1-1988

Selah: Forum for Issues in the Black Church, Volume 3, 1988

John Richard Foulkes Sr.

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TRIBUTE TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"So I say to you, seek God and discover Him and make Him a power in your life. Without Him all of our efforts turn to ashes and our sunrises into darkest nights. Without Him, life is a meaningless drama with the decisive scenes missing. But with Him we are able to rise from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. With Him we are able to rise from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy. St. Augustine was right—we were made for God and will be restless until we find rest in Him."

"Love yourself, if that means rational, healthy, and moral self-interest. You are commanded to do that. That is the length of life. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. You are commanded to do that. That is the breadth of life. But never forget that there is a first and even greater commandment, 'Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul and all thy mind.' This is the height of life. And when you do this you live the complete life." (The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Coretta Scott King.)

LWCC: 121ST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

The Light of the World Christian Church congregation in Indianapolis, IN, where the Rev. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., serves as pastor, celebrated their 121st church anniversary last year.

Highlights from their history . . .

1866 Name - Christian Mission Chapel. Located at corner of Second Street and Lafayette Railroad. Purchase price - $800.00.
- Organized as a mission project by Central Christian Church.
- Public School #23 was a direct outgrowth of the school held in this church.

1867 First pastor was Rev. Rufus Conrad. He was also a doctor and a teacher.

1869 From 1870 - 1895, pastoral work and preaching primarily done by local elders. There were some interim pastors.

1898 Rev. Henry L. Herod was first long-term pastor. Served from 1898 until his death in 1935 (37 years).

1910 New church built at 9th and Camp Streets.

1943 Rev. Robert H. Peoples called as pastor.

1948 Second Christian Church moved to 29th and Kenwood.

1966 Second Christian Church appoints Tom Benjamin a student minister.

- Rev. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., called to serve as pastor at age of 26.

1975 Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., receives Doctor of Ministry Degree from Christian Theological Seminary.
1978 Howard Thurman Spiritual Renewal Series led by Dr. Howard Thurman.

1980 Church recognized by national headquarters as largest and fastest growing Disciples congregation in the world.
- Pastor Benjamin serves as President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church during the 1980-82 biennium.
- LWCC begins its Prison Ministry Outreach Program.
- Elder Norman Reed ordained into the Christian Ministry.

1981 $7,767.89 in scholarship aid given to deserving young members.
- "The Soul of Christmas" telecast from Second Christian Church on ABC-TV nationwide.
- First Tom Benjamin Church Alive experience held.

1982 "Miracle on 38th Street" - Second Christian Church gets "Abundant Life!" at 5640 E. 38th Street.
- American Fletcher National Bank makes unprecedented $1,000,000.00 loan to Second Christian Church to purchase church and property at 5640 E. 38th Street.
- Second Christian Church moves from 29th and Kenwood to 5640 E. 38th Street.
- Deaconess board sponsors its first "Clothe-A-Child" program.

1983 Second Christian Church gave $71,963.31 in outreach. Added 308 new members and celebrated 67 baptisms.
- Fellowship Hall renamed to R.H. Peoples Fellowship Hall in memory of Rev. R.H. Peoples.

1984 "More in '84" - LWCC was the host church for the National Convocation's Seventh Biennial Session.
- Name changed from Second Christian Church to Light of the World Christian Church to match the mission and spirit of the church.
- Pastor Benjamin takes sabbatical leave and returns with 14 divine revelations from God Almighty!
- Opening of Midwest Christian Training Center.
- Over $7,000.00 given to Ethiopia Outreach.
- "From Egypt to Canaan" stewardship program begins.
- The Burning Bush is used as a symbol that symbolizes Light and Life.
- First annual "First Lady's Luncheon" with Mrs. Beverly Benjamin serving as chairperson.

1985 "Love Alive in '85" - Howard Thurman Library and Listening Room dedicated.

1986 "A Year of Devotion" - TV ministry airs locally.
- $13,000.00 contributed to recipients by Light of the World Scholarship and Educational Grant Program.
- Rev. L. Joyce Montgomery Foulkes ordained into Christian ministry.
- Our mission: "People are our mission, Jesus is our message, and soul-winning is our business."
- LWCC reaches million dollars in income!
- LWCC begins its Super Clothing Give-a-way Outreach Program.

1987 "You Can Open the Windows of Heaven in '87" - Plan for the Church: GIVE
- TV Ministry goes nationwide via BET (Black Entertainment Network)!
- Pastor and Mrs. Benjamin celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary.

TOGETHERNESS TRIUMPHS FOR GOOD

Shortly after the 1986 Convention of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina, Rev. Isaac Gourdine, pastor of Zion Pilgrim Christian Church in Ridgeville, SC, resigned. The church members felt that his resignation could have caused hardship for them, but for the past seven years Rev. Gourdine had taught the congregation the power of prayer. The membership met and prayed together. As a result, Rev. Melvin Brown of Cross, SC, was invited to fill the vacancy; and the state moderator, Rev. J. C. Fowler of Summerville, SC, came to serve as overseer of the congregation for the remainder of the church year.

Through trust and under joint leadership, Zion Pilgrim Christian Church experienced one of its most spiritually uplifting years. The business of the church continued on schedule. The church reported improvements on its building, ground maintenance, and membership. Additional land was purchased; and more importantly, souls were revived and won. With the experienced leadership of Rev. Fowler and Rev. Brown, positive attitudes with no limits prevailed.

Since the combined leadership of these two men and the subsequent pastorship of Rev. Brown alone, the
congregation reports the following blessings: 1) young adult choir organized by the pastor’s wife, Jean Brown; 2) organization of a junior choir; 3) 3rd place trophy won by the young adult choir at the 1987 Convention; 4) trophies and ribbons won by the youth department at the Convention for essays and posters on the Convention’s theme "Oneness in Christ;" 5) Sunday School held every Sunday instead of twice a month; and 6) conducted two seminars on substance abuse in connection with the police department.

Family Week was one of the greatest triumphs. The closeness felt among families and friends proved that "good" had prevailed.

Rev. Brown was unanimously invited to pastor the church for 1987-88. He accepted, leaving Poplar Hill Christian Church of Holly Hill, SC where he previously held membership. He is noted to be the youngest minister among the Black Disciples of Christ in South Carolina.

In November 1987, Rev. Brown was installed as minister. The congregation has been brought closer together and to God, and attributes their credit of success to "faith."

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TUTU’S SUCCESSOR SPEAKS IN INPLS.

Despite government enforced states of emergency, the anti-apartheid movement is still strong, according to the new general secretary of the South Africa Council of Churches.

Because of government efforts to squelch resistance, the movement has gone underground, according to the Rev. Frank Chikane, who was visiting Indianapolis at the invitation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He succeeds Bishop Desmond Tutu as the head of the council.

The state of emergency is becoming a way of life for the Blacks there. All political processes available to them have been closed, he stated. "Our style of resistance has changed. There are no more press conferences like the people used to have. So now they go house to house to tell the people about meetings."

Despite government attempts to crack down on the resistance movement, efforts such as the rent boycott are still going on. Even when the government removes the leadership from the community, the boycotts still continue, he added.

The church leader pointed out that censoring of the news out of South Africa creates a serious problem. "It creates an imbalance. The media will have to make a serious decision whether it is going to submit to the government regulations," said Chikane.

