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Oldtimers' Grapevine

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The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 6 (January - October 1996)

William K. Fox Sr

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Retirement of Church Unit Presidents Point to Progress & 21st Century Challenges *by William K. Fox, Sr, Editor*

First in a Series of Three Articles

Within the next twelve months presidents Richard R. Lance of the National Benevolent Association, Lester D. Palmer of the Pension Fund of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church, and James M. Seale of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, will retire.

Forty years ago the church felt an urgency to get its inner workings more in line with the Christ ideal in order to better meet critical human needs in the world. As these dedicated church leaders retire, the challenge continues.

During the onset of the civil rights movement (i. e. 1954 - 1960) the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC) and the International Convention of the Christian Church became increasingly sensitive to the fact that most of the Black Disciples of Christ constituency belonged to congregations who operated outside the framework of the predominantly



NBA President Richard Lance and wife, Janice, with NBA Board of Directors President Titus James on the right from Wichita, KS. Lance retires in 1996.

Caucasian church.

The National Convention was a African American led organization which existed for the purpose of meeting the educational, inspirational and empowerment needs of Black Disciples of Christ. Its existence mirrored the inconsistent and frustrating status of race relations of that day. An annual Convention session and intervening gatherings were held in a central city church facility usually located in a highly concentrated

Black community. Its president presided over a Board of Trustees which included whites who were staff representative of their respective denominational program service agencies. These agencies gave symbolic support to the NCMC. During the annual session these representatives associated with their Black constituents as brothers and sisters in Christ.

However, when the International

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Challenged to widen the circle of sharing- *from Page 1*

Convention of the Christian (ICCC) Churches was in session Blacks were usually on the periphery of the International Convention's operation. There was free association across racial lines, but Blacks were given racially segregated housing and eating accommodations. Many chose the option of staying in private homes which were mostly Black.

This was the nature of the times which motivated the National Christian Missionary Convention to devise the MERGER DOCUMENT which set forth the joint intention of both Black and White Disciples of Christ leaders to guide the church toward functioning as one body in the service of the one Lord and Savior. The United Christian Missionary Soci-

ety, the principal program service agency of NCMC-related congregations, was the first to pledge implementation of Merger Document principles. Soon after the Office of the International Convention affirmed those principles and adopted measures to illustrate its commitment.

THE MERGER DOCUMENT urged all NCMC congregations as well as church program units like NBA, the Pension Fund and the Historical Society to

"1. Share in the administration of Brotherhood agencies by being on policy making boards and committees.

"2. Share in the work and employment at all levels...

"3. Share in the drama and exhibition of the work of the Church as performed by the organized life of the Brotherhood...

"4. Share in the financial support of the causes and concerns of the Church...

"5. Share faithfully and loyally in the activities, fellowship, and aspiration of the Brotherhood, as we move toward complete integration." (From the MERGER DOCUMENT, pp. 6-7, NCMC meeting in Dallas, TX, August 1959)

These three articles will trace the progress made on the Merger principles by the three units the retiring presidents have led..

NBA'S LANCE: Led Growth in Services; Widened Circle of Sharing

Richard R. Lance is president of the National Benevolent Association which is known as the social services arm of the church. This graduate from the University of Kansas with a major in finance and from George Washington University, with a master's in Business Administration, was a career officer with the Strategic Air Command for 20 years before his affiliation with NBA. He became Executive Director of the Child Saving Institute in Omaha, NE in 1973 and the Kansas Christian Home in Newtown, KS in 1977. In 1982 he was elected president of NBA, where he has served effectively for the past 13 years. In September of last year he received the 1995 Award of Honor from the Missouri Association of Homes for the Aging for his "history of commitment, leadership and involvement, which has had broad-reaching effect on the advancement of services to the elderly." He lives out his commitment to Christian family through his marriage to wife, Janice, and being father to three grown children, Susan, Melissa and Jana. This life long member of the Disciples of Christ retires in June 1996.

Last year NBA reported to the Pittsburgh, PA General Assembly of the Church that it was providing "programs and services for more than 30,000 children, youth and families; older adults; and persons; and persons with physical and mental disabilities...in 27 states. Community-based programs have almost doubled from 44 in 1982 to 79 in 1995. Residential services are provided for more than 10,500 persons."

Continue on Next Page

From caring for some to caring for all- *from Page 2*

During Dr. Lance's administration NBA has achieved national program accreditation in all aspects of its program services. Leading business magazines (i. e. *Money*, *nonprofit Times*, and *Contemporary Long Term Care*) have ranked NBA as one of the most efficient not-for-profits in the country (ninth) and one of the largest (36th) based on revenues. NBA was given international recognition last summer when President Lance was a featured speaker at the conference of the International Association of Homes and Services for the Aging held in Amsterdam.

Two generations ago NBA and its associated services operated basically in a separatist mode regarding services to ethnic minorities, especially Negroes, the term used for Blacks in those days. At NBA's bidding the denomination's Crusade for a Christian World campaign (1946-1950), was directed to raise \$100,000 for a home for "Negro Children," and \$80,000 for a home for "Negro aged." The campaign managed to raise \$25,292.68 for the children's home and \$31,631.77 for the aged or a total of \$56,924.45. Subsequently, during the 1954 annual meeting of the NCMC in St. Louis, MO NBA placed an ad in the host congregation's opening night program booklet which suggested Blacks raise their own money to build facilities and employ staff for providing social services to "their own people."



Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., is senior pastor of Centennial C.C. in St. Louis, MO for the past 35 years, and a high quality NBA advocate. Has led in sponsorship of two senior citizen housing projects.

However, in the late 1950's some of the earnings from these funds was used to experiment with an "In Home Care" services program to Black children and aged. The service was enabled by selected pastors of predominantly Black Disciples of Christ congregations. In the early 1970's pilot programs with at-risk African American children were attempted.

Eventually, under the forthright leadership of presidents William Gible (1971-1982) and Richard Lance (1983-96) the central NBA office and its associated units were launched toward a more Christian and enlightened vision. The slogan: "What we do best is care." evolved. It captured the spirit and general commitment of NBA's movement toward this higher purpose. Mechanisms and personnel were put in place to assure that the "caring" would really mean caring for all persons in need.

The NBA Board of Directors joined hands with the National Convocation Board of Trustees to form a joint NBA/Convocation Task Force. This group guided a process of cooperative interaction between the two Boards which resulted in affirmative action in racial minority employment. The principal of funds raised in the 1950's during the Crusade for a Christian World to build racially segregated facilities, were eventually used to leverage funds in basic mission finance to support racial diversity in Central Office staff employment. The late Araminta Smith, an African American formerly on the faculty of the School of Social Work at St. Louis University, was employed by the Central Office as Director of Social Services. She trail-blazed the venture.

President Lance has nurtured a healthy relationship between NBA and the African American-led National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. Central Office staff members Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, Vice-President for Program Planning and Evaluation, and Patricia Clark, Director of Social Services, have been a vital part of the Convocation's planning for recent biennial Convocation sessions. Further, NBA, has developed special audio visuals and exhibits which lift up mutual concerns.

NBA in quest of "Diversity by Design" - from Page 3

NBA's report to the 1995 General Assembly of the Church in Pittsburgh, PA pointed to an Affirmative Action Program which has been in place nine years. Unit "board membership has increased from 5.7% to 16.1%... the percentage of minority residents has increased from 14.9% to 15.2%, and minority employees from 29.2% to 33.9%."

In recent years. Dr. Lance has taken an interest in lifting the concern of predominantly African American congregations in development. Dr. Duane Moon, a former NBA Vice-President for Development, has been designated to function as an "Ambassador for NBA" and asked to promote this concern through field visitations to these congregations.

In 1994 a *Diversity by Design Committee*, a consultative group of staff volunteers, which includes the president and executive secretary of the National Convocation, was organized and charged to make recommendations for further Affirmative Action throughout the NBA system. Last year \$90,259 in "Basic Mission Finance Affirmative Action Grant funds" were allocated to 13 NBA units for pilot programs. "Two of these grants were used to produce the video 'Si Nosotros Cuidamos de Cada Uno' for Spanish speaking audiences, two brochures in Spanish, as well as in Korean and Mandarin Chinese."

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL COVER LESTER PALMER AND THE PENSION FUND OF THE CHURCH.

Pastor M. K. Sheldon and "Miracle Ministry in Bedford-Stuyvesant" Recognized by \$800,000 BCE Building Loan, by WKF, Editor

Madalene Shelton of Laurelton, N.Y, is a wife, mother of three, home builder and senior pastor at St. Philips Christian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. She has walked in the sainted path of her father, the late Pastor David L. Kinard. Her story is one of unprecedented dedication for the last 30 years to a "Miracle Ministry" congregation deep in "the heart of Brooklyn's challenging Bedford-Stuyvesant community.

Her father founded and nurtured the faithful St. Philip's membership which began worshipng in a converted funeral parlor in March 1963. The building served as both church and home for his family until his retirement in 1980. Before his

death September 16, 1981, he was recognized as the principal pastor and catalyst for most cooperative efforts engaged in by the ten to fifteen Disciples of Christ ministers in metropolitan Brooklyn, N.Y.

Enriched with this spiritual heritage, Magdalene completed public schools in Brooklyn and became a receipt of the denomination's Star Supporter Fund. This enabled her to get a liberal arts degree from Jarvis College in 1964, a master of divinity from Interdenominational Theological Seminary in 1984 and a doctorate from New York Theological in 1994.

Throughout these years she has been involved in providing volunteer and professional leadership for the

Christian education, youth and community ministry of St. Philip's. In July of 1981 the congregation elected her as its senior minister.

One of the crowning events in the life of the congregation came recently when the Board of Church Extension granted it a \$800,000 building expansion loan. This will help develop functional church facilities including a day care center service. A major general church unit authenticated the dedication of a worthy urban ministry.

Dr. Shelton has been a General Board member and President of the Ministers and Spouses' Fellowship affiliated with the National Convocation. She addressed the 1990 Tulsa, OK General Assembly.

