out of South Africa in nine months.

He further called upon President Reagan to break diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa and called for action against any foreign countries whose companies would replace withdrawing U.S. companies.

"Dr. Sullivan's statement removed the aura of respectability from companies who have profited over the racist system of apartheid. For years the facade of the Sullivan Principles has been used in the rationale for U.S. companies to do business there," said Wilson.

Noting that over 100 U.S. companies have withdrawn from South Africa in the last three years, Wilson said Sullivan's announcement is a challenge to all U.S. investors, including universities and foundations, state and city pension funds, trade unions and churches, to join the chorus of voices calling for an end to all business involvement in South Africa.

Disciples of Christ general units have divested all but two stocks in 12 companies doing substantial business in South Africa. The two exceptions are stocks held to file shareholder's actions.

The Disciples' Administrative Committee, in its February meeting, set an end of 1987 deadline for the church to complete the process of divestment from corporations doing substantial and strategic business with South Africa.

The Disciples' Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee will be looking at additional U.S. companies who continue to do business with South Africa, said Wilson.

Commandments Without Moses

A decade ago, the Rev. Leon Sullivan, a Baptist clergyman and civil rights leader, formulated a set of anti-apartheid principles that came to be adopted by a majority of U.S. companies operating in that troubled land. Last week Sullivan called a press conference in Washington to announce a dramatic change in strategy. Because the so-called Sullivan Principles had failed to bring an end to apartheid, he declared, he had concluded that all American firms should leave South Africa and that the Reagan Administration should break its remaining trade and diplomatic ties with that country. (TIME, 6/15/87)
We, The Black Americans
... And more poverty

We made significant progress in several areas during the past decade, but inflation and a periodically recessionary economy caused many of us to slip below the poverty level.

- The number of Black persons below the poverty line rose from 8.6 million in 1980 to 9.5 million in 1984. Among whites, 23.0 million were poor in 1984.
- The Black poverty rate was 33.8 percent in 1984, not significantly different from the 1980 rate of 32.5 percent. The poverty rate for whites was 11.5 percent in 1984.
- About 31 percent or 2.1 million of all Black families had money incomes below the poverty level in 1984.
- Black female householders accounted for 73 percent of all poor Black families in 1984.

Black female householders accounted for 73 percent of all poor Black families in 1984.

The federally defined poverty level, does not include noncash benefits such as housing, food and medical assistance. (U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of the Census)

Convocation Dinner

Have you ever wondered why there is usually confusion surrounding ticket sales for the National Convocation dinner at General Assembly? The answer is simple. We normally have our dinner on Saturday night, 24 hours after the Assembly opens. That means that we have only had one day to sell tickets when we have to give the caterer the number of dinners to be served two days before the dinner. Since we don't want to pay for dinners that we don't sell tickets for, we normally order a very conservative number of dinners.

This year we are going to try to sell the dinners before the General Assembly through the Convocation office. Please fill out the meal ticket order form below and send it with your check to the National Convocation office as soon as you register for the Louisville General Assembly. We will order the dinners that we receive advance payment for.

The dinner will be held October 17, 1987 (Saturday), 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville. Tickets are $10.00 each.

Clip and Mail

Convocation Dinner

Name
Address
City State Zip

No. of tickets Amount enclosed

Send to: National Convocation; P.O. Box 1886; Indianapolis, IN 46206

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Selah
Published Monthly
The National Convocation of
The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1886
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Editor: John R. Foulkes

Taken from the Psalms "Selah" is a Hebrew word used in music to show where the cymbals should be played. Our Christian journey can be compared to a Psalms. Sometimes smooth and melodious, sometimes not so smooth. SELAH is intended to be an interruption to that journey's flow forming our issues of concern or celebration that will enhance that journey.
Newborn has served on DHM’s staff as director of program implementation in the Department of Church Women since 1983. She coordinated the arrangements and plans for the International Christian Women’s Fellowship Quadrennial Assembly which brought together over 5,000 women at Purdue University (Indiana) in July 1986.