The stories about what is happening to the children of South Africa do not get into the news, he said. The government is attempting to put pressure on the children and is detaining children as young as seven and eight years old. Chikane told of a whole school, teachers and children, which was detained.

"When an eight-year-old child becomes a threat to the security of a state, there is something wrong with that government," he said.

The situation in South Africa is unique, he said, because it is a case of Christians oppressing other Christians. The role of the church now is to attempt a peaceful solution to end apartheid and prevent a blood-bath that surely will come if no changes are made, he noted. One of the ways to help that peaceful solution is economic sanctions by the international community against South Africa, he said.

Chikane said the recent release of Govan Mbeki is
the government's way of testing to see if it would be possible to release widely-known dissident Nelson Mandela.

The government is in a difficult position with the aging Black leaders that have been jailed. The government does not want them to return to their anti-apartheid activities, but they don't want them to die in prison, which could evoke a wide-spread eruption of violence, said Chikane.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Jarvis Christian College
Hawkins, Texas

The Presidential Search Committee of Jarvis Christian College invites applications and nominations for the position of President. Jarvis Christian College is a private historically Black, four-year liberal arts institution founded in 1912. It is fully accredited, and its enrollment ranges between 500-600 students each semester. It is preferred that the applicant have an earned doctorate from an accredited institution, experience as a top-level administrator in a college or business organization, and the ability to coordinate efforts and various areas of the institution to achieve common goals. The applicant must have proved ability to administer millions of dollars in funds, and to understand and relate to both the residents and institutions of the community served by the College. The salary is competitive and the fringe benefits excellent. Additionally, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

* Ability to manage fiscally
* Ability to improve programs
* Ability to increase enrollment
* Ability to improve quality education
* Ability to raise funds
* Concern for student life and activity
* Proved administrative ability
* Ability to motivate
* Ability to communicate effectively
* Ability to work with various ethnic groups
* Appreciation for the nature of a church-related college
* Politically astute
* Sensitive to community needs
* Ability to lead effectively
* Innovative

Closing date for applications is February 1, 1988. Applicants should submit (1) a letter of application outlining how they meet the criteria; (2) a current resume; and (3) names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to:

Dr. Lorene B. Holmes
Jarvis Christian College
Presidential Search Committee
P.O. Box 858
Hawkins, TX 75765

(Jarvis Christian College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer)
The Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees in its Fall meeting, September 14, 1987, accepted with regret the request of President Charles A. Berry for retirement, effective May 31, 1988. In his letter of resignation to the Board, President Berry spoke of the signal honor to have served as the president of one's alma mater. Noting Mrs. Berry's and his appreciation for the support and encouragement given by the Board, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends he wrote "To end our professional careers at Jarvis is the crowning point of our forty years of service to schools and institutions of higher learning. What more could we have asked than to serve her Majesty's Ship - Jarvis Christian College - my alma mater!"

Attorney Hunter Brush, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, expressed the appreciation of the Board to Dr. Berry for his years of service to the College. He noted the challenges facing the College at the time that he assumed the presidency January 1, 1980, and the manner in which he has worked with the Board and the constituencies of the College to assure its growth, development and vitality.

Chairman Brush, in recounting the eight years of the presidency of Dr. Berry, mentioned the capital fund drive of 1.7 million dollars for the construction of the J.N. Ervin Center; the erection of two new dormitories; new furniture in four of the dormitories; street and grounds improvements; the development of the College Archives; and the current construction of twelve new apartments for student/parents. Further, he noted strength of the educational program and its certified viability. Within this eight-year period, college wide self-studies led to the approval of all teacher education programs for the maximum period of ten years for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The Board of Trustees, following the acceptance of the resignation of Dr. Berry, moved to establish a broadly representative Search Committee and to establish procedures that will result in the selection of President Berry's successor.

HAVEN OF HOPE MINISTRY

The Haven of Hope Ministry was started last April as an outreach of Victory Christian Church, 5101 E. Sixth Street. The Rev. Norman Solco is pastor.

Women in the program meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in a house behind the church that previously was used for garage sales.

Charletha Anderson, who is secretary of Victory Christian Church, originally intended for the ministry to help women currently being battered at home. But Anderson said that only a few of those women kept going to the meetings.

Anderson provided the impetus for the ministry in response to a personal crisis. A woman and child close to her were suffering abuse at home. That woman, who is now out of the abusive situation, is still involved in the program.

Some of the other participants also have escaped abuse, but they are still trying to get their lives in order. Others are trying to deal with different types of traumatic situations in their past or present.

Haven of Hope has ministered to 18 women since it began, and about half a dozen currently attend on a regular basis.

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?
Retired educator and minister, Jason M. Cowan, died December 22, 1987. Funeral rites were held December 28 at United Christian Church in Los Angeles.

Rev. Cowan's career in education continued for nearly 65 years before his retirement from the Los Angeles Board of Education. He formerly worked as dean of Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, MS, and later as administrative assistant to the president of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX.

A native of Tennessee, Rev. Cowan was a graduate of Butler University (Indianapolis, IN), where he received scholarship assistance at the graduate level by the Christian Women's Board of Mission of the general church.

During the war he served for four years in the South Pacific (Australia and New Guinea) as a chaplain and immediately following worked as a contact representative for the Veterans Administration.

He served as associate pastor of United Christian Church where he was involved in the training of younger ministers. He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and one of the founders of Tau Tau Chapter in Compton, CA, as well as the Sigma Chi Chapter in Indianapolis, IN.

Survivors include his wife, Marian, and two sons, Jason Gregory and Stephen Cowan.

The fifth National Evangelism Workshop (NEW), May 10-12, 1988, will feature several new ingredients. Pastors of significantly growing churches in six different mainline denominations will share practical, proven methods. This dynamic mix provides a potential for cross-pollination of insights not possible from within one denominational family. Each workshop leader will illustrate how his or her ideas apply to the three basic types of congregations—small, medium-sized, and large. The six denominations are United Methodist, Presbyterian, American Baptist, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Other new elements in NEW88, which will convene at a convention center near the Cincinnati airport, include (1) beginning on Tuesday (not Monday) to allow more travel time; (2) a $20 per person "Early Bird" registration savings until February 1, 1988; (3) free transportation from the airport; and (4) attendance open to laypersons and clergy of all denominations.

Along with the top-quality workshop leaders, NEW88 will continue its tradition of world-class plenary speakers:

- Father John Powell, the popular Catholic whose books have made him the second best-selling Christian author in the U.S. (ranking just behind C.S. Lewis).
- Bishop Richard B. Wilke, the author of a best-selling evangelism book and chairman of The United Methodist Bishops Committee on Evangelism.
- Fred Craddock, author of a volume acclaimed the best 1986 book on preaching, and professor of Preaching and New Testament at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.
- Herb Miller, author of How to Build a Magnetic Church (Abingdon Press, 1987), editor of Net Results, and executive director of the National Evangelistic Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- James Alexander Forbes, Jr., homiletics professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York.
- Jesse L. Jackson, a Baptist pastor and political activist.
- Edna Hopper, a businesswoman and dynamic evangelism leader in Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Decatur, IL.
- Emmett V. Johnson, director of evangelism and manager of the Personal and Public Witness Unit of the American Baptist National Ministries, who has served as preacher for the NBC National Radio Pulpit series.