“Witnessing for Christ in Difficult Places” by Retired Military Chaplain Keller

Excerpts from A Veteran’s Day Key Note Address on “The Role of Chaplains”

There are several reasons why there are Chaplains. One is because every individual has the right to worship guaranteed by the Constitution... Another reason is because your church and mine is willing to provide ministers who are willing to go in this capacity. The main reason why we have Chaplains, and perhaps the most important one is that there are those of us who chose the opportunity... to share, and to counsel, and to minister...and relate to those wherever they are and in whatever circumstances they find themselves...

“Some have raised the question as to whether you could adequately serve enlisted people if you held the rank of an officer. I found it quite advantageous to be an officer. There were many times I could accomplish things as an officer that I could never have done to meet the needs of people if I had not held the rank. It is my belief that if you related in the right way, if you share with the right attitude, if you deal with the problems and issues at hand, it has little to do with your rank, if you share in a Christian fashion...The Air Force can make me an officer but I had to earn the right to be their Chaplain and pastor. That’s why we were always addressed as Chaplain, rather than by our rank...

“I find that you will be pretty much the same kind of chaplain in

military that you would be pastor in a given church. If you were good in serving the Lord in that capacity, you would find many

Ralph Keller is chaplain at Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO where the Education Committee sponsored a special 1995 Veteran’s Day Program.. Seventy-five residents registered as veterans in various aspects of military service. Keller served in the Navy in World War II . Following 20 years in the pastorate, he returned to Air Force Chaplaincy and retired in 1984.

avenues for serving the Lord with people wherever they are. On the other hand, if you slight your

duty, or if you think you just want to be ‘one of the boys,’ or if you try to be all things to all people it will not be long before you have lost your influence and will have lost your voice as a Chaplain. You become a buddy, rather than one they call upon for spiritual advice...

“There is one role that the Chaplain never chooses, yet is called on to do: notification.’ It is never an easy task. Chaplains used to make notification alone, but when so many became involved and so many were lost in the service they began ‘team notification.’...When you saw three people coming to your door in uniform you knew it was bad

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Status of the National Convocation Focus on "This Ministry"

Readers of Oldtimers' Grapevine should know that in response to the "Resolution concerning ministerial recruitment and nurture made by the Minister's Fellowship August 8, 1994" in Kansas City, MO, the Convocation Board of Trustees has taken action. February 1995 the National Convocation Executive Committee met in Indianapolis, set in motion a process whereby a selected "Committee on Recruitment and Nurture" was put in place and scope of work outlined.

Lawrence Burnley of Philadelphia, PA and Claude Walker of Big Sandy, TX were appointed Chair and Vice Chair. The membership was Raymond L. Brown, Lexington, KY; Darryl Trimiew, Fort Worth, TX; Jack Sullivan, Jr, Detroit, MI; Irvin Green, Maywood, IL; Cozell Wilson, N.C., Edgar Wallace, Jackquelyn Woods, Lexington, KY; Norman Reed, Nashville, TN, Howard Kennon, Chicago, IL; Raymond E. Brown, Indianapolis, Robert

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Office of Chaplain Assures us of Christian Presence in Military, *from page 5*

news... It's not easy to watch a 'fly over,' and then see it return with one plane missing...

We know there are those who chose to be sincere conscientious objectors' and I respect their opinions, and we know that there are many who choose to be 'conscientious participators' when the need arises. Some people have the misconception that all Chaplains endorse all the military is doing. This certainly is not the case. I think... people are caught up in the midst of the hell of war and anyone that can plant a little bit of heaven into their lives might make a difference...

"... we know that many times our country involve it's men and women in situations where we wish there was an alternative. They do not have a choice between the right or wrong. They have to choose the lesser of two evils...

"Some think the Commanding Officer can tell the Chaplain what do do, what to think, and what to preach. This couldn't be farther from the truth. If you let that happen you are not really being a Chaplain. That doesn't mean you have to disobey rules and regulations.

It does mean that you are functioning in relation to your church. You are never called upon to perform any function that is contrary to the beliefs and con-

victions of the church you represent...

"I was assigned to one base when a new commander came aboard. I had been in the Navy for some time and in the service a lot of years and I had never heard anyone who had such a filthy mouth. You were embarrassed when he talked in mixed groups... In my first visit with him he didn't clean up his act at all...I talked of my willingness to meet the needs of all...Then as I left, I turned back to him and with a big smile on my face I said, 'I'm going to ask the Lord to do something about your language.'

Each time I saw him I would grin and say, 'The Lord is going to do something special about your language.' A few weeks later as he was addressing a mixed group he said he looked down at me and

said: That blanket-blank chaplain has got me so I can't hardly talk.' A few months later I heard him give hour lectures without one inappropriate word...

"There are many moments and side issues that thrill a Chaplains life. I worked with a number of service men in Germany to help erect a new orphanage. It was a special day for me when they painted a sign on the end of the house with a mother and child and a caption over the top reading, "The Ralph Keller House."...

All heroes were not on the front. Those of you who were mothers, fathers,...made supreme sacrifices. May we all see the day when swords are beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks and may we turn to the One who has come, that we might have peace."

On the Status of "This Ministry" - *from Page 5*

Dickerson, Cleveland, OH; with John Foulkes, Sr. Indianapolis, IN, and Magdalene Sheldon, Brooklyn, NY as ex-officio.

The first report is to come before the 14th. Session of the Convocation Assembly in August 1996. "Focus topics" initially listed for the Committee to consider for study included: "... evaluate the current efforts that are used to recruit and nurture persons into professional/or-

dated ministry; ...the church's understanding of ordained ministry; ...a quantitative study of current employment trends...as it relates to Disciple clergy who are of African descent; ...describe and evaluate present internal... and external factors that affect, either positively or negatively, the number of persons entering professional/ordained ministry within the Disciples of Christ;

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Northeast Texas Church Activities Feature the Henry Family -by Carol Boyd

Kenneth Henry, associate professor of church history at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA recently gave an address of challenge during the celebration of New Fellowship Christian Church of Palestine, TX 89th. church anniversary. Vernon C. Jackson of Fort Worth, TX is the senior pastor.

The event was held in collaboration with the Little Flock and Fulton Street congregations who provided some of the core members of the New Fellowship congregation. New Fellowship includes the pioneering work of the Little Flock Christian Church under the leadership of the late Enoch W. Henry, Sr. who was its pastor for

9 years. The keynoter is a "Timothy" of the congregation.

In 1960 the National Christian Missionary Convention meeting in Columbus, OH, recognized the Henry family's 250 years of ministry. A plaque was given to the following Henrys: R.H., A.A., W.M., H.H., E.W. Sr., E.W., Jr. and K. E. W. Jr. and Kenneth are living. E. W., Jr. received his 50 years in ministry Honored Minister's pin from the Hollywood Beverly Hills C.C. in October 1994.

The Fulton Street congregation was once led by ministers like G. W. Taylor, A. D. Littles, J. E. Quarles, Charles Faulkner, John Compton, E. W. Henry, Sr. and

Obie Bowser. The anniversary celebration featured music led by Mattie H. Ester. She dedicated numbers to her mother, Mrs. E. W. Henry, Sr., who reached her 98th. birthday October 10, 1995.

OTHER EVENTS

Palestine, TX- Enoch W. Henry, Jr of Los Angeles, CA visited his homeplace in Palestine in June and July. Time was spent time with his ninety-eight year old mother. His sisters, Carol Boyd of Jacksonville and Betty H. Cannon of Atlanta, Georgia joined him in visiting the New Fellowship and North Bolton Street Christian congregations. Henry, now retired, addressed both church bodies, reminding them of "many fires that need to be rekindled." He urged them to remember how "God brought us to where we are when His Word was preached and taught."

Jacksonville- The Fall Revival at North Bolton Street Christian Church was held October 18-20 and was climaxed by Kenneth W. Bree of Bay City. Vernon Peoples, a minister from Tyler, was the "Homecoming" speaker. Among out-of-town visitors were Ann Blanton, Maybelle Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Romeo Bagley, R. Webster, from Dallas, TX; Cora L. Jackson, Indianapolis, IN; and Annie L. Fain, Palestine, TX (*Cora Jackson died in Palestine before returning to Indianapolis.)

"This Ministry" Task Group Plan to Report- from page 6

provide a historical perspective of how Disciples have recruited ministers in the last 40 years; evaluate present seminary education as to its ability to educate pastors who are of African descent to serve Black congregations and other positions requiring ordination.

Concerned church groups and individuals should pray for the success of this important Committee and look forward to receiving a copy of its first report. Provide in-put if requested.

New Forms of Ministry

Indianapolis, IN- Retired Disciples of Christ church administrator Ernest Newborn, Sr. recently wrote the following letter to the Immanuel Presbyterian Church U.S.A. of this city:

"I have been privileged to serve as Immanuel's Interim Pastor. It has been among the most fulfilling experiences of my forty years in ministry...I am now prepared for

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Retired Clergy's Article in "Arizona Highways"

The November, 1995 issue of **Arizona Highways**, one of the highly regarded and beautiful slick paper magazines, contains an article by Dan B. Genung, Jr. of Claremont dealing with the death of the Apache Kid. Dan is the retired and founding pastor of the All Peoples Community Church and Center in Los Angeles, CA.

In a letter to Oldtimers', Pastor Genung writes: "Actually it is a chapter from *Death in His Saddlebags*, my history of sixty years among the Yavapai Indians of Arizona. I tell of the Kid's visit to my family when he was near death. Seven army posts and several sheriffs were hunting him down. I try to make clear that the Kid was not guilty of any crime, just as I try to tell the truth of massacres blamed on the Yavapai.

Actually he was Yavapai, not Apache. "Pai" means "People," and Yavapai were "People of the Truth." Literally "People of the Sun Mouth Rule," a poetic expression indeed. In my book I ran a picture of Viola Jimula, chieftess of the Yavapai, simply to show a beautiful example of this tribe. Her life had no connection to my historical period, but she was a good family friend. Sen Barry Goldwater, who photographed hundreds of native Americans, said "She is endowed with the calm of the morning sunrise."