Prior to her present position, Newborn served as corporation secretary and secretary to the president of the Division of Overseas Ministries.

Newborn has served on the board of the Disciples’ Church Finance Council, Christian Women’s Fellowship board of Mid-America region, legislative affairs chairperson of the Mid-America region, CWF cabinet member for Ohio and president and vice-president of the Ministers’ Wives Fellowship of the National Convocation.

Newborn is a native of Youngstown, Ohio, and received a bachelor of science degree in music education from Youngstown University. She has done graduate studies at Malone College in Canton.

Her husband, the Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Newborn, is the administrative director of Reconciliation for the Disciples’ Church Finance Council. They are the parents of a son and a daughter, both practicing attorneys in Indianapolis.

**MC Celebrates 100th Anniversary**

There was fellowshiping, reminiscing, and spiritual renewal, July 23-25, as the officers, members and friends of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention journeyed to Port Gibson, MS, the birthplace of the convention, to share in its celebration of 100 years.

President Chambliss gave dynamic leadership to the programmatic activities for this occasion. The workshops were directed by Ruth P. Robbs, chairperson of the Christian Education Department. The adult workshops were led by Dr. John R. Compton, president of the Division of Homeland Ministries; Dr. John R. Foulkes, associate general minister and administra-
tive secretary of the National Convocation; and the Rev. George Wagner, president of the regional assembly. Rev. William McKnight, regional minister, and Rev. Harrison Somah guided the youth ministries.

Two members who are as old as the convention, Mrs. Rosetta Weaver Mackey, Port Gibson and Mrs. Jennie Lewis, Clarksdale, received distinguished awards for their long years of meritorious service. The two oldest churches, Salem Christian Church, Grand Gulf, MS and Bethel Christian Church, Coila, MS, were given special recognition.

Another highlight of the assembly was a coronation banquet, sponsored by the Ministers’ Wives. Ann Pickett, Moss Point, MS, is president of the Ministers’ Wives Fellowship in Mississippi.

Ruth P. Hobbs, a member of the United Christian Church, Jackson, MS, will be serving as president of the convention for the next two years.

South Carolina Convention

The South Carolina Christian Church convention is proud of the work Pastor Gralin Hampton is doing there.

Pastor Hampton returned to South Carolina in 1981 after staying in New York for eleven years. Upon returning to his childhood church, he was elected to serve as elder. As elder, the church moved in a new direction. The first thing Rev. Hampton did was to put the church on full-time service, wherein all the black churches were having service once or twice a month.

Liberty Hill Christian Church begins its service every Sunday with a preacher. Rev. Hampton became pastor in 1983 and the church made a tremendous facelift. It went from a value of $20,000 to its present value of $175,000.

In October of 1986, he was called to serve another congregation, Briner Christian Church in Holly Hill, SC. Rev. Hampton also put that church on full-time service as well. He preaches two services a day on Sunday, one early morning and one early afternoon. Both churches are able to have service every Sunday. Other churches in South Carolina are now having service every Sunday.

House The Homeless

All Peoples Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA - On the 12th of July just prior to worship service a check in the amount of $758.00 to place two more homeless persons into Transition House was presented to Mr. Dwight Grey, who was there for Martha Brown Hicks, president of Skid Row Development Project. Mr. Grey is the Housing Director for Transition House. Mrs. Hicks was recuperating after being in the hospital. Mr. Grey addressed the congregation to thank and encourage their support.

In the future they will be working directly with Mr. Grey. The People’s Park Committee will be going to Transition House to meet with and give encouragement to those homeless persons and try to keep the congregation aware of their progress.

The House the Homeless Fund began attempting with God’s help to sponsor two homeless persons with three fund raisers; but because of the community’s love, giving and concern about their brothers and sisters on skid row, three persons were sponsored with two fund raisers, raising in excess of $1,000. These blessings provided more blessings in the form of stepping stones for those homeless persons who seriously seek to rebuild their lives.

In June they fed between 375-400 persons and in July between 400-500 persons. God is truly using All Peoples Christian Church and Center to express His concern and love in one of many areas in the narrow way.