Other important NEW88 ingredients will include (1) free home housing on limited, first-registered basis; (2) free video and audio cassettes for churches sending eight or more persons; (3) preschool child care; and (4) 1.6 CEU credits.
NEW88 will be held at the Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center (on the south side of the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky) five minutes from the Cincinnati airport. Persons desiring information and registration forms should contact:

NEW88 Registrar, Grace Ferguson
5001 Avenue N.
Lubbock, TX 79412
Phone: 1-800-632-4769
In Texas: 1-800-892-3463

TBS PROGRAM BOOK INFO

This is a special invitation to you (as a church, region, educational institution, convention, assembly, organization, or yourself) to be an important part in the program book of the Tenth Biennial Session, which will be held in Memphis, TN, August 8-12, 1988.

You can secure space in our beautiful program book which will become a keepsake and shared with others.

A message or statement of your choice, with a picture if you desire, is available to you at the following rates:

- Inside cover/back cover, full page $300
- Full page (8 1/2 X 11) . . . . . . 250
- One-half page (8 X 5) . . . . . . 150
- One-fourth page (3 1/2 X 5) . . . . 100
- One-eighth page (3 1/2 X 2 1/4) . . 75

If you are going to have your material typeset before mailing it in, please leave a 1/2 inch margin around the copy if you choose a full page.

May 13, 1988 is the deadline for receiving your message and/or picture. Payment must accompany all orders.

Checks should be made payable to "National Convocation of the Christian Church," and mailed to the Convocation at P.O. Box 1986; Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

THANK YOU!

Gathering under the theme "Chosen by the Spirit, Challenged to Be . . . ," the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), celebrating its Tenth Biennial Session, will meet August 8-12, 1988, at the Convention Center in Memphis, TN. Headquarters hotel will be the Crown Plaza Holiday Inn which is just right next door to the Memphis Convention Center.

Registration and hotel forms are available at the Convocation office. Just write or give us a call.

THANK YOU!
WE, THE BLACK AMERICANS

How much money do we make? ...

In 1984, our median family money 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% of Black families were maintained by women alone compared with only 13% of White families. The 1984 median income for Black families maintained by women was only $8,650, 37% of the median of Black married-couple families ($23,420). In White husband-wife families, the median income was $30,060 and $15,130 for families maintained by women with no husband present.

... 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% in 1984, not significantly different from the 1980 rate of 32.5%. The poverty rate for Whites was 11.5% in 1984.

- About 31% or 2.1 million of all Black families had money incomes below the poverty level in 1984.

- Black female householders accounted for 73% 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. Depart. of Commerce Bureau of the Census)
Gathering under the theme "Chosen by the Spirit, Challenged to Be . . .," the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), celebrating its Tenth Biennial Session, will meet August 8-12, 1988, at the Convention Center in Memphis, TN. Headquarters hotel will be the Crown Plaza Holiday Inn which is just right next door to the Memphis Convention Center.

Registration and hotel forms are available at the Convocation office. Just write or give us a call.

MULTIMEDIA OPENING

Dear Pastor:

On August 8, 1988, the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation will open with a procession accompanied by a slide/multi-image presentation showing Black Disciples congregations from all over the United States gathering for or in worship. For the success of this presentation, I need you and your congregations' help.

That help would be in the form of sending me 2 to 3 35mm slides showing worship activity of your congregation, such as your congregation worshipping, the exterior of your church building with people arriving, a service of baptism, your congregation gathering for some event in the life of your church, or any other scene you may see as appropriate.

Please number and identify your church and city on the slides in pencil on the slide mount and then on a separate sheet of paper, please identify the slide with its number as your congregation and the activity pictured in the slide, and send the slides and identification sheet to me:

Lawrence F. Casey-Allen
Office of Communication
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Attention: Convocation Opening

I will need to receive the slides by May 27, 1988. I will not be able to return any of the slides that are sent; however, they will be added to our slide files following the General Assembly for use in future productions.

I want to thank you ahead of time for any assistance you can give us in producing this presentation.

Black Disciples Participate in Education Event

The Association of Christian Church Educators (ACCE) and the Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) met together in Atlanta, GA, January 16-19, 1988. The theme, "We Have A Dream..." was inspired by the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The educators met to participate in the King Holiday Celebration and to explore ways of embodying King's dream of equality, peace and justice in the educational ministry of the Church.

The Association of Christian Church Educators (ACCE) meet annually. The 1989 event is scheduled for February 25-28, in Chevy Chase, MD. The theme will be "Power and Empowerment".
For more information contact Belva Brown Jordan, Division of Homeland Ministries, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Everyone has blessings,
The foolish person squanders them.
The practical person counts them.
The good person shares them.

Edwards Chapel Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Russellville, AR 72801

The pianist and choir at Edwards Chapel Christian Church presented a concert of Christian Music on Sunday, January 31, 1988. The pianist, Rita Richards-on, presented instrumental selections including spirituals, hymns, and gospels. The choir joined her on two numbers.

A free will offering was taken during the program to benefit the church building fund so that repairs can be made to the building.

CAVE ELECTED VICE MODERATOR

Eliza H. Cave was elected Vice Moderator for the South Carolina Christian Church at the last Annual Meeting.

The honor and responsibility could not have been accorded to a more responsible and dedicated person. Mrs. Cave has given most of her life in some activity in the church, serving as Sunday School teacher, youth and adult leader, conference director, board member, pastor advisor, and Women's Worker. She has been a member of the general board, finance council, selection committee, convocation board and more recently the president of National Women's Work.

She served in these capacities while still carrying on a full-time teaching position in her county and being a full-time mother and wife.

Congratulations to South Carolina on its wisdom in selecting Mrs. Cave, and best wishes to Mrs. Cave in her new responsibility.

Paradoxical Commandments of Leadership

1. People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered.
   LOVE THEM ANYWAY!

2. If you do good, people will accuse you of self ulterior motives.
   DO GOOD ANYWAY!

3. If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies.
   SUCCEED ANYWAY!

4. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
   DO GOOD ANYWAY!

5. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
   BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY!

6. The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds.
   THINK BIG ANYWAY!

7. People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.
   FIGHT FOR A FEW UNDERDOGS ANYWAY!

8. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
   BUILD ANYWAY!

9. People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them.
   HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY!

10. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
    GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE ANYWAY!

Dr. Robert W. Ethridge, President
American Assn. for Affirmative Action
Director of Equal Opportunity Programs
Assistant Vice President for Business
Emory University, Atlanta, GA
This is a special invitation to you (as a church, region, educational institution, convention, assembly, organization, or yourself) to be an important part in the program book of the Tenth Biennial Session, which will be held in Memphis, TN, August 8-12, 1988.

You can secure space in our beautiful program book which will become a keepsake and shared with others.

A message or statement of your choice, with a picture if you desire, is available to you at the following rates:

- Inside cover/back cover, full page $300
- Full page (8 1/2 X 11) ........ 250
- One-half page (8 X 5) ....... 150
- One-fourth page (3 1/2 X 5) ....... 100
- One-eighth page (3 1/2 X 2 1/4) .. 75

If you are going to have your material typeset before mailing it in, please leave a 1/2 inch margin around the copy if you choose a full page.

May 13, 1988 is the deadline for receiving your message and/or picture. Payment must accompany all orders.

Checks should be made payable to "National Convocation of the Christian Church," and mailed to the Convocation at P.O. Box 1986; Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

THANK YOU!

TIME IS WINDING DOWN AND REGISTRATIONS ARE COMING IN AT A SLOW PACE. LET'S GET THEM IN SOON SO THAT THE CONVOCATION OFFICE CAN GET AN ACCURATE COUNT.