You will want to read that article in **Arizona Highways** by Dan Genung. Dan is known to us for his pioneering work as the

"I tell of the Kid's visit to my family when he was near death. Seven army posts and several sheriffs were hunting him down." I try to make it clear that the Kid was not guilty of any crime."

leader of the All People's Church ministry to Japanese Americans and others following World War II. The Community Center which was eventually established has served to meet many crisis situations in L. A. He is currently writing the early history of the All People's outreach ministry.

New Forms of Ministry Page 7

closure to my role and responsibility as interim pastor. I am grateful for the call last Sunday to serve as Parish Pastor... While this change is challenging, I am comfortable with and inspired by my new role. I am excited about the opportunity to work in partnership with... the Reverend Phil Tom in the ... outreach ministry through Immanuel... Janice joins me in thanking you..." *Dr. Newborn is dually aligned with the United Church of Christ, and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.*

For Whom the Bells Toll

Donald Austin Gibbs, Sr. of St. Louis, MO, born in Festus, MO July 22, 1935, died November 29, 1995 in Greensboro, N.C. The alumnus of Jarvis Christian College and student at Butler University's School of Religion in Indianapolis, IN was married to the former Claudine Stennis in 1959. They were blessed with two children, Donald Gibbs, Jr. and Sandra Jean.

Gibbs, whose father and grandfather were Disciples of Christ ministers, served congregations in Missouri, Ohio, Maryland, and North Carolina. A memorial service was held in Centennial C.C. his home church. Pastor S. W. Hylton, Jr. officiated. Two sisters, Naomi Smith and Billie Gibbs, join wife, children and friends to mourn his loss.

Loisanne Buchanan, resident in NBA's Robin Run Retirement Center of Indianapolis, IN and native of Franklin, IN, died December 7, 1995. The retired director of social welfare concerns in the former department of church in society of the Christian Church in the 1960's - 1970's, joined the late social activist Barton Hunter and others in life-long dedication to serving those "lowest on the totem pole." There was a service at Robin Run, with cremation & scattering of ashes in Franklin.

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PRAY FOR: Vernon Blankenship, retired B. C. E. staff, moved to Lexington, KY to be nearer family. Vernon is combating M.S.

Carnella J. Barnes, of L. A., CA, retired U.C.M.S. staff

home recovering after prolonged hospitalization.

Robert Hall, retired regional church executive, Raymore, MO, whose wife, Kathryn is home under hospice care.

Enoch W. Henry and family of Los Angeles, CA for recent loss of a sister, Cora Henry.

Frances Chambers of Raymore, MO, veteran D.R.E., hospitalized with failing heart valve.

Earl W. Rand, Sr. of Marshall, TX, for the sudden death of a 28 year old grandson, Randye Steven Rand. Service at Jarvis College.

Russell Lane, Kansas City, MO, veteran church leader at Central C. C. had three heart attacks while hospitalized.

Thelma Hastings of Raymore, Mo, retired U.C.M.S. staff, seriously ill with pneumonia & hip.



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A New Year's Challenge: Dealing with "Choice"



As the New Year dawns we may have had experiences in church, at home or on a job which caused us to rethink who and whose we are. Whatever my condition or location what things in life should I give highest priority?

Like Adam and Eve, God has placed us in an exciting world with many blessings, difficulties and rewarding challenges. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God has given us the power of choice. It is our path to freedom. As the New Year is getting older, how are you dealing with God's gift of choice?

Flo Kallenbach, a dedicated

Christian and prolific writer, is a former teacher of English and director of Teacher Training at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO. She lives in the Foxwood Springs Retirement Community and is the vice-president of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Board of Directors. Flo shares the following verse on

CHOICES

"We are free to wear blinders
And miss wondrous beauty;
We are free to live for self
And find futility;
We are free to be petty
And reap a stiff toll;
We are free to foster hate And
warp our own soul.



Or we're free to shed blinders
And see awesome beauty;
We are free to deny self
And find victory;
We are free to be humble
And see God's good will;
We are free to foster faith
And Love needs fulfill.

We are free to choose Death's
Dark, fearful domain,
Or we're free to choose God's
Everlasting Reign." 1/1996



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❖ The Oldtimers' Grapevine ❖

Volume VI -No. 2

March - April 1996

Raymore, Missouri

Historical Society President James M. Seale Retires *by William K. Fox, Sr - Editor*

Second in a Series of Three Articles

James M. Seale, President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, will be retiring from a general church unit which may not be as visible to the individual church member as others. Peter M. Morgan, formerly Associate for Worship and Renewal in the Division of Homeland Ministries' Center for Leadership and Ministry, was elected to succeed Seale.

The Historical Society enables individual church members and congregations to conserve all aspects of their church life and work. At the same time it provides them with a resource for getting a picture of what individual Disciples of Christ and congregations have done within church and society. Short term training experiences are sometimes offered to congregational historians.

Dr. Seale says that "As I look back across the years I am

(Continued on Page 2)



Librarian May Reed, (seated) Assistant to the Director of Library and Archives David I. McWhirter (standing right) at the Disciples Historical Society in Nashville, TN, and Librarian Charlotte Rose, also an Assistant to the Director, review documents from congregations to be placed in the archives of the denomination's Historical Society. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to deposit historical materials with the Society.

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Merger Document Formed Framework for Policies Adopted

THE MERGER DOCUMENT of 1959 urged all congregations, regions, institutions and general program units like NBA, the Pension Fund and the Historical Society to

"1. Share in the administration of Brotherhood agencies by being on policy making boards and committees.

"2. Share in the work and employment at all levels...

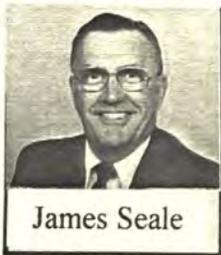
"3. Share in the drama and exhibition of the work of the Church as performed by the organized life of the Brotherhood...

"4. Share in the financial support of the causes and concerns of the Church...

"5. Share faithfully and loyally in the activities, fellowship, and aspiration of the Brotherhood, as we move toward complete integration." (From the MERGER DOCUMENT, pp. 6-7, NCMC meeting in Dallas, TX, August 1959)

NOTE: The term "Brotherhood" was accepted use when this document was developed. It should be understood today (1996) as meaning the General Church.

Society Has 33,000 Plus Books; Belongs to Computer Library Center Network Which has 33.5 Million More Entries -Continued from Page 1



James Seale

pleased... During the past thirteen years the size of the library has grown by one third. Endowment funds have grown from \$501,362 in 1982 to over \$1,600,000 as of September 30, 1995. Eleven new designated endowment funds have been established with a value of \$358,285. The number of Named Funds has risen from 72 to 214 for an increase of 142 Named Funds during these thirteen years. The number of Life Memberships has grown by 33%... many more people are getting involved in the ministry of the Historical Society and using its vast resources."

The late Dr. Merle R. Eppse, widely known African American historian from Nashville, Tennessee, often said, "Negro Disciples of Christ history was seldom found in writing. Like African stories, it usually existed in their heads and/or experience." For a long time it was believed that few resources about Negro Disciples of Christ could be found in the Disciples of Christ Historical Society.

Retiring President Seale reminds us "that in 1971 the Society did a survey of Black church material and published a Preliminary Guide to Black Materials in the Disciples of Christ Historical Society." Most of these resources are in the archives of the Society. In 1976 the Society staff worked with a Task Group on Publications from the National Convocation which used this Guide as one of its resources to assist Bethany Press in the publication of a special CWF/CMF study document called THE UNTOLD STORY, A Short History of Black Disciples. Some predominantly African American Disciples of Christ congregations have sent a variety of materials to the Society for historical purposes. Today May Reed, one of the Society's assistant librarians, May Reed monitors the intake of such resources as one of her several responsibilities.

Independent African American Initiatives

Experience has underscored the fact that in most cases, the writing and collection of historical materials about ethnic racial minorities within the Church is best done by concerned ethnic members of those groups. This contention has been proven through several successful efforts in recent years. For example, the series of two lectures delivered at Barton College in 1993 by Kenneth E. Henry of Decatur, GA on "Faith and Learning among African American Disciples of Christ;" the photographic exhibit developed by the National Benevolent Association and its Central Office Staff person Patricia Clark; the comprehensive Black Disciples of Christ Photographic Book Project created by former National Convocation of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) officer, Ruth Jackson of Jackson, MS; and the Blair T. Hunt and J. E. Walker Historical Project recently put in place in Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church of Memphis, TN under the leadership of Senior Pastor Alvin O. Jackson.

Finally an extensive Black Disciples Heritage Archive Project is lodged in the library on the campus of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. It came into being through the initiation and direction of Librarian and Archivist Sarah G. Berry of Grambling, LA. This project is an integral part of Freshmen student orientation. Acquisitions for the Jarvis project are still being accepted. The Historical Society should be encouraged by such interest in Disciples of Christ history..

Pension Fund President Lester Palmer Retires *by W. K. Fox, Editor* *-Since 1973 Special Apportionment's Pensions and Credits Increased 248.24%-*

Lester D. Palmer, President of the Pension Fund, the former public school teacher, athletic coach, and pastor who joined the Pension Fund staff as a General Representative in 1966, will retire July 31, 1996. He administers the organization which enables church employees to establish pension, health, and savings plans which could assure secure retirement living. While engaged in this service he enhanced his seminary degree preparation by securing Chartered Life designations as an "Underwriter" and a "Financial Consultant."



In a recent letter to "The Oldtimers' Grapevine" Dr. Palmer says "These have been thirty 'great' years. I was influenced early on by F. E. Davison's book, 'I would do it Again.' I can truthfully say, 'I, too, would do it again.'... And it was fun."

Following retirement July 31 he will continue until the end of 1996 as Consultant to the President and Historian. Palmer will be completing the Pension Fund's Centennial history. Arthur A. Hanna, current Executive Vice President-Secretary, has been elected to succeed Dr. Palmer August 1, 1996.