Jerry Galbreath Marries

Jerry Ray Galbreath and Elsa Mazzucca Foster were united in holy matrimony on July 26, at Pine Street Christian Church in Tulsa, OK. Rev. Galbreath is in his seventh year of pastorate at Pine St. and is the secretary of the northeast district of the Christian Church in Oklahoma. Mrs. Galbreath is a high school teacher in Morris and a member of Pine St.

Darrell Gates Accepted at Yale

Darrell Gates, an honor graduate of Central High School in Memphis, TN and a member of Walker Memorial Christian Church is attending Yale University on a scholarship this fall. Darrell was a member of the honor society, band, Spanish Club, treasurer of the student council, and many other organizations during high school.

The members and friends of the Walker Memorial Christian Church would like to congratulate this young man. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Hubbard. Elder G. A. Evans is his pastor.

Economic Crisis in Haiti

The recent uprising in Haiti has reached a critical stage according to a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) fraternal worker recently assigned to that
country and who has had to return to the United States in the wake of the unrest.

The worker, appointed to a two-year term by the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries in June, called on July 30 and said the church board in Haiti felt she should leave the country for her own safety and return after elections are held there in November. She had been assigned by DOM to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico for its missionary project in the remote northwestern peninsula of Haiti.

The economic crisis in northwestern Haiti has reached a point where many are eating only tree leaves and boiled green mangos, reported the worker after her safe arrival in San Juan. "Mothers are losing their babies because of lack of food," she said.

Since the uprising, 15 members of the Savoayard Church have had their homes burnt, the wife of the teacher of the Montaña Negra Church was murdered, and the wife of the pastor of Montaña Negra Church was seriously hurt, she said.

Despite the crisis, a food distribution center was organized and there were 1,000 pounds of food distributed during the two weeks she spent in the country, she reported.

She said the church board in Haiti begged her to leave stressing, "we need you alive since you and the Disciples represent our only hope at this time."

Ohio Disciples Gather for PPV

On Friday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m., 500 Black Disciples from the cities of Cleveland, Warren, Canton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Youngstown, Xenia, Springfield, and Dayton met for their PPV Columbus Crusade.

As the songwriter said, "What at time! What a time! When all God's children get together..." for fellowship. The gathering included singing by mass choirs from northern and southern Ohio, preaching by the Rev. Robert W. Dickerson ("The Walking Bible"), and teaching with evangelism workshops on "Making Disciples."

Broad Street Christian Church in Columbus was the site for 500 Black Disciples to kick off a region-wide evangelism program called PPV (Preparing for Progress and Victory) on June 12-13, 1987.

The Friday evening worship featured two combined choirs and a sermon by associate regional minister, Robert W. Dickerson. Twenty of the twenty-one Black congregations in Ohio were represented by clergy and laity and heard the charge to "Prepare" and make "Progress" toward "Victory!" Progress is being made. At this time last year the participating churches received approximately 80 new members. So far this year the number is at 200.

Tom Johnson, president of the Black Pastors' Fellowship which sponsored the event, stated that he was a little skeptical at first about this program, but now he is a believer.

The churches involved will gather again on November 7, 1987 to report and celebrate their victories.

PEACE+SUNDAY
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates Peace Sunday the second Sunday in Advent, December 6, 1987

For the fifth consecutive year the Division of Homeland Ministries will have available a Peace Sunday Packet. The 1987 Packet contains another new collection of resources for congregations to use in planning for the celebration of Peace Sunday. Many have been prepared especially for this packet. Materials include preaching and worship resources, a pastoral letter from the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as well as suggested hymns, books, films and activities for all age groups.

The Peace Sunday Packets will be available from the Department of Church in Society, Division of Homeland Ministries beginning September, 1987, for $2.50 each. Send your order for packets to: Dept. of Church in Society; 222 S. Downey Avenue, P.O. Box 1986; Indianapolis, IN 46206. Or call: (317) 353-1491.