Facen earns NAACP honor

The Rev. W. Ann Facen, pastor of the Willow Street Christian Church, Hannibal, MO was this year's recipient of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

The award, given for the third year in Hannibal, goes to "the person who best exemplifies the ideals of King's in his or her daily life."

Rev. Facen accepted the award during ceremonies to honor King in Hannibal, such as a Freedom Walk and a memorial service at the Willow Street Christian Church.

A volunteer at the Hannibal Jr. High School, Rev. Facen is a counseling assistant. She is a member of the boards of directors of the Hannibal United Way Board of Directors, Douglass Community Center and U-Help. She also serves as chairman of the NAACP Religious Affairs Committee.

Sunday, March 13, 1988, the Rev. Facen and Officers and members observed the 114th Anniversary of Willow Street Christian Church.

Your attitude towards life in general is reflected in your response to the dawn of a new day.
As Christians, we all should heed the call to be "Partners in God's Mission." Easter, with its celebration of the Resurrection and the newness of life, is an opportunity to support the outreach ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the 1988 Easter Special Day offering.

TO LIVE MEANS TO BE AT THE CROSSROADS.

PEACE FOR CHRISTIANS, IS NOT JUST THE ABSENCE OF WAR, BUT A POSITIVE STATE OF BEING WHERE DIFFERENCES ARE RECONCILED.
Gathering under the theme "Chosen by the Spirit, Challenged to Be...," the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), celebrating its Tenth Biennial Session, will meet August 8-12, 1988 at the Convention Center in Memphis, TN. Headquarters hotel will be the Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn which is just right next door to the Memphis Convention Center.

REGISTRATIONS

Time is drawing near and registrations are still not coming in the way that they should for the Convocation.

There is much preparation being done in making this Convocation one of the biggest we have ever had. Mississippi Blvd. is preparing to be an outstanding host church and they, along with the Board of Trustees and the Convocation Office need your support to show appreciation for what is being done. This Convocation is yours, so let's get those registrations and Patron Ads in NOW!

FROM RAY OF HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

On Sunday, June 26, 1988, Rev. Cynthia L. Hale, Pastor-Developer and the members of the Ray of Hope Christian Church will be celebrating the closing of its charter and the dedication of its building.

The Service of Chartering and Dedication will be held at 3:00 p.m. The Honorable Alvin O. Jackson, Pastor of Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church, Memphis, TN will be the guest speaker.

Everyone is invited to join them for this historical occasion. If you have any questions, please contact the church office from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The telephone number is (404) 288-4673.

MISS REED CHOSEN MISS BLACK TENNESSEE

Lynnette F. Reed, a senior at Tennessee State University, was crowned Miss Black Tennessee - 1988, Sunday, Feb. 28 at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Lynnette is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Norman (May) Reed, Nashville, TN, pastor family at Alameda Christian Church. Lynnette scored highest, across the board in swimwear, talent, (singing "Home" from The Wiz), evening gown segment, and answering her question superbly. She will go to compete August 20, 1988 in the Miss Black U.S.A. competition in Atlanta, GA. Lynnette is also planning to be wed on August 27, 1988 to Sterling C. Brown of Nashville, TN at the Vine Street Christian Church. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, pastor of Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN will perform the ceremony.

14th ANNUAL BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT

During the 14th annual Black Minister's Retreat which was held in Indianapolis, March 1-3, the ministers looked at the human problems of the minister. Speakers during the retreat focused on Jesus Christ's identification with these problems.
Keynote speaker, the Rev. William Lee, Roanoke, Va., spoke to the ministers about a struggling savior who could identify with the problems confronting a minister.

"Maybe the greatest problem we have is that we have a messed up christology. The Christ we are trying to find does not exist. We have a listerine and antiseptic Christ in this time. We think that the savior we serve knows nothing about struggles. But my scriptures tell me He struggled. He struggled from the womb of Mary to His death," said Lee.

Lee said that struggle is not negative but could be the best thing that happens to ministers. He told ministers that God sends angels to help them in their time of struggle and to remember there is no friend like Jesus.

One of the problems ministers have is trying to travel through life's journey alone, said Lee. "Superman is celebrating 50 years. He can leap tall buildings, but we can not. You need somebody to walk with you," he said.

Lee said ministers sometimes have trouble merging power and passion in their ministries. Jesus had enough passion to weep and power to feed 5,000 people, he said.

Lee talked of the forgiving nature of Jesus while telling of the troubles of a priest caught in a vice-squad sting operation in a red-light district. After his trial, his parish allowed him to preach the homily and visit the sick but would not allow him to serve communion because they believed his hands were defiled, said Lee.

This situation troubled Lee who said that all ministers have struggles although they may not be related to money or sex. He wondered if because he failed to live up to some of his promises to God, his congregation would treat him the same way.

"I wonder if my congregation would say you can preach to us but we must call in a clean preacher to serve us holy communion," he said.

The disciples Jesus had at the last supper were not perfect. There was one at the table who betrayed Jesus, one who denied Him, one who doubted and those that were selfish, Lee pointed out. But the man who was serving the table is a forgiving Jesus. Lee added.

"Some of us feel unworthy and feel we have no right to serve communion but look at who is there and see the Lord said to come just as you are," said Lee.

Morning preachers at the retreat focused on other qualities of Jesus which allowed Him to identify with the human problems of a minister.

The Rev. Timothy James, Cleveland, Ohio, said that Jesus could have empathy with ministers.

"Jesus sat where we sit. He was tempted and tried on every side but He came with a mission to fulfill. I'm so glad that Jesus did not have to do it but He did," said James.

The Rev. L. Wayne Stewart, Dallas, TX, said all ministers are familiar with the problems they confront with their members and boards. In order to overcome these human problems of the ministry, they need to be filled with "the inside stuff" supplied by opening themselves to receive strength from Jesus, he said.

Workshop participants reflected on the daily messages relating to the theme. Workshop leaders were Janice R. Newborn, The Revs. Belva B. Jordan, Raymond E. Brown, Charlotte Harris, Rufus Burrow, Jr., Thomas E. Wood, Ernest J. Newborn, Rex Horne, Elby A. Boosinger, LaTaunya M. Bynum, Gerald Cunningham and Ron Allen, all of Indianapolis. Music director for the event was Mary Cunningham.

CHOIR MEMBERS FROM JAMAICA TOUR

Charles Webb would like all the choir members that participated in the Jamaican Choir Tour to be sure and go to the Convocation in Memphis for a REUNION. For further information contact him at (213) 637-6712 in Lynwood, CA.

141st REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

"Disciples By Design" is the theme for the 141st Regional Assembly as Indiana makes preparations to celebrate twenty years of the "Design of the Christian Church."

The event will be held August 19-20, 1988 at Ball State University, Muncie, IN. Everyone is invited and encourage others to be a part of the assembly.
YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mon. Aug. 8: 10:00a - 6:00  Youth Outing planned by local youth groups

Tues. Aug. 9: 10:15a - 12:15  Youth Get-Acquainted time
2:00 - 4:00  Youth review of business docket
9:30p - 11:00  Youth swim party

Wed. Aug. 10: 10:15a - 12:15  Workshops (see below)
2:00 - 4:00  Youth rap session
9:30p - 11:00  Youth Talent show

Th. Aug. 11: 10:15a - 12:15  Workshops
2:00 - 4:00  Participation in business session
10:00p - 12:00  Concert

Fri. Aug. 12: 10:15a - 12:15  Workshops
12:30p - 3:30  Youth Luncheon & Boat Ride
9:30p - 12:00  Youth Dance

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

31. Leadership Development Among Youth - To explore creating and developing youth leadership by examining the five components of youth ministry—study, worship, community, mission, recreation/play—in order to encourage and equip youth to make a contribution to the shared life of the congregation.