Lester writes, "I have fully appreciated the contributions of those faithful leaders of the Pension Fund ... They labored under more difficult circumstances and were able to convince this church that full-funded, actuarially a sound pension system was needed..."

In my tenure as President (1984-1986),... This pension Plan has been made available to all, and we have made a special effort to present the Plan to the African American constituency..."

The most appreciated accomplishment over the past twenty years has been the unusual growth in the invested funds of the Pension Fund and the Board's commitment to increase the benefits of the Pension Plan members and beneficiaries through Special Apportionments. Pensions and pension credits have been increased by 248.24% since 1973..."

Palmer feels that all of us "can celebrate" the accomplishments of the Pension Fund because it has been the result of "dedicated staff and board, and a very gracious group of members and beneficiaries and the encouragement and support of this church..."

Services to and with racial ethnic Disciples of Christ Church members has been on an equal, high quality and dedicated basis. Unfortunately, many non-Pension Fund member African American Disciples of Christ, along with some senior retired foreign missionary workers, make up a large share of those receiving grants from the important Ministerial Relief and Assistance Fund solicited from all Disciples of Christ by the Pension Office.

There is limited knowledge about the Pension Fund ever making a primary focus on the intentional involvement of racial ethnic persons in Pension Fund administration and policy. Within the past 40 years the Fund's

(See PENSION BOARD on Page 4)

New Socio-Economic Developments Suggest "Merger Vision Review"

The United Christian Missionary Society, the principal national program service agency resourcing the congregations, especially NCMC related congregations, was the first to pledge support to the Merger Document commitment in 1960.

Ten years later as racial unrest was boiling over into violence in the streets of the cities, our denomination was in the midst of general restructure. A most significant action was taken by the church-at-large. During the Biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Seattle, Washington August 15-20, 1969 the General Board developed an epic making response to the widely circulated "Black Manifesto," a radically expressed claim for redress by angry young Black Americans.

The response of our General Board was Business Item 19 called "A Message from the General Board to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)." It was distributed to all of the congregations, church units, and institutions. It formed the backdrop for the denomination's witness in the U.S.A for the next generation.

The church compiled a body of experience from pilot programs and interaction with other denominational groups with a similar concern. Learnings from this ex-

perience were shaped into action models. The 1971 Louisville General Assembly resolutions 46, 47, and 48 formalized outlines of program which gave guidance to church program units, organizations and congregations seriously wrestling with the current justice, reconciliation, and ministry concerns.

Some Challenges Ahead for Church Unit Presidents and Congregations

The social and economic systems today are markedly changed from those in operation during the formation of the Merger Document and passage of subsequent General Assembly resolutions and formation of program policies.

Some of the general church units, notably the National Benevolent

Association and to a degree, both the Divisions of Homeland and Overseas Ministries, have demonstrated the wisdom of seeking formally prepared, experienced and dedicated church lay persons for professional and administrative positions. They have shown that lay persons can be found for church employment who are willing to forego the lure of higher salaries and fringe benefits which have been more prevalent in the world of corporations and high technology.

Often the personal faith journey experiences of such lay persons has led them to understanding and appreciation of the rewarding opportunities which could be theirs in church employment.

(See PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS, Page 5)

Pension Board and Executive Staff Exhibit Positive Attitudes Toward Merger Document, from Page 4

board of directors membership has become racially and culturally diversified. The research Dr. Palmer is doing in connection with the writing of the Centennial history may enlighten us on such matters. There is potential for future progress.

Historically, a direct line of communication, however, has usually been maintained with the administrative staff person for the National Christian Missionary Convention, now National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. The writer once occupied that position and worked with Dr. Palmer as the Pension Fund Executive chaired the General Assembly Board's Task Force on Ministry. He remembers the even-handed performance of Dr. Palmer.

Priority Considerations: Retention of Most Clergy in Congregations; Preference for Qualified Laity in Administration- *from page 4*

today there are many more of such lay persons in the church than seminary prepared and committed ministers. This is characteristic of many viable congregations regardless of racial and ethnic composition. Many such laity already possess the administrative, technical skills and experience needed for the efficient operation of the general and institutional units of the church. What many of them need is the awareness of the opportunities for professional and technical service in the life and work of the church.

The April 1995 issue of THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY lifted up some demographic data which highlighted the fact that the number of African Americans that had attended college had grown from 214,049 in 1940 to 5.89 million by 1990. Many of these persons are in our congregations.

As the dawn of the twenty-first century looms just ahead, let us pray that church units like the Pension Fund, Historical Society and others who seek the employment of administrative and technical personnel, will be enabled to tap into this enriching and expanding human resource. May this especially be true when in their searches they include persons from racial and ethnic minorities.

If the general and regional manifestations of the church could

have greater success in such leadership recruitment, a larger number of seminary prepared minis-

An analysis of contemporary...American society seems to suggest that there may be more... lay persons available for... leadership in the church than in times past.

ters might be available for leadership in the congregations of whatever predominant racial or cultural group.

The retention and support of seminary/ordained ministers for leadership in the establishment of new congregations and the nurture and expansion of existing congregations is vital to the integrity of our loyalty as Disciples of Christ and the Great Commission.

The expansion of a "call" to include committed and professionally qualified lay church persons, especially when considering non-congregational full-time leadership, should be considered part of the Great Commission. An analysis of the contemporary socioeconomic picture of American society seems to suggest that there may be more of such lay persons available for full time leadership in the church than in times past.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH PURPOSE: Carnella Jamison Barnes of Los Angeles, CA, retired national church field worker and church leader, was 85 years old January 16, 1996. She coordinated a Birthday Party Event for February 18, 1996 when invitees were asked to bring a story, joke, and a donation for Jarvis Christian College!

State Tax Credit Action Boosts Effort to Transform Former Denominational Center into New Senior Housing

Indianapolis, IN- A report in the January 26, 1996 **Indianapolis Star** highlighted an Indiana Housing Finance Authority state tax credits grant worth \$2.67 million dollar over a period of ten years to the sponsors of the senior housing project planned to use the former International Church Office Center in the eastside Irvington community. There will be 80 one and two bedroom apartments, a chapel and a large multipurpose room..

The Star's staff writer, Sally Falk Nancrede, reminded readers that "Low-income tax credits are a tool to raise equity capital for affordable housing, thus lowering the rents." The grant was one of eleven finally selected statewide from 59 applicants. The senior housing projects will

(See CITIZEN BOARD, Page 6)

For Whom the Bells Toll:



Lay Leader Rich in Disciple Heritage Departs

Russell F. Lane, Sr. of Kansas City, MO, faithful churchman and lay leader in the Central Christian Church passed to his just reward December 22, 1995



following a prolonged bout with heart trouble.

A memorial service was

held December 27 in the Mt. Moriah and Freeman Chapel under the direction of his pastor, the Rev. Deloris Turner of Central Christian Church.

The service lifted up the witness of Brother Lane as having Jesus at the "center" of his "joy," and his "...Soul... Anchored in the Lord." All contributors to the service celebration, including a stirring eulogy by Pastor Turner, pointed to the unshakeable testimony to Christian faith of Russell F. Lane.

His grandmother was one of the founding members of the first predominantly African American Christian (Disciples of Christ) congregation in Kansas City. Eventually it contributed members for establishing Woodlawn Ave, West Paseo and Central Christian

congregations.

Mr. Lane was an Army Air Force veteran in World War II and was "a career employee of the U. S. Postal Service for 35 years," retiring as a supervisor. His sixty-five years of membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was marked with unwavering and loyal service as a treasurer, elder, board moderator, choir member, and Bible study advocate.

Pastor T. J. Bottoms of Los Angeles, CA, senior minister at the All Peoples Christian Church where Russell and Rosemary Lane were married in 1993, participated. Two guest soloists plus the Male Chorus of Central Christian, a favorite singing group which claimed Mr. Lane's membership, provided music. Former Central Church staff member, Laurice A. Valentine of Kansas

City, and a former Interim Pastor, William K. Fox, Sr. of Raymore, MO, also shared.

He leaves to mourn his loss to family and community, a devoted wife, Rosemary Lane; a daughter, Deanette Jones; son, Russell F. Lane, Jr. all of Kansas City, MO; a brother, George Edward Lane, Los Angeles, CA; a stepson, Kenneth R. Garrett, Jr., Naperville, IL; eight grandchildren; two nieces; and other kin and friends.



Citizen Board to Begin Transformation of Former International Church Headquarters in Spring!

(Continued from Page 5)

"Low-income tax credits are a tool to raise equity capital for affordable housing, thus lowering the rents." The grant was one of eleven finally selected statewide from 59 applicants. The senior housing projects will be constructed on the former Missions Building property by the Retirement Housing Foundation of Long Beach, CA which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. The Foundation Chief Executive Laverene R. Joseph has made a firm commitment. Several former Missions Building employees and current Irvington residents like Robert and Julia Fangmeir, have worked with the Irving Community Council as catalysts.

Construction on the senior citizen project in Irvington is scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer and will involve the conversion of

For Whom the Bells Toll- *from Page 6*



Another Pioneer Church Leader Goes On

Thelma Hastings of Raymore, MO, retired staff member of congregations and a former stewardship and finance arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was memorialized in a service held in the Bromwell Lounge of the Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center January 5, 1996. She had succumbed December 19, 1995 following a siege of pneumonia while recovering from a broken hip.

Foxwood Springs Chaplain Ralph Keller led the service by reading favorite scriptures and a prepared statement of memorial from the family. She was referred to her as "woman of rare intelligence and varied talents. Her energy was boundless; her determination was fierce. She influenced persons for good around the world. Her children and grandchildren from toddler years to adulthood found her to be an inspirational and loving friend whose life illustrated warmth and spiritual commitment."

Thelma Watson Hastings was born in Johnson City, TN just as her parents were graduating from Milligan College. Her father, Joseph T. Watson, attended divinity school and became a minister in Virginia. He was pastor of the Euclid Avenue Christian

Church in Lynchburg, VA. for twenty-five years. Thelma became a musician, teacher of drama and dramatist, youth conference leader, and widow of the late J. Warren Hastings, who once served as the senior minister for the National City Christian Church of Washington, D.C.