Ralph C. Steele Ordained

Service of Christian ordination for Ralph Curtis Steele into Christian ministry was held at Alameda St. Christian Church in Nashville, TN, where the Rev. Norman Reed serves as pastor. Dr. G. Bronson Netterville, regional minister, presented Elder Steele with an ordination certificate. Elder Steele is presently serving the Christian Church in Hopkinsville, KY.

Oklahoma Churches Fellowship

The fifth Sunday fellowship of the six predominantly Black congregations of Oklahoma was held in Chickasha. Shepherd Street Christian Church was the gracious, generous, and amiable host. Rev. Kenneth
Wright is the minister. The music by the church choirs was exceptional and inspirational. Rev. Boyze C. Edwards, minister at East Sixth Street Christian Church, delivered a very moving message. His subject was: "It Has Never Been Safe in Jerusalem," based on Luke 24:21-26. He stressed two points: 1) "We can't become God-like until we become Christ-like;" and 2) "Love one another or perish." The Holy Spirit was present.

The church had a full house—representatives from all six congregations; all of the ministers, including Rev. William R. Moore, associate regional minister of the Northeast district, and Rev. Eugene Frazier (regional minister) and his wife, Bonnie, were present.

The final 1987 fellowship will be the annual Thanksgiving and praise service which will be hosted by Osage Avenue Christian Church.

The Income Gap
The get richer and the poor get poorer! It is not just a cliche, but a fact of the 1980s.

The Census Bureau has reported that the median gross income was $24,897 in 1986—an inflation-adjusted annual increase of 3.4%. That was average.

However, the distribution of income received by the poorest 20% and the richest 20% of Americans was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(year)</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Rich</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increase .................... 1.9%
Decrease .................... .3%

The gap between the poor and the rich in our nation was large in 1980, but it has increased by 2.2% from 1980 to 1986. Business Week magazine noted that the income difference is the largest since World War II (1940s).

Part of the cause of the gap may be found in the differential in pay rates in our society. The minimum wage has not been increased for six years—the same time frame noted in these statistics.

What can you do about this? One possibility is to contact your representative and senators and ask them to co-sponsor and support the bill to increase the minimum wage. —Maurice E. Culver (Update, August '87)
VANCE MARTIN HONORED

Vance Martin, former second vice moderator (1985-87) of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was recently honored at the United Christian Church in Los Angeles, CA, at a "Salute to Excellence" service. Rev. Major L. Fountain serves as pastor.

Program participants included Clarice Friedline, associate regional minister of the Pacific Southwest regional office; Mark Ridley-Thomas, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Gilbert Lindsay, City Council; Kenneth Kahn, Board of Supervisors; Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins; and State Senator Diane Watson.

Vance M. Martin, Jr. is a member of United Christian Church and holds offices as president of congregation, diaconate, Sunday School instructor and organist. Among his activities in the Pacific Southwest region of the Christian Churches are and has been the following: First vice moderator, 1977-78; Personnel Committee; Commission on the Ministry; Martin Luther King celebration; member of Board of Directors, Disciples Seminary Foundation—Claremont and Council on Christian Unity.

In his community, he serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the following organizations: All Peoples Christian Center, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), United Campus Ministries of the University of Southern California, Friends of Joffrey Ballet, and Community Outreach Committee – Public Television KCET.

Mr. Martin also served as a psychology technician in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, Mental Health Service in the Republic of Vietnam.

He currently is a welfare administrator for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, and also director for Black and American Indian Community Relations.

"BENJAMIN" ON B.E.T. NETWORK

A local Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister is expanding his television ministry to be carried on a cable network.

The television program, "Benjamin," an outreach ministry of Light of the World Christian Church, is now being carried on Black Entertainment Television network at 6 p.m. (EDT) on Sunday.

The program is named for the senior minister of the church, the Rev. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., and features 30 minutes of the church service taped each Sunday.

As a BET program it will be accessible to 877 cable systems with subscribers in excess of 15 million.

IMPACT: "CONCERT FOR LIFE"

IMPACT, a youth service project, directed by the Rev. Matthew R. Harris, pastor of the First Christian Church of Lynwood, CA, sponsored a "Concert for Life," October 3, 1987.