32. Dealing With The Frustrations of Youth - To address the frustration of being a youth and explore alternative responses for dealing with that frustration. Discussion and role play topics will include peer counseling and youth delinquency.

33. Gifts God Has Given Youth. To help participants discover unrealized gifts and share them with others. Participants will have an opportunity to share their gifts as a group by creating a Convocation youth banner which represents who they are as gifts of God.

ALL THE FLOWERS OF ALL THE TOMORROWS ARE IN THE SEEDS OF TODAY.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

One hundred years after the ordination of the first woman minister by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), clergywomen are still fighting battles for recognition on their homefront.

Black clergywomen were appalled to find no women as major presenter or program personalities during the Disciples' Black Ministers Retreat recently held.

Feeling their concern should be publicly stated, the women drafted a resolution calling for successive retreats to feature equal numbers of male and female speakers. The resolution also asked that the director of women in ministry and others be involved in the planning for the retreat.

In a special meeting with the Rev. John R. Compton, president of Division of Homeland Ministries, the clergywomen were assured that women would be involved in the planning of future retreats. DHM sponsors the annual event through its department of ministry.

The Rev. Ozark Range, Sr., director of Black Ministry, responding to the resolution, said a committee will be named to assist in the plans for the 1989 retreat in Jackson, MS., and future retreats.

The resolution by the women was significant because they were able to organize themselves and to make their feelings about not being included in the viable leadership of the retreat, according to the Rev. LaTanya Bynum, director of women in ministry.

"I'm really excited about what happened there. It was a good thing and can perhaps be a model for clergywomen in other places who run into similar types of problems," she said.

Black women clergy find it difficult being accepted as ministers by congregations and others because of racism and sexism, according to Bynum.

Despite obstacles, women are still making progress that can be seen by their continued enrollment in seminaries and respond to the call of the ministry, according to Bynum. She added that those charged with calling women have done so either with great joy or reluctance and find women ministers are helpful and good and bring a dedication to the ministries they are performing.
DELLA JANUARY - NEW OHIO MODERATOR

Della January had the distinct honor of serving as the Vice President of the National Convocation from August 1984 - August 1986. She has now reached another milestone in her Christian life. As of Saturday, April 30, 1988, she became the first black chairperson (Moderator) of the Ohio Regional Board. She has been a member of the Board for five years and a member of the Executive Board for three years.

Congratulations go the Della on her new position and to the State of Ohio for selecting such a dedicated person for Moderator.

Persons' real limitations are not the things they want to do, but cannot they are the things they ought to do, but do not.
COUNT DOWN TO MEMPHIS

The Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation is less than one month away. A number of us have made our reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, paid our registration fees, made travel arrangements using our discount with Northwest Airlines, decided what workshop we are going to participate in and have been in prayer for the success of the event. There are greater numbers of us who have not made these decisions yet. The brochure that you received describes the many activities of the Tenth Biennial Session. Every effort has been made by the planning committee and the local arrangements committee to make your participation in this Convocation one that will empower you to be more effective participant in the realization of God’s reign in this age. We are praying fervently that you might determine this event to be one of the priorities in your life and come. Please let me know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in making your decision to come.

MEAL EVENTS

The following meal events will take place at the Convocation:

Tuesday, August 9:
12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Young Adult Luncheon, on the Mezzanine of the Convention Center in the Plantation Room - $10.00

Wednesday, August 10:
7:00 - 8:30 A.M. Minister’s Breakfast, on the Mezzanine of the Convention Center in the Mississippi & Sultana Room - $8.00
12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Christian Women’s Fellowship and Minister’s Wives Luncheon, on the Mezzanine of the Convention Center in the Mississippi & Sultana Room - $10.00

Thursday, August 11:
12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Christian Men’s Fellowship Luncheon, on the Mezzanine of the Convention Center in the Mississippi & Sultana Room - $10.00

6:30 - 8:30 P.M. All Convocation Banquet, in the Concourse of the Convention Center - $15.00

Friday, August 12:
7:00 - 8:30 A.M. Clergywomen’s Breakfast, on the Mezzanine of the Convention Center in the Mississippi & Sultana Room - $8.00
12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Jarvis Luncheon, on the Mezzanine of the Convention Center in the Mississippi & Sultana Room - $10.00

Tickets for all of these meal functions will be on sale through the Convocation until July 22. If your check or money order will not reach the Convocation office by July 22, please wait to purchase your ticket at the Tenth Biennial Session.

PRESENT WITH THE LORD

Rev. 7:9-17 describes the great multitude of the redeemed gathered around God’s throne. It is a scene of great rejoicing void of the struggles of this life that brought the redeemed to this place around God’s throne. Several of our brothers and sisters have joined this company since the last issue of Selah. They are:

Araminta Lavelle Smith, staff of the National Benevolent Association - May 8.
Ceola Harris Malone, staff of the Department of Communication - May 30.
Carneal Chambliss, Vice Moderator of the Christian Church in Mississippi - June 1.
Clarence Howard, Pastor of Community Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX - June 2.
William Joseph Barber, an effective leader in the Church of Christ Disciples of Christ and one of its most effective spokespersons - June 14
William Evans, brother of Lorenzo Evans, - June 21.
All of grieve because of these losses to the Christian struggle in this world. We will handle our grief in ways most appropriate to each of us but please don't let us forget our responsibilities to the larger Christian community. Take time to stay in touch with the families and friends of those who have gone home. They will need our presence as they being to put their lives together without the physical presence of their loved one who God has called home.

I BELIEVE IN CHRISTIANITY AS I BELIEVE IN THE SUN...NOT ONLY BECAUSE I SEE IT, BUT BECAUSE BY IT I SEE EVERYTHING ELSE.

I WONDER AND I WONDER

The title of this article reflects the state of the Union when it comes to the present status of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The idea of the title came from an old Negro Spiritual sung by my first cousin, Rosa Page Welch, some years ago. She is the only person that I have ever heard sing it.

The basic words of the song carries at least three connotations: one of astonishment, one of efficiency and one of curiosity. We feel that the last one is more fitting than the others for this specific case.

Hope and concern for the Christian Church have been a part of my life for more than fifty years. I have never been a part of any other movement except the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I obtained my Theological training from our Disciple School in Indianapolis, IN. We were taught by some of the best theologians in the Brotherhood and we have to implement these teachings wherever we have a chance. Now as I look at the track record of the Disciple movement I find that much of the teachings that I received from those theologians have become very shadowy. The light that Alexander Campbell, James O. Kelly and Barton W. Stone, lite up this part of the world many years ago with the Restoration Movement, is growing dimmer and dimmer. Therefore, "I WONDER AND I WONDER" if we have what it takes to move people into the frame work of the Disciple Church. People have become very critical of my saying that our brotherhood in many geographical areas has become complacent. Nevertheless, statistics will show an alarming decrease in the membership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in America.