Thelma's interest in music and drama began early. At sixteen she was teaching drama in the Lynchburg high school and also studying voice and piano. During her freshman year at Lynchburg College, she met J. Warren Hastings who had just returned from service in World War I. They were married in their sophomore year. Following graduation, Thelma accompanied Warren to New Haven, CONN to pursue a masters degree at Yale Divinity School at which time their first

daughter, Jacqueline was born. Soon after they went to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he secured his Ph. D and Thelma audited courses. They returned to the United States for the birth of their second daughter, Jo Anne.

While her husband served as senior pastor of congregations in Savannah, GA and later the University Christian Church in Seattle, WA, she worked in drama and music with university students and church youth. She became



Continued on Page 8)

Another Church-Related Neighborhood Organization Sponsoring Affordable Housing Gets Tax Credit Grant

Indianapolis. State Housing Authority Executive Director Peppercorn stated that the Mapeton-Fall Creed Neighborhood Association in northern Indianapolis was another church related sponsor of affordable housing among the eleven recipients. "In the case of Mapleton-Fall Creek," Peppercorn said, "where you're rehabilitating 28 homes scattered throughout the area, you're strengthening the character and economy of the neighborhood." They received a tax credit grant with a potential of \$2.57 million.

The executive director of this community based association is Mrs. Cunningham who belongs to the Light of the World Christian Church and is also a member of the National Benevolent Association Board of Directors. This is the second tax credit grant received during her tenure.

For Whom the Bells Toll- *from Page 7*



endeared to them and lovingly known by the nick name "Kippy."

When Dr. Hasting's was called to be the senior pastor for the National City Christian Church in Washington, D. C., she continued her work with university students and church youth. She also became a board member with both the National Council of Churches in American and the United Church Women, and a trustee for her alma mater, Lynchburg College.

She joined her husband in mounting effective national development campaigns for the National City Church Corporation which eventually eliminated the church indebtedness.

Following her husband's death in 1960, she was employed by the former Unified Promotion department of the international office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis, IN as director of interpretation. She was thus engaged in speaking assignments and stewardship seminars across the nation and the world.

This position was followed by service as the associate minister at First Christian Church in Decatur, IL and later First Christian Church, Lafayette, IN. Throughout these activities she managed to be present for the birth of eight grand children.

Following mandatory retirement at age 70 in 1972, she accepted an opportunity to go to Japan to teach English and conduct seminars in that language for business and professional persons. She took formal retirement in 1978 and returned to Lynchburg, VA

She joined her husband in mounting effective national development campaigns for the National City Church Corporation which eventually eliminated the church indebtedness.

before moving to Raymore, MO in 1988 and residency in the Retirement Center at Foxwood Springs. She was a faithful member of the Raymore Christian Church. Among those left to mourn her loss are two daughters,

Jacqueline Dudley of Alexandria, VA and Jo Anne Roberts and husband Bill, Annandale, VA; two brothers, Melvin Watson, Indianapolis, IN, and Richard Watson, New Castle, VA, and a sister, Winniefred Smith, also Indianapolis, IN; eight grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and many friends.

"...the stone was rolled away."



Prosperous - *by Norman Sims Ellington*

The gold that lines my purse
Is as a drop of water
In the ocean blue...
To find its fullest worth
I share my gold with you!

That love man holds for wealth
Must not the truer deeper things
That breathe deceive...
For men
Have found the truer joy
To give and not receive!

This poem is from **The Bible When You Want It**, a little book of poems by the late Norman Ellington written while he was a soldier in New Guinea in March-April, 1944. Ellington was a creative Christian saint from St. Louis, MO. He was a member of Centennial C. Church who initiated outreach projects like the Mother-to-Mother Program.

For Whom the Bells Toll- *from Page 8*



Kathryn Hall: A Faithful Minister's Help-mate

Raymore, MO- Kathryn Hall, joined for more than 62 years of faithful marriage to her husband, Robert, and some 60 years in congregational and regional Christian ministry, succumbed January 15, 1996.

She had experienced an extended period of illness. A memorial service was held January 18, 1996 in



Raymore Christian Church where she was a charter member. Senior Minister Richard A. Rintamaa officiated. His associate, Beth Pattillo, a mixed vocal quartet, and Foxwood Springs Living Center Chaplain Ralph Keller also participated.

Pastor Rintamaa comforted the family and friends with a brief homily of faith and hope drawn from John's vision of heaven in the Book of Revelation. The Halls became residents of the Foxwood Springs Living Center community in 1979.

The life of Kathryn was reverently summarized by her son, Loren Hall of Indianapolis, IN. He noted that

after a course from Chicago Extension University and enrollment in the Butler School of Religion at Butler University, Indianapolis, she participated in many aspects of the church's life. Among them was being President of the Illinois Council of Minister's Wives; attendance at the annual meeting of the former International Convention of the Christian Church as a member of its Recommendation Committee; membership on the general board and Administrative Committee of the General Assembly; and attendance at the first Quadrennial Assembly for Christian Women's Fellowship groups.

She attended the World Convention of the Churches of Christ in Australia and New Zealand, Scotland, Canada, and Jamaica. In 1967 she joined her husband on a trip around the world. She lived six weeks in Jerusalem in 1975 while her husband was on an archeological dig.

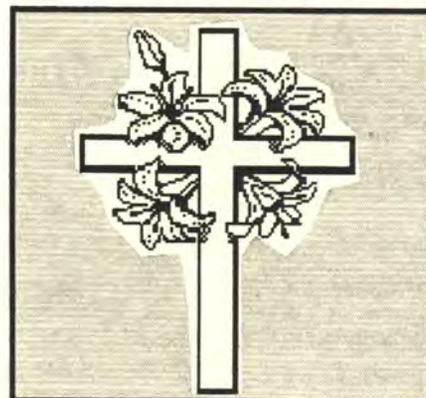
J. J. Stipanowich of Macomb, IL, a former congregational moderator and friend of the Halls while Robert Hall was the Senior Pastor at First Christian Church, gave a warm and informal account of her quiet but consistent witness in the congregation.

He referred to her interest in evangelism and Christian

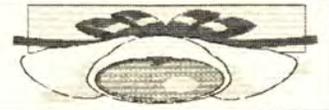
education. During the Hall's years of service in Macomb she volunteered to organize and teach a young couples class. Limited space in the church building forced them to use the parsonage as the class room. This highlighted the critical need for additional space. It motivated the congregation's leadership to propose the construction and erection of an educational building.

Kathryn Barkley Hall leaves to mourn her loss, a husband, Robert M. Hall of Raymore, MO, son, Loren Robert Hall and daughter-in-law Sharon, Indianapolis, IN, daughter, Ruth Ellen Oar and son-in-law Mike, Idaho Falls, Idaho, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

Following cremation, an urn with the ashes was placed in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Orilla, Iowa where the Halls headstone had been readied and her parents



For Whom the Bells Toll- *from Page 9*



Clarence M. Ross: Supplier of Lumber and Builder of Human Relations

Clarence M. Ross of Raymore, MO, a lumber dealer and churchman, was a unique example of "pulling ones self up by your own boot straps." He passed away quickly January 17, 1996 in a local infirmary following an extended period of physical impairment.



Memorial services were held Saturday, January 20 in Park Lawn Chapel with burial in Memorial Park. Mr. Ross was a member of the Raymore Presbyterian Church who, along with his wife, Vina, attended and gave annual financial support to the Raymore Christian Church.

His mother and father died prematurely during his early childhood. Parenthood on a modest basis was provided by a faithful grandmother. This circumstance necessitated his early employment at a lumber yard as an errand boy and maintenance employee. Loyal performance on the job encouraged the owner of the yard to grant him an educational loan. The loan enabled him to attend a private

school and eventually Park College in Parkville, MO where he majored in Bible studies. While there he met and married his wife, Vina Geneveve. They enjoyed a matrimony of 66 years. Clarence Ross remained an employee of the Albert Tamm Lumber Company for 60 years, retiring as its president in 1977.

Ralph Keller, the Foxwood Springs Living Center Chaplain who brought the eulogy, emphasized that he was not only a business man with great integrity in providing the materials for building structures, but also a builder in human relations.

Ross was friendly to all at Foxwood Springs. Concern for maintaining this trusted membership in the apartment

community of Foxwood, he was recently motivated to rise in the dinning hall and appologize to everyone for an accident he had with his car in one of the parking lots.

The chaplain refered to his devotion to Bible study and the many years he served as a class teacher and Sunday School Superintendent of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, MO.

Chaplain Keller assured those assembled that his memory would live on through his wife, Vina, a son, James M. Ross of Lauderdale, FL; daughter, Elaine Ross Evans, Bates City, MO several grandchildren, great grandchildren, and the many friends who knew him.

Marian Cowan: Retired Educator & Church Leader

Marian Frances Anderson Cowan, a resident of the Robin Run Retirement Community of Indianapolis, IN and member of Faith United Christian Church, died February 6, 1996 following an extended illness. She was a highly prepared educator who joined her late husband, Jason Mouldin Cowan, to serve in a variety of leadership positions in the regional and general church in Texas, the Los Angeles, CA area and Indianapolis, IN. Her husband was a school administrator at Jarvis College, Hawkins, TX and Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS. During retirement she was a researcher in the Geriatrics Department of the University of California, L.A. She is survived by two sons and their wives; two sisters and other kin. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor M. A. Glover February 10 at Faith Church. Burial was in Inglewood Park Cemetery, CA.



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Peter's Garden Performance Provides Our Easter Challenge!

Peter left the thrill packed scene of the Last Supper with Jesus, James and John and retired to the Garden of Gethsemane. Like the others, Peter was so tensed up he couldn't stay awake even an hour while Jesus prayed.



When the chief priests sent their men into the Garden along with Roman soldiers to arrest Jesus, Peter joined the other Disciples and scrambled away from the scene. During the preliminary examination of Jesus in the home of the high priest, Annas, the temple police blind folded Jesus. They struck him, saying, "Prophecy. Who is it that struck you?" Meantime, Peter, who was in eye view of Jesus, was denying that he was a disciple or a Galilean. When Jesus turned and looked at Peter with understanding grace, Peter cried.