The following are results of the concert:

Over 3,000 youth received "Free Tickets" to "CONCERT FOR LIFE" where such performers as: Phillip Bailey, Howard Hewett, The Gap Band and other celebrities provided entertainment, positive role models, pro-education and anti-drug success stories.

Thirty-four (34) youth signed up for membership...
in Project IMPACT.

Ten (10) youth-serving agencies were present that recruited a total of 72 youth for membership within their organizations.

Four (4) $1,000 scholarships were given to youth from California Institute (C.I. is a trade and technical institute that specializes in: Para-banking; Secretarial Training; Computer Programming; Security; and Dentistry).

Two (2) $2,500 scholarships were given to youth from Unified Schools of America (U.S.A. is a trade and technical training institute that specializes in automobile mechanics. These scholarships include a full tool box of standard auto mechanic tools upon graduation.)

Employment opportunities included: 1) eight youth given job opportunities with Studio Instrumental Rentals; and 2) fifteen youth given job opportunities with Al Hollingsworth and Associates (a minority owned corrugated box company).

"REVIVAL ON TWELFTH STREET"

"Faith is . . . In His Son, In His Word, In His Promises" was the theme for a four-day revival at Twelfth Street Christian Church in Washington, D.C., September 15-18, 1987. Rev. Booker T. Dickason, Jr., serves as pastor.

Guest speakers included Rev. Delores Carpenter, Michigan Park Christian Church; Rev. Henry C. Gregory, III, Shiloh Baptist Church; Rev. Alfred A. Owens, Jr., Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church; and Fr. George Augustus Stallings, Jr., St. Teresa of Avila.

ROBIN HEDGEMAN
NAMED IN
SEMINARY'S WHO'S WHO

Robin E. Hedgeman of Washington, DC, a third year master of divinity student at Lexington Theological Seminary, has been selected for inclusion in the 1988 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She is one of ten chosen by a nominating committee comprised of students and faculty.

Students are chosen on the basis of academic achievement, leadership in extracurricular activities and promise for continued success in ministry.

While in seminary, Ms. Hedgeman received a total of five different fellowships and honors scholarships. She served as vice president of the Student Council, student representative on Board of Trustees, student representative to the Appeals Committee, and as a member of the Student Council Nominating Committee.

She also served as student associate pastor of Third Christian Church, Louisville, KY. For her work she was awarded the George V. Moore Award for excellence in field education.

Rev. Hedgeman, a 1981 graduate of Towson State University, is the daughter of Viola P. Hedgeman of Hyattsville, MD, and James E. Hedgeman of Washington.

Lexington Theological Seminary is a graduate theological institution of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

DIANE SMITH - OVERSEAS STAFF
TEACHING IN JAPAN

Cheryl Diane Smith who has been an overseas staff member through the Division of Overseas Ministries since 1986, will be returning to the U.S.A. in June 1988. Diane will be available June - early August to local congregations, assemblies, conventions, and youth events to interpret her work in Japan as an English teacher at Osaka Jogakuin Tanki Daigaku (Junior College for Women) in Osaka, Japan. Her responsibilities include teaching conversation classes, composition, public speaking, and speed reading.

She is also involved with the Kawanishi (Korean) Christian Church. Diane has worked with Koreans who are passing, fearing discovery, and being returned to Korea. These experiences led Diane to write in a recent newsletter "...I can only say that my experience in Japan as a foreigner has made me realize more than any other experience I have had that my blackness is something I must be proud of to be able
to live in Japan. I suggest this same pride is necessary for all of us, the children of God."

Diane is a graduate from Jackson (Mississippi) State University and Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, with degrees in Speech Pathology.

Diane posses unique skills in interpreting her experience and the mission of the church. For further information about Diane's schedule, please contact the Deputation Office, Division of Overseas Ministries, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206, (317/353-1491).

HE HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?

NEW ASSOCIATE REGIONAL MINISTER

The Rev. Deborah R. Thompson, pastor of the Park Hill Christian Church of Denver, CO, has been called to the position of associate regional minister in the Christian Church in Illinois-Wisconsin regional office, effective January 1, 1988. Deborah will have particular responsibilities for the metropolitan Chicago area. Congratulations Deborah!