A reporter of LOOK MAGAZINE which is out of circulation, made a survey of our Brotherhood in 1957. That survey showed that we at that time were boasting of the fact that we the supervision of more than 8,000 congregations which were composed of more than two million members. I am sure that if we were to look at the record now we would find that we have lost more than half of that membership. This is rather disturbing to me and I would think that it should be disturbing to every red blooded person who is a member of the Disciple Church. So I AM WONDERING AND I AM WONDERING if we shouldn't revamp our strategy so that we might entice younger persons to become members of the Disciple Church. As I survey the field I find that the composition of many of our churches is made of Senior who are beyond the age of reproduction. This means in the next quarter of a century these churches will be almost at the state of extinction. There should be efforts on the part of the total Brotherhood to produce a growing church until Jesus comes. Therefore, I believe that the choreographie of our design should introduce something that is solid and dependable as well as exciting and new so that we might be able to recruit a younger population for the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ). Therefore, "I WONDER AND I WONDER" if our BAIT is attractive enough to catch the kind of fish we need.

Curiosity overwhelms me when I think of what some of the Disciples are trying to do with the basic principles of historical Disciplinism which seems to have been the catalyst that moved us out in front of the other congregations who had their beginnings in America.

Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, James O'Kelly and Raccoon John Smith must have had the Biblical, Educational and devotional Charisma to have drawn thousands from other connections to simply unify on the bases of the SCRIPTURES within a very short time. This was done with a simple philosophy derived from their understanding of God's word. Their conclusions were these:

1. No Book except the Bible.
2. No Creed except Christ.
3. We speak where the Bible speaks.
4. We are silent where the Bible is silent.
5. We are not the only Christians but Christians only.
6. In essentials Unity.
8. In all things Love.

"I WONDER AND I WONDER" if these basic principles have been thrown out of the window. The above principles are simple and give us much more liberalism than most of the other Congregations. Well, I suppose we would rather have Strictism. "I WONDER AND I WONDER".
I am hoping that the readers of this article will not conceive that I am promoting negativism nor that we have any nostalgia for those things that do not mean anything to the growth of the church. My only interest is increasing the Kingdom of God in the Hearts of Men.

Yours for a better world, Daniel W. Health.

A RELIGION THAT IS NOT WORTH EXPORTING IS NOT WORTH KEEPING AT HOME.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY

Now is the chance for your congregation to become involved in a life-changing ministry. Sponsors are needed for a large number of Ethiopian refugees who have been interviewed by U.S. Immigration and determined to be eligible for resettlement in the U.S. They are currently in refugee camps in Germany, Italy, Greece and the Sudan.

Due to strife and political differences many young Ethiopians have fled their country and are not able to return. Death and/or imprisonment is their fate should they try to return to Ethiopia. Many have already arrived in the U.S., but hundreds of others await church sponsors in order to begin their lives anew. Most of these refugees speak English and are educated, with job skills that are an asset to getting jobs quickly. Life in a refugee camp is hard especially in the Sudan where food is scarce and the wait is long.

Can your congregation help end their uncertainty by sponsoring one or two persons? A church sponsor can ease the uncertainty by corresponding with the refugee while he/she waits to come to the U.S.

Sponsorship can be accomplished by using the resources of all your people and need not cost a lot of money. Churches with as few as 50 members have sponsored. A committee of willing, resourceful persons with the commitment to become involved, is all you need. These persons are already in your congregation or you wouldn't be the church. Will you help?

Your Week of Compassion dollars support the Refugee and Immigration Ministries program - a program that provided new opportunities for life in the U.S. to 437 refugees in 1987. Will you consider becoming directly involved in this ministry to Ethiopian refugees through sponsorship? For detailed information call or write Ann Weisheimer of the Refugee and Immigration Ministries Program, Division of Homeland Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206. 317 353-1491.

SMILE, GOD LOVES YOU

NATIONAL MOTHER-TO-MOTHER SEMINAR 1988

The National Mother-to-Mother Seminar met at the Villa Christi Retreat Center of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, KS, April 29-May 1, 1988. Thirty-nine full-time registrants with fifteen commuting others participated in the retreat.

The general theme for the two day seminar was "Preparing a Future for Women and Children."

Outstanding keynote speakers and workshop facilitators brought the general theme into focus within the dimensions of their presentations.

Dr. Alex Cade, President of Psychological Evaluations and Treatment Center, Inc., addressed the issue of "The Socialization Childbearing in the U.S." Kay Guy, the Religious Coordinator of the Children's Defense Fund, addressed the needs of children using the data gathered by the Children's Defense Fund.

Workshop leaders were: Sister Artbel Cline- "Mutuality of the Mission", Fern Rudiger - "Developing and Maintaining Team Relationships", Dr. Sadye Lorna - "The Impact of Social Change as its Affects on Middle American Women."

Presentations concerning demographics about women in the United States enabled a dialogue between the participants and the workshop leader about the traditional socialization patterns affecting women. Films presented the attitudinal differences between women and highlighted the important contributions and persons in the women's movement.

The Deloris B. Holt Scholarship Fund was approved with the unanimous stipulation that no scholarship be given until the fund had $5,000 dollars in it.

The coordinators affirmed the idea of having an award given to an outstanding person who participates in the Mother-to-Mother Ministry. Instead of the award being called the Deloris B. Holt award it is to be called the Witnessing Women's Award.

Names of outstanding persons with a resume and brief statement about why the person has been nominated,
with a contribution of $10.00 or more for the scholarship fund, is to be sent to the national office.

The national office will send a certificate to the local nominating person or group and the local group will decide when, where and how it will honor the honoree.

Award presentations are to start in November 1988 during the Thanksgiving season.

NATIONAL SEMINAR LEADERSHIP TEAM 1988

First Row: Susan K. Dyck, Dr. Sadie Logan, Sister Arthel Cline, Fern Rudiger. Second Row: Verna Ehmiston, Dr. Alex Cade and Rev. Charlotte Harris.

SELF PRESERVATION IS THE FIRST LAW OF NATURE, BUT SELF SACRIFICE IS THE HIGHEST RULE OF GRACE!

PEACE WITH JUSTICE WEEK
OCTOBER 14-24, 1988

"IS THIS THE FAST WE CHOOSE?"
Isaiah 58:6-10

This year, between the 14th and 24th of October, faith communities across the United States will be celebrating the sixth annual Peace with Justice Week. The theme for the Week in 1988 is drawn from the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "Is Not This the Fast We Choose?" Taken from the 58th chapter of Isaiah, these words call the religious community to self examination and recommitment to faith-based callings to social justice and peace.

Over the years, the Week has grown into a major educational and organizing vehicle for faith communities who are establishing the linkages between issues of social justice and peace. Across the nation, these days spanning World Food Day and World Disarmament Day are a time for empowerment and efforts for meaningful change in the United States. Activities around the country range from worship services to educational activities to legislative advocacy to Shalom Festivals and fairs.

Synagogues, Churches and other communities of faith are urged to come together in this common expression of the desire for social justice and for peace. Organizer Booklets loaded with resources and suggestions for activities are available in both English and Spanish ($3.50). Booklets can be ordered by contacting the Peace with Justice Week office: 475 Riverside Drive, Rm. 712, New York, NY 10115; (212) 870-3347.

NINTH JARVIS PRESIDENT NAMED

Mr. Hunter Brush, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, announced the appointment effective June 1, 1988, of Dr. Julius Nimmons as the ninth president of the College. The selection which commenced after Dr. C.A. Berry announced his retirement last September.