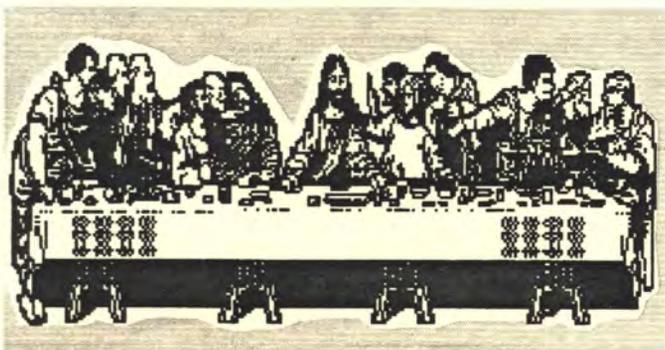
Then Peter sneaked back into the city and followed the action from within the shadows...As he warmed his hands at an open fire outside, two women recognized him. They pointed at him saying, "There is one of those disciples. But as Peter denied his identity, his Galilean drawl almost gave him away.

Following the mock trial in the Sanhedrin before the high priest, Caiaphas, Peter was not there to vote for his Master's release. The crowd had the opportunity to chose which prisoner they wanted. Like many of us, Peter wanted to be there when it counted, but he lacked the courage to join Jesus in sharing the burdens of Cross bearing.

Earl Marlatt's hymn captures the essence of what Jesus expressed to the mother of the two sons of Zebedee when she asked that her sons be given special seats in heaven when the Christ arrived. "Are ye able," said the Master, "to drink the cup I am to drink? They said to him, "We are able." Can you truly answer, "Lord, I am able. My spirit is yours. Remold it. Make it more truly Thine? So may it be. Amen

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Volume VI - No. 3

May - June 1996

Raymore, MO

Calla Dean Joseph: "100 Years Young" by Frank B. Bradley, Washington, D.C.

Calla Dean Joseph will soon celebrate 90 years as a baptized believer in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). "Sister Calla," as we call her, says she was baptized by Elder G. W. Crawford as a little girl in the summer of 1906 in Greenville, Texas, at the age of ten. It was a bright and sunny day and she remembers the event quite well and loves to talk about it to anyone who will listen.

It would be impossible to list all the things she has done or the organizations she has participated in or the services she has rendered over these 100 years. However, we can say this, she has been many things to many people through the years. This would include, but be limited to Sunday School teacher, youth leader, superintendent of the Sunday School, president of the Christian Women's Fellowship, deaconess, elder, usher, nurse, and the list goes on.

She was married to Clarence Joseph in 1923. After moving to Oklahoma, she became active in a number of congregations and talks freely of her experiences



with the Oklahoma Christians and points with pride to her work there. Her greatest joy comes, nevertheless, when she remembers accepting the challenge to come to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and establish a new Disciples Church. She recalls accepting the commission from the late Rev.

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More on Calla Joseph

by Mary Poston,
Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia, PA- Calla Dean was born in Centerpoint, Texas where her father, Israel Dean, a former slave, shaped her early years. He was secretly taught to read by the slaveowner's daughter. Later he taught a fellow slave and friend, Charles C. Haley, to read. When the master passed by and saw them they turned the book upside down and acted like they didn't know the difference.

After slavery Charles C. Haley became a Disciples of Christ minister and organized churches in towns like Greenville, Cason, Dangerfield, and Centerfield, all northeast of Dallas. It is interesting to note that Haley was the grandfather of the late Charles C. Mosely, James Ratten, Ruth Patterson, and Mary A. Guess. All the grand children were above average and each earned several graduate college degrees.

Some Oldtimers' readers know that each of them became outstanding educators and church leaders in Texas and Mississippi as well as the nation.

See More On Calla, Page 2

Servant Approaches 100; Ninety Years "Keeping the Faith."

100 Years Young -from P. 1

Eugene James to go to Philadelphia to begin the new work. She, after much prayer, packed her things, closed her apartment and moved to "the city of brotherly love" and began the new work. The first worship service was held in the early winter of 1946.

Sister Calla has reached the age of 100 and is enjoying every minute of it. She attends church regularly, needs a little help to climb the high stairs, but other than that, is doing fine.

More on Calla - from Page 1

In a like manner Israel Dean's seed was in Calla and the content of his character profoundly impacted Calla to do church work. Her affirmative response to the "commission" to go to Philadelphia and establish a new congregation is also an example of how several Disciples of Christ congregations were established in urban areas to serve large segments of the African American community.

The late Reverend Eugene James, is an excellent example of graduates from two of our early "mission schools," Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. He was acting within the tradition of the early church leaders when he challenged Sister Calla to go to

Philadelphia, PA and "start a new work." That "work," which became known in 1949 as Fellowship Christian Church, is alive today through support from a numerically small but high quality membership.



Sister Calla ready to serve.

Oldtimers who attended the annual meetings of the National Christian Missionary Convention will remember Sister Calla as that warm and smiling usher greeting you at the door when you entered for the Opening Night Service. When space on the program allowed, she would be requested to read one of her poems written especially for that particular assembly.

Some of her poems are in anthologies.

Some of her poems are in anthologies. Here is an example:

ANOTHER DAY by Calla Dean Joseph

The sun arose
To shed his ray
In gallant pose
Upon the day.

A huge red ball
A stream of light;
A day's clear call
Disperses the night.

Thus comes the earth
In gold arrayed;
New life, new birth,
Its strength sun-stayed.

With gorgeous glow,
The planets swing
And homage show
To Him their King.

With reverent eyes
I watch, and say,
"Past sunset skies,
Always there lies-
Another Day!"

A CELEBRATION

Fellowship Christian Church sponsored a tribute to Calla Dean Joseph May 4th in honor of her 100th birthday May 22, 1996.

Birthday messages can be sent to

Calla Joseph
c/o Mary Poston
5245 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139

After 122 Years of Perseverance: "Faith Fulfilled"

Hannibal MO- Willow Street Christian Church, the most vigorous predominantly African American Disciples of Christ congregation half way between St. Louis and Kansas City, under the dedicated leadership of Pastor W. Ann Facen, celebrated its 122 nd anniversary March 10, 1996 with and a long awaited new church building dedication!

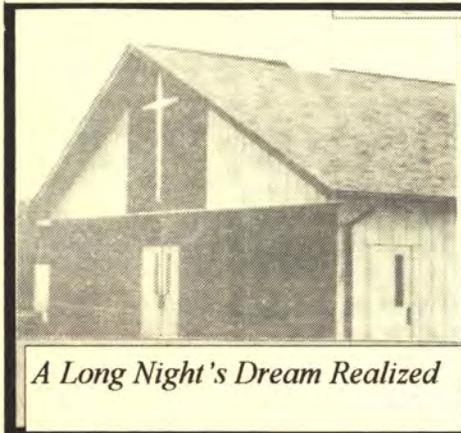


W. Ann Facen

Former Pastor Dr. Raymond Brown of Indianapolis, IN, a retired officer of the Board of Church Extension for the Christian Church, brought the anniversary message. Dr. John R. Foulkes, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church brought the new building dedication address. Rev. Nancy Tanner, Associate Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Mid-America, led the communion service.

A major full column article by the Hannibal Courier-Post columnist, plus a two page spread of congratulatory ads from the community highlighting the event, documented the high respect the congregation has from the total community. Pastor Facen is in her eleventh year of most effective

service to the Willow Street Church. Faithfulness has been fulfilled.



A Long Night's Dream Realized

filled.

In addition to the memory of Raymond Brown's distinguished ministry to Willow Street, Oldtimers will remember the foundational leadership provided the congregation by pastors like Cornelius W. Arnold, now retired in Los Angeles, CA and James Smedley, currently in Detroit, MI.

Wiley Honors Rand During Religious Emphasis Week

Marshall, TX- A special Ecumenical Worship Service during Religious Emphasis Week at Wiley College was held February 14, 1996 honoring Dr. Earl W. Rand, Emeritus President of Jarvis Christian College, Church Leader and Humanitarian." Sponsors of the Religious Emphasis Week stated "The Wiley College family appreciates you and your commitment to Christian Education." Rand was also called a "man of God who loves humanity."

The 11 a.m. Wednesday interfaith worship which honored Dr.

See Wiley College, Page 6

Intergenerational Relationships to be Lifted in Jarvis '96 H.O.M.- Library and Science Buildings in Focus

Hawkins, TX- On-Campus Coordinator Uris Roberson, Jr has packaged the 1996 Hands-On-Mission program for June 17-25, 1996 with an emphasis on enriched intergenerational relationships. The plans call for approximately fifty adults and thirty students to do physical improvements on the Olin Library and the Myer's building that is used mainly for science and mathematics classes.

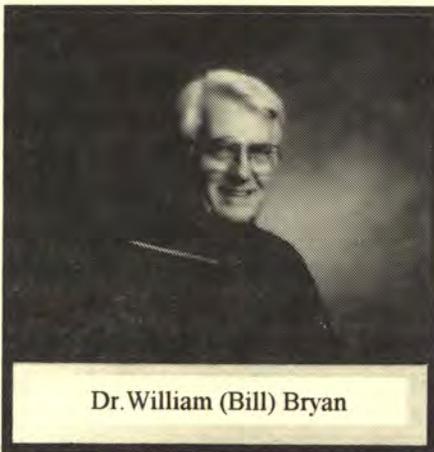
A college task group that will guide the event has arranged for cultural enrichment activities that include roller skating, bowling and a trip to Six-Flags Over Texas. The program is building on the experiences gained through the sponsorship of the first Hands-On-Mission event in July 1995. Rolland Perry, pastor of Fellowship Christian Church in Kansas City, KS, is serving as the National Consultant for 1996.