CHURCH-WIDE PLANNING CONFERENCE

A Church-Wide Planning Conference to outline steps to initiate the new priority of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held June 1-5, 1988, at Transylvania University, Lexington, KY.

The Disciples’ General Assembly which met in Louisville, KY, October 16-21, adopted a new 12-year priority emphasizing the creation of "vital congregations" to offer "prophetic, redemptive and reconciling ministries to the world."

The planning conference is open to all members of the church who are interested in having input into development of future church programs relating to the priority. The approximate cost will be $25 per day, which will cover dormitory housing and food, according to the Rev. Claudia E. Grant, Disciples’ deputy general minister and president, who is coordinating the planning efforts. Hotel accommodations also will be available.

MINISTERIAL CAREERS

The Iowa State University Women’s Cross Country team members were the victims of a fatal plane crash. Overwhelmed by grief, many students turned to Ann Adams, United Ministries in Higher Education campus minister for critical pastoral care. A recent national survey shows that 39% of people seeking counseling turn to pastors rather than helping professionals. For this reason, Sue Webb Cardwell, pastoral counseling instructor at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana, devotes her life to providing specialized training for counseling.

Ricardo Huiza, Honduran student leader at Chapman College, Orange, California, enriched his education and elevated his commitment to ministry last summer by participating in the Division of Higher Education sponsored Short Term Employment Experience in Ministry (S.T.E.E.M.). Yale University’s new associate dean of the chapel, Claudia Higbaugh said, "S.T.E.E.M. convinced me that ministry was . . . for me." The congregations' generous contribution to the BASIC MISSION FINANCE offering makes S.T.E.E.M., campus ministry and pastoral counseling training possible.

GO TO THE PEOPLE

Go to the people,
Live with them,
Learn from them.
Start with what they know
Build with what they have.

But, of all the best leaders
When the job is done,
When the task is accomplished,
The people will all say
"We have done it ourselves."

Lao Tzu, China, 700 B.C.

JOBLESSNESS SPURS OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS

Couples during the depression sometimes waited until their late 20s or even 30s before marrying, because of the desire to have a financial base before starting a family. A form of that phenomenon may be
alive today, according to a new report from the Children's Defense Fund (CDF).

The major cause of poverty among young women and children is not the increasing number of teenage pregnancies but the decreasing earnings of young men and the resulting decline in family formation, the report says.

CDF findings, as reported by the JOBS IMPACT BULLETIN of the National Committee for Full Employment:

- From 1973 to 1984 the average real earnings among males ages 20-24 fell about 30%, with the rate for young blacks 50%.

- In 1973 nearly 60% of males age 20-24 could support a wife and child above the poverty line, but by 1984 only 42% could do so.

- The marriage rate for men ages 20-24 dropped in half between 1974 and 1984—from 40% to 20%.

- A result of this decrease in family formation is an increase in out-of-wedlock births, the study says. Out-of-wedlock births accounted for 30% of teen births and 9% of all births to women age 20-24 in 1970, but the figures rose in 1984 to 56% for teens and 25% to those age 20-24.

Between 1974 and 1985 the number of young men employed full time declined from 82% to 76%—a decline which helps explain the decline in earnings by young men.

The value of the minimum wage has continued to erode, as well.

CDF said solutions include improving basic academic skills, summer jobs and learning possibilities, raising the minimum wage, and giving young people a chance at secure, stable jobs at adequate wages. (Sept. 1987, Project Equality UPDATE)

The Special Christmas Offering
December 20 & 27, 1987

Caught up in the spirit of Christmas, many become concerned that their house be primarily a home. That concern has permeated the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 100 years. Serving more than 8,500 older adults, in 22 states, in over 60 facilities (skilled nursing care complexes, apartments, group or equity garden residences), each facility is a family of friends. Each facility is a home! Through the Special Christmas Offering for Basic Mission Finance, let’s remember our Disciples extended families.