Dr. Nimmons has been associated with Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, NC., for the twenty years having served as Special Assistant to the President. Previously he chaired the Division of Social Sciences there. In addition to serving on the faculty at Lehigh University as a Fellow in Academic Administration in the American Council on Education Fellowship Program, the professional experiences of Dr. Nimmons include service for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer Teacher in Tunisia, North Africa, followed by a three year stint as Associate Peace Corps Director in the Somali Republic, East Africa.

Dr. Nimmons was graduated from Morehouse College with a major in American History and from Atlanta University with a major in European History. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a specialization in United States History from Howard University.
Dr. Mimmons is married to the former Shirley Watkins. They have two children, Shayla and Keiba. As his schedule permits, he enjoys classical music, reading and foreign travel.

Mr. Brush closed the announcement saying that "The College is fortunate to have a person of Dr. Mimmons' training, experience and dedication to become its ninth president and that the Board of Trustees was certain that the imminent transitional period will be exceptionally smooth."

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**Convocation Officers**

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**Brkfst.**

- Ministers' Breakfast
- Clergy Women's Brkfst
- Bible Lectures, Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Lecturer
- Workshops for Congregational Empowerment
- Continuing Education: Preaching, Fred S. Craddock, Professor

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- Jarvis Luncheon

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| OPENING WORSHIP
- Miss. Blvd. Chr. Church
- A.O. Jackson, Preacher
- Evening Worship
- Julia Brogdon, Preacher
- Evening Worship
- Paul Sims, Preacher
- BANQUET
- CLOSING WORSHIP
- Harry S. Wright
- Preacher
- Mass Choir Dinner

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**PAY EARLY REGISTRATION FEE BEFORE MAY 31, 1988 / PAY LATE FEE AFTER MAY 31, 1988**

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**CONGREGATION (MEMBERSHIP)**

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**REGISTRATION FEES & WORKSHOP REGISTRATION**

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**Mail registration form with fee(s) to:**
National Convocation: P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

**HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

Reservations are to be made directly to the hotel.
Send by July 11, 1988
Give arrival & departure dates/times - Also state room required

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Holiday Inn Crown Plaza (Headquarters)
250 N. Main Street; Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 527-7300
Singles, Doubles, Triples, Quads - $69

Sheraton Memphis Hotel
300 N. Second Street; Memphis, TN 38105
(901) 525-2511/Singles-$55, Doubles-$60
Triples-$65, Quads-$70

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Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Indianapolis, Ind. Permit No. 413

222 S. DOWNEY
P.O. BOX 1986
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206

010085088 44 1655-1
JAMES M SEALE
1101 19TH AVE S
NASHVILLE TN 37212
The Challenging Program

A capacity crowd of 2,500 filled the pews of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church for the opening of the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church. Rev. Alvin O. Jackson, president of the National Convocation and senior minister of Mississippi Boulevard, opened the August 8-12 meeting and delivered the opening message on Monday night, speaking on "God at His Best." Jackson speculated that it may be some people have trouble because they have not seen God at his best. "But to see him you have to live out his word," said Jackson.

Nine hundred sixty-seven persons from across the United States registered for this Convocation which had as its theme, "Chosen by the Spirit; Challenged to be ...". Daily lectures on the theme were given by the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., senior minister of the Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Ill.

Evening speakers addressed the daily sub-themes. On Tuesday with the theme of "Deliverance to the Captives", the Rev. Dr. Julia Brogdon, Cleveland, Ohio, pastor of Freedom Christian Church, said the church must determine who the captives are. It also must know who are the deliverers and who assigned the deliverers. Deliverers are needed, she told the audience, but they need to be questioned on their commitment, calling, record and other points because the people they deliver "will only be copies" of what they are.

The Rev. L. Wayne Stewart, Dallas, Texas, pastor of Denley Drive Christian Church, on the Wednesday night theme of "Sight to the Blind" preached on "Changing Shoes." "The shoes you walk in will determine the path you walk in. The path you walk in will determine what you see and whether you will be blind or not," he said. Jesus' shoes are not fashionable but they change the way you think, feel and see, Stewart said.

On Thursday with the theme of "Liberty to the Oppressed," the Convocation heard an address by former Democratic presidential candidate the Rev. Dr. Jesse L. Jackson who was the banquet speaker. "Everyday we must be odds breakers and dream makers," Jackson told the audience.

The Convocation concluded with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Harry S. Wright, pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., on Friday when the theme was "The Acceptable Year of the Lord." Delivering a very simple message, Wright said he had three announcements that were not for debate, dialogue or discussion. Those announcements were that God is the creator of the world; the kingdom of God is coming; and Jesus died for us. "That message is ours. It may not be new news but it is good news," said Wright, and added it needs to be told even when people don't stop to listen.

In the business session the Convocation approved an amendment to its Articles of Operation which clarifies the procedure to be used for the selection of the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation by the General Minister and President. The procedure calls for an advisory committee and the General Minister and President to rank the candidates for the office and for an interview process to be done starting with the highest ranking candidate. There was much discussion during the business session on the role of the Administrative Secretary in light of the promotion of the Rev. Dr. John R. Foulkes from Associate General Minister to Deputy General Minister. There was some concern over how the new responsibilities will impact his duties for the National Convocation. The Board of Trustees of the National Convocation appointed a committee to meet with the General Minister and President to discuss this.
## Jesse Speaks

Saying that he was conditioned and raised against the odds, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson told a crowd of 1,300 at the Convocation banquet “Everyday we must be odds breakers and dream makers.” Jackson urged the crowd to “keep hope alive and keep up growth. We are just an experiment and are not supposed to win but to lose them due to atrophy,” he said to the predominantly Black audience.

Jackson said that in a real sense new ground had been broken during this 1988 presidential campaign. When he campaigned for the office in 1984, he only garnered 400 delegates but this year he had 1,200. He noted that Michael Dukakis won with 9 million votes to his 7 million. There are 12 million Black voters alone and another 6 million eligible Black voters who are unregistered, Jackson said. “Most people around the world do not have the right of self determination. We have those rights and should not lose them due to atrophy,” said Jackson. He added that more progress is lost because of unused opportunities. He said this election should be thought of not only as a presidential election but as a national election. On Nov. 8th there will not only be one job opening but 20,000 jobs open,” said Jackson.

The Baptist minister credited faith with much of the progress made this year by his Rainbow Coalition in the presidential campaign. He said that in an historical sense, “We won this year.” Such a faith, he said, cannot be destroyed by fire, injustice, judges, jail cells, buried by dirt or killed by a bullet. “Such a faith gives people the power to transform a nation,” said Jackson. He referred to the assassination of Martin Luther King.

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Jesse Speaks continued from Page 2

of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis twenty years ago and said "They killed the dreamer but the dream still lives on." Blacks and the poor people of the land have been able to weather the storms of adversity because they have been conditioned against the odds and have not had the easy access of the rich, he alluded. "The reason why the suicide rate among Blacks is so low is because of condition and not attitude. When you jump out of a penthouse, you break your neck. When you jump from the basement, you skin your knees," he said.

Liberation Award Recipients

Four Black leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were honored during the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation. Receiving the Liberation Award were the Revs. Dr. John R. Compton, Indianapolis, Ind.; Dr. Raymond E. Brown, Indianapolis, Ind.; Sere S. (S.S.) Myers, Kansas City, Mo.; and the late Dr. Paul A. Sims, Fort Worth, Texas.