For Whom the Bells Toll:



William Bryan: Practical Theologian/Pastor

Enid, OK- Dr. C. William (Bill) Bryan, retired pastor, National Director of Church Vocations for his denomination, seminary professor and Director of Field



Dr. William (Bill) Bryan

Education at Phillips Theological Seminary, was memorialized February 28, 1996 in Central Christian Church. Ministers Gary McCormick, Kevin Arensman and Harold VanCleave joined in guiding the ceremony of remembrance. Following a brief illness, he succumbed to a terminal disease in a local infirmary.

Bill Bryant was born October 11, 1926 in Pueblo, COLO. Following service in the Army Air Corps, Bill Bryant enrolled in the University of Denver where he met and married DeLores (Dode)

Allen June 11, 1947. That same year he was called to the ministry. Formal preparation at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN and Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX provided him with a Masters of Sacred Theology and Doctor of Ministry. His ordination in 1951 in his home congregation of Parkhill Christian Church, Pueblo, Colo. was followed by 33 years of service in pastorates in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Indiana.

After two years of service (1964-1966) as National Director of Church Vocations in the General Church Office of the denomination, he was called to Phillips Theological Seminary in Enid, OK in 1973 to served until 1992 as the Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Director of Field Education. He also children

was also a member of several key denominational boards in the Oklahoma Region and the General Church.

He also served Phillips as the interim dean in 1984.

The recent discovery of a terminal illness brought death to a faithful servant in the church who up to that time had experienced few periods of sickness.

Among the family and friends shocked and mourning by his demise is his dear wife, Delores, three children, Michael, Mark and Judy, and their spouses Sheri, Bonnie and James, and grandchildren: Tyler, Andrew, Alex and Spencer of Buhler, KS; Elijah, Aaron, Lauren and Kali of Over-

Continued on Page 5

Top Journal Article Says Jarvis "Once again on the upswing." Freshman Class Number a Record 326!

Hawkins, TX- In a "portrait" article called "Turnabout in East Texas" the February 9, 1996 number of the Washington, D.C. based **The Chronicle of Higher Education** featured progress being made at Jarvis Christian College. The author, Katherine S. Mangan, noted that the college which had been founded in 1912 by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), "is once again on the upswing."

Mangan reports that "Jarvis Christian has operated with balanced budget for three years, its enrollment is up, and it is planning its first comprehensive capital campaign, hoping to raise \$10-million over five years. "The freshman class jumped to 326 this year, from 150 last year, and two-thirds of the entering students had at least a B average in high school."

See President Sebetha Jenkins- Page 5

For Whom the Bells Toll:

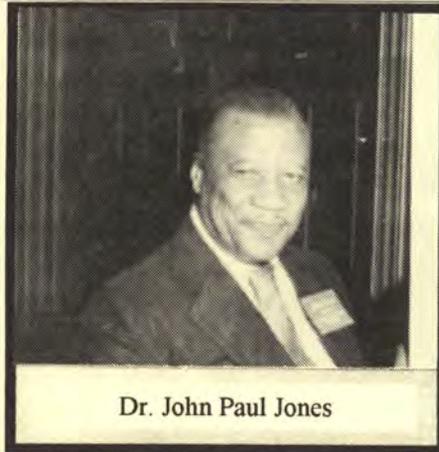
Tanner and Cailin of Enid. Also joined with the immediate family are three sisters: Annie Pile of Beula, Colo, Pat Rigdon and Dixie Cardwell, both of Parker, Colo and many friends and other relatives.

John Paul Jones, President of Jarvis 1971-76

T Tyler, TX- **John Paul Jones** who served Jarvis Christian College as its President from 1971 to 1976, died March 21, 1996. He was cited as a "scholar, teacher, organizer, administrator, gentleman" bringing "dedication, dignity, competence, and courage" as the sixth president of Jarvis. He was born in Tyler, TX in 1915 as the son of J.M.W. and Ida M. Jones.

The memorial service took place at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Tyler under the direction of Senior Pastor Dr. Jerome Milton, who also gave the eulogy. The Texas College Choir provided special music.

Among those rendering words of condolence were Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President of Jarvis Christian College, Dr. Haywood Strickland, President of Texas College, and Rev. Reginald Garrett, pastor of St. James C. M. E. Church.



Dr. John Paul Jones

Dr. Jones came to the faculty in 1962 to serve as Associate of English, Chair of the Division of Humanities, and later Assistant to the President. In the summer of 1971, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Jones Acting President of Jarvis Christian College. On March 8, 1972 he was named President of the school.



He graduated from Tyler's Emmett Scott High School in 1931 as valedictorian of his class. earned the Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas College in 1935 magna cum laude. As a faculty member at Texas College, he pursued graduate study at the University of Chicago, from which he received the Master of Arts Degree in English in 1941. Dr. Jones was able to receive successive grants as a fellow of the General Education Board, the Southern Fellowship Fund, and the United Negro College Fund.

These honors made possible further study at Teachers College, Columbia University where he became a certified doctoral candidate.

Continued on Page 6

President Sebetha Jenkins and Jarvis Teacher Education Graduates Given Praise- *from Page 4*

The article highlights the manner in which its first woman President, Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, faced challenges when she came from the University of Akron, OH in 1991 to lead the Jarvis administration. Strict administrative policies had to be enforced in order to meet long-standing operating deficits and diminished oil revenues. There had to be staff reductions which required the President and administrative associates to enduring community misunderstanding. The remote geographic location of the college, once conceived as a negative, was lifted up as a positive resource. Student and faculty recruitment was improved when prospects realized the values for high quality living, study and enriching fellowship that was possible in the small town setting of the college. A renewed emphasis upon teacher education has made its teacher-education graduates a prime resource for educational systems.

For Whom the Bells Toll:



From Page 5

In 1972 his alma mater, Texas College, recognized his achievements by conferring upon him the Doctor of Letters Degree. That same year an honors doctoral degree was conferred upon him by Texas Christian University.

Joining the Jarvis faculty in 1962, Dr. Jones served as Associate Professor of English, Chairman of the Division of Humanities, and Assistant to the President. He directed a study of the speech and writing patterns of Jarvis students in 1968; and in 1971 he chaired the Jarvis Self-Study Committee.

In the summer of 1971, the Board of Trustees appointed him acting President of Jarvis and on March 8, 1972, in his tenth year at Jarvis, he was named the sixth President of the College.

President Jones was an amiable and determined administrator whose tenure at Jarvis enabled its accreditation to be reaffirmed by the Texas Education Agency.

His experience and specialized training in the United States Army from 1942-45 made him a water purification expert. This aided him in guiding the establishment of a modern water purification system and sewage disposal plant.

He was faithful to the concerns of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), serving on the Committee

on Reference and Counsel of Unified Promotion, and the Steering Committee for the Disciples of Christ Financial Campaign launched during his tenure.

Dr. Jones leaves to mourn his loss, a dear wife, Nollie V. Jones of Tyler, TX; son, John A. Jones and daughter-in-law Lennie Jones of Chicago, IL; brother, Reverend James W. Jones of Tyler, TX; mother-in-law, Rhoda B. Harold, and brother-in-law, Dr. Cecil G. Harold of Houston, TX; sister-in-law Estelle Harold also of Houston and many distant kin, friends, and former students.



Wiley College Honors Dr. Rand- *from Page 3*

Rand, was a part of a special three-day observance held at the Robert E. Hayes Auditorium, Wiley-Pemberton Complex. It included instrumental music by Dorsey Summerfield and numbers by the Wiley College A'Cappella Choir.

In Dr. Rand's autobiography, "Earl Wadsworth Rand: From There to Here/From Then Until Now," he refers to his growing up in a poor family with eight other children. It was a time when educational opportunities for Black children were extremely limited. Dr. Rand credits his parents for motivating him to go to college, even though they were unable to go beyond the fifth grade.

Warning: Don't Use Leftover Antibiotics! *from the University of California Wellness Letter*

Two out of three Americans think antibiotics can kill viruses, like the kind that cause the common cold and the flu. But this is NOT true. And according to the University of California's Wellness Letter, people should not take leftover antibiotics to treat these ailments.

Penicillin and other common antibiotics work only against bacterial infections, such as strep throat, sinus or staph infections. If a physician prescribes an antibiotic when a patient has viral pneumonia or a particularly bad flu, it is a precautionary measure to ward off other possible bacterial invaders.

Take antibiotics only if a doctor prescribes them and do not save any for the next time you get a cold. Widespread overuse of these drugs contributes to the rise of drug-resistant bacteria and may make antibiotics less effective when you really need them. *Maturity News Service- Reprinted by Permission Uni. Syndicate Press*

Overlooking the Oldtimers' Network

DONORS SINCE LAST ISSUE: Artie M. Scott, Rubye L. Washington, Chicago, IL; Earl W. Rand, Marshall, TX; Sheldon/Miriam Shirts, Bertha I. Lovell, Virgil V./Cleatus Hinds, Ian J./Cynthia R. McCrae, N. Merle Mott, Raymore, MO; John R./Lucile A. Compton, Cincinnati, OH; Ruth E. Ellington, St. Louis, MO; Lambrini Stergiopol, Athens, Greece; Cornelius/Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; E. Roger/Mary W. Frey, Harold R./Evelyn Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Jo Roberts, Annandale, VA; Bess R. Terry, New York, NY; Mary Joyce Bechtel, Sun Lakes, AZ;

of February 15 her health maintenance program continues and that she is all right. During her tenure of employment by the General Church she helped many through her work in the Department of in-Ministry and later the General Assembly operations.-

Retirees Still on the Move in 1996

Ian and Cynthia McCrae from Indianapolis, IN to residency in the Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center, Raymore, MO; **John C. Updegraff from Jacksonville, FL** to residency in Indianapolis, IN; **Mildred LaTouche Webb from Harvey, IL** to residency in the Robin Run Retirement Living Center, Indianapolis, IN.