In presenting the awards during the Thursday night banquet, the Rev. Dr. John R. Foulkes said these four were chosen because they had been active in keeping the "vision alive of what you can do to stand in solidarity with those in poverty." Compton, 62, President of the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries accomplished many "firsts" according to Foulkes. He was the first Black assistant to the General Minister and President; the first Black president of the United Missionary Society; the first Black regional minister; and the first Black president of a general unit. A vice-president of the Disciples' Board of Church Extension, Brown, 63, was honored as an enabler of inclusiveness of Black Disciples in the life of the Christian Church. Myers, 90, was recognized as a "church strategist and architect of the Merger Document." The Merger Document is the agreement which brought the Black Churches into full fellowship with the Disciples of Christ.

Honored posthumously, Sims, 65, was a former Disciples' associate regional minister in the Southwest. A champion of civil rights and recognized elder in the Black church, Foulkes said Sims was instrumental in the merger process. Sims, who also was a noted civic leader in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, died two weeks before he was scheduled to speak at the Wednesday night session of the Convocation. His award was accepted by his daughter, Susan Sims Munson, Fort Worth, and his son, Paul Jr., Lewisville, Texas.

1988-90 Officers

The new officers of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were installed during the closing worship. Installed by Disciples' moderator Daniel L. Woods, Winter Haven, Fla., were Lenita Jacqueline Bunch, Columbus, Ohio, as president; the Rev. Robert L. Brown, Little Rock, Ark., vice-president; the Rev. Dr. Norman Reed, Nashville, Tenn., treasurer; and the Rev. Brenda M. Cardwell, Landover, Md., secretary.

Young Adults Organize

A new committee of young adults has been formed to help plan, implement and evaluate the activities for the young adults of the National Convocation. The new committee was elected by the young adults attending the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation. The committee grew out of the realization by...
Young Adults Organize
Continued from page 3

the young adults that there was a need for a more positive role of the young adults in the life of the National Convocation. The committee will serve as a resource for young adults in local congregations during the year as well as at the sessions of the National Convocation. It will identify and address issues involving young adults in the life of the church and aid in communication between young adults and the entire church.

Those elected to the committee are: Karen Hylton, St. Louis, Mo., co-chairperson; Denola M. Brown, Indianapolis, Ind., co-chairperson; Alfred Edwards, Jr., Des Moines, Iowa; Natalie S. Greene, Lexington, Ky.; and Sheila Johnson, St. Albany, N.Y. Staff support to the committee is being provided by the Young Adult Ministries Office of the Division of Homeland Ministries and the National Convocation office.

Meet Pat Clark
Patricia A. Clark became the Director of Social Services for the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on October 3rd. As director of Social Services she will be available to assist you and your congregation in the planning process for any social services projects that you want to begin. She can act as a resource person with planning or teaching a workshop on the "how to's" of developing projects. Please call or contact her at the offices of the National Benevolent Association for this valuable service.

Meet Felita
Felita Oatts will become secretary to the National Convocation office on November 14. We welcome this gifted young black woman who wants to be a professional writer and is presently pursuing a degree in computer technology at Indiana University/Purdue University, Indianapolis.

Leaders Needed
The National Convocation's Nominating Committee for 1988-90 was elected and charged with the responsibility of identifying leadership for the Convocation and other ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Committee is in need of your help in this awesome task. Please supply members with the names and description of gifts of persons committed to the empowerment of the Christian Church.

Members of the nominating committee are:
Eliza Cave
215 Bryan Dr.
Bath, SC 29816

Oscar Haynes
1201 44th Pl., SE
Washington, DC 20019

Thomas Murray
2201 Osage St.
Nashville, Tenn. 37208

Marjorie Parker
435 W. Hampton Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

L. Wayne Stewart
1536 Acapulco
Dallas, Texas 75232

Harvey Thomas
8241 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60619

Sheila Johnson
196-03 120th Ave.
St. Albany, NY 11412

Northeastern Region Calls Three New Staff Members
The Christian Church's Northeastern Region has called three new staff members to work with Regional Minister Charles Lamb. The three new Associate Regional Ministers are: the Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler, pastor of the United Community Christian Church of Boston Mass., who will retain that ministry while adding to it service as Associate Regional Minister for New England and the Capital (Albany) District of New York; the Rev. Rafael Alberto Marquez, Jr., a former U.S. Army chaplain, will serve as Associate Regional Minister for the Metropolitan Area of New York and New Jersey; Dr. Jose Luis Keyes will serve as the Director of Metropolitan Urban Ministries through a grant provided by the Division of Homeland Ministries.

Facen Picked For English Mission Tour
The Rev. W. Ann Facen who has served as pastor of Willow Street Christian Church for the past four years has just returned from a one-month mission trip to England. The assignment was made by the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). "We will be on a consultation team looking at the churches of England, both Anglican and Reformed. We will be doing evangelism," Facen said.

120th Anniversary
Second Christian Church in New London celebrated its 120th anniversary on April 16, 1988. The theme for the Anniversary was "Celebrating Our Heritage." The founder of the church and its first pastor was the Rev. William Wilbur. According to tradition, he...
had been a slave who belonged to the Hays family and attended the First Christian Church with the family before the Civil War. Shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation, Wilbur organized a Negro church, in about 1863. This church has remained at the same location throughout its 120 years.

Cozelle Wilson Elected Delegate

The Rev. Cozelle Wilson was elected on the first ballot by the 355 Democratic delegates attending the First Congressional District Convention. She attended the Democratic National Convention as a delegate for the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Stewardship At A Deeper Level

Paula K. Ritchie, Director of Stewardship of the Church Finance Council, admonishes us to look at the Basic Mission Finance figures in the Convocation Program Book. She suggests that we find what our congregation gives to the mission of the whole church through Basic Mission Finance and then determine individual giving. "If God really did send Jesus for the whole world, for every last one of us on this planet, then we surely must confuse God when we claim no mission beyond our congregation's front door. Church Finance Council exists as one of the general units to help the whole church claim its whole mission in Jesus' name," says Ritchie.

Something To Live By

Be affectioned to your brother, in honor preferring one another. Not slothful in your business here, fervent in spirit, without fear. Rejoicing in, what ever comes. Patient in tribulation as they come, instant in prayer always. Giving the necessities, to those in need. Do not hate those who persecute you. Do not curse, whatever you do, weep with them that love us, be the same to all men, regardless. Do not be deceitful or unwise, or label ourselves by telling lies, live honest in the sight of man. The Lord promised, He would pay.

10/15/88 By Ann H. Johnson

The Spiritual Voices

Park Manor Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Illinois celebrated its 100th Anniversary in the month of October. Components of that celebration were a congregational banquet with Attorney Thomas N. Todd as the guest speaker, a revival, and special weekly worship services. The closing service will be held on Nov. 20th with Rev. James P. Tillman as the guest speaker. Please hold Park Manor in your prayers as it begins its 101st year.

Robin Hedgeman Installed As Pastor Of Howett Street Christian Church, Peoria, Illinois

Please pray for Robin and the Howett Street Christian Church as they begin their ministry together.
for further information contact:
Assembly Information
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1986/Indianapolis, IN 46206
Phone: (317) 353-1491

CONVOCATION DINNER • SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1989 • 5:30 P.M.

Selah
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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.