A View from Overseas

Athens, Greece- Lambrini Stergiopol recently dropped the editor and wife a note of belated New Year's greetings. She let us know that she was "...adjusting little by little to my new life in Athens. It is not easy if you consider that I lived for 33 years in Indianapolis. I am blessed in being surrounded by a loving, caring family; three sisters and their families, and my late brother's family... I am doing pretty good...I am grateful and thank the Lord for every day of my life. Hope that my friends at Foxwood are OK. I think often of you all..." Those who know Lambrini will be happy to know that as



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God and Ordinary People *by Ernest J. Newborn**

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
-*Jeremiah 1:4-5*-

Jeremiah was an ordinary person who became God's extraordinary prophet.

I was son number ten born to my parents in rural Tennessee. My birth was not a celebrated event. I was just another "colored baby" in the Newborn household. Years later when I needed proof of USA citizenship, I learned that there was no official record of my birth.

Jeremiah was God's appointee as "prophet to the nations before he was born.

The record is replete with or-

dinary people who served God and humankind in extraordinary ways.

Mary, a lowly virgin, favored by God to give birth to the Savior of the world.

George Washington Carver, born a slave, traded by his owner in exchange for a broken down race horse, became an eminent agricultural scientist.

Jesus called mostly ordinary persons as his first disciples. God consecrated us before we were born. Christ calls us now to serve in extraordinary ways.

**From Northwood Christian Church 1996 Lenten Devotion Book. Author is Parish Pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and with his wife, Janice, is contractual staff in Development for the Indiana Region.*

Prayers for the Closing of the Day -WKF

Gracious God of Goodness, Promoter of all Progress and Prosperity, as we come to the end of another day, render unto our restless spirits that peace which passes all human understanding. Quell our feverish fears, and bring us to a steadied stillness that Thou art a God who is able to keep every one in perfect peace whose mind is stayed in Thee. Amen

And now unto the One God, Creator of all humankind, be all the glory. Keep us safely through the night as through the day. Work in us the refreshing streams of thy mercy and grace, and raise us up in the morning as revived channels of thy Will through Christ. Amen

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**Freshman Class at Jarvis at 326!*

**Don't Use Leftover Antibiotics!*

The Oldtimers' Grapevine

Volume VI - No. 4

July - August 1996

Raymore, MO

LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE MONUMENT WILL EXPIRE IN OCTOBER 1996. ADEQUATE FUNDS MUST BE IN SIGHT.

THE MONUMENT WILL HONOR MORE THAN 5000 BLACK PATRIOTS WHO FOUGHT FOR THE FREEDOM CAUSE DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

ED DWIGHT, THE FIRST BLACK ASTRONAUT, DESIGNED THE 90 FOOT LONG BRONZE MEMORIAL WHICH WILL CONTAIN ABOUT 87 FIGURATIVE IMAGES AND DEPICT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SLAVES AND FREE PERSONS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1600 TO 1783.

THE BLACK PATRIOTS FOUNDATION WHICH HAS BEEN TRYING TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PROJECT FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS CAN PROVIDE FOR INFORMATION. PHONE 1-800-888-9811 OR MAIL TO: 1612 KST, N.W., SUITE 1104 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Oscar Haynes Boosts Black Patriots Revolutionary War Monument Idea

Rockville, MD- Retiree Oscar Haynes, a very active Disciples of Christ churchman in the Wash-

ington Capitol, is part of an interdenominational task force in support of a "first time ever" Congressional legislation action to build a national monument in Washington highlighting the contributions of those most often overlooked African American soldiers in the War for Independence.

Legislators from both parties in Congress are supporting the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Coin

Act which will mint 500,000 silver dollars to help raise the \$6.5 million required to build



Oscar Haynes, above, is part of the effort to secure support.

the monument on the National Mall midway between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

General Motors Corporation has

pledged nearly \$2 million. Actor Ossie Davis and his wife, Ruby Dee contributed \$5000 toward the project. Donors of any amount are still welcomed. See bottom of the left column. Congress approved legislation for the Memorial and its site in 1986, 1988, and 1994.

Late President P. C. Washington's Daughter Receives Jarvis 50 Year Graduation Award

Hawkins, TX- Marcella Washington Hill, youngest daughter of the late Jarvis Christian College President Peter C. Washington and mother, Rosae Washington, was one of six recipients of the 50 year graduation award during the May 9, 1996 Jarvis commencement exercises.

Marcella is a highly respected professor and special consultant in mathematics in Washington. She was married to the late Dr. Wendell Tabor Hill, who died March 25, 1995 while he was Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Howard University and recipient of

See 50 YEAR AWARD, Page 2

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A Jarvis' 50 Year Award to Marcella W. Hill

50 YEAR AWARD from
P. 1

many honors in his field. She has two sons- Wendell Hill, III, a laser physicist in Greenbelt, MD and Philip Hill, an orthopedic surgeon in Long Beach, CA. Both are married to wives who are practicing attorneys.

She has done extensive tutorial work with foreign students and looks forward to further short-term service in the Mid-East and/or Asia.

Joining Mrs. Hill in attendance to share in the occasion was her mother, Rosae Washington and sister, Rowena Washington, a retired public school teacher, both of Oakland, CA.

During her father's tenure as President of Jarvis Christian College from 1938 to 1949 the



Marcella Hill receives award May 9, 1996 for finishing Jarvis 50 years ago.

college achieved the state's recognition as an accredited senior college. The first baccalaureate degrees were conferred upon graduating seniors, and a Bible Chair was established.

89 Year Old Poetess
Rebounds from Tennis Court for Her 90th!

Raymore, MO- After working for months to assemble and publish a volume of her best poems for presentation to family members who were to assemble for the celebration of her 90th birthday, Flo Kallenbach had a bad fall while playing tennis on the court at the Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center

But even an unplanned overnight stay in the hospital did not prevent her from celebrating the long expected celebration.

Her son, Larry N. Summers, an oil fuel company owner from Huntington, CA, planned the affair which brought 140 family members from eight states. Sunday, her 94 year old husband, Harry, an ardent gardner, aided her in having a similar reception at Raymore Christian church.

"Whatsoever Things Are Lovely" - Personal Devotions by Flo Kallenbach

"Gazing at a magnificent sunrise, I grasp at the extravaganza of colors - saffrons, purples, pinks, spashed over a deep blue backdrop.

A baby's smile, a perfect rose, a snowcapped mountain or any other of the countless marvels which reveal God's majesty, all fill my heart with joy. And then there is the call of love, the strength of prayer,

the impact of beauty. Is thinking on these things a way of life?

Phillipians 4:9 provides an answer: 'Whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.'

My devotionals were created as I meditated on the wonders of God's creation. I wrote them to celebrate life."

From the Foreword- The devotional booklet of 31 pages is available from Mrs. Kallenbach. Like her booklet "Call Me Tillie," it is her contribution to "The Fellowship of John" benevolence Fund. Donations are welcomed.

Happenings Here and There in the Network

Janice and Ernest Newborn After 40 Years of Marriage

Indianapolis, IN- The children of Dr. and Mrs. Ernest and Janice Newborn, Attorneys Ernest Joshua Newborn, Jr. and Mary Josephine Newborn Wiggins, honored their parents on their 40th. wedding anniversary by inviting friends and associates of their parents to a stellar reception July 13,

1996 at the home of Ernest Jr. and wife, Josephine Marie in Indianapolis, IN.

Among the many friends attending were Rev. and



Mrs. William K. Fox of Raymore, MO. When Rev. Fox was pastor of the Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis, MO forty years ago he went to Youngstown, OH to join in marriage, Janice Robinson, a music teacher and Ernest Newborn, a Disciples of Christ minister

servicing a congregation in Canton, O. Janice's family heritage was rich in practicing lawyers and community service leadership. Ernest's household also included church leaders and business entrepreneurs..

Forty years later their daughter, Mary Jo, a Smith College graduate, is married to Donald Wiggins, an accountant, and she is a tenured professor of law at the University of San Diego Law School.

Ernest J., Jr., a Drake University alumnus, is married to Josephine Stovall, a pharmacist, and is Vice-President and General Counsel of Accordia, Inc. They are proud parents of Ernest J. Newborn, III. Both Mary and Ernest,

See NEWBORNS, P. 4

They are members of the Northwood Christian Church and relate to the Stewardship and Development Commission of the Regional Church in Indiana as consultants.

Our Canadian Connection- Lucille Coward, Volunteer Info Contact*

St. Laurent, P. Q. Canada-
Helen Minor, a frequent resident of Canada, world traveler and former Disciples overseas missionary, died approximately three years ago. Recently she was remembered in the Union United Church with a donation from the Coward family given in her name for new hymn books.

Ever since those wanting to have French as the official language of Canada lost at the polls last year to those preferring English, there has been a push to get those preferring English to leave.

English hospitals have been closed in St. Laurent and few schools are open to English

speaking students. Tensions are high.

Dr. E. L. Bigby, pastor since 1980 of Union United Church, an historic multicultural congregation, and center for community service, will retire in two years.

**Former Chicago Disciple*

Happenings Here and There in the Network - Continued

NEWBORNS, from P. 3

Jr. are graduates of the University of Michigan Law School.

The Newborn, Srs. are retired from the General Church staff of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where Janice was Senior Associate in the Office of Disciples Women, in Homeland Ministries, and Ernest was the administrative director for Reconciliation, the denomination's Race and Poverty Fund.

They are members of the Northwood Christian Church and relate to the Stewardship and Development Commission of the Regional Church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana as on-call consultants. Ernest is also dually related to the Presbyterians USA and the United Church of Christ.

Robert L. Jordan Honored on 90th Birthday

Detroit, MI- Sixty years ago Robert L. Jordan, a young and inexperienced minister just out of school, came from the West Coast to the difficult mission field urban Detroit, MI, and established Forest Av-



The Honoree and Family: Horace and Emma Jackson, the Rev. Robert L. Jordan, Atty. Kenneth S. Jordan and Carol Ann, and Robert Jordan III.

enue Christian Church against overwhelming odds. May 20, 1996 that same congregation, known now as United Christian Church under the leadership of The Rev. Jack Sullivan, Jr., hosted Dr. Jordan's 90th. birthday celebration. Jordan served as the senior minister most effectively until retirement in 1973.

A large body of friends was led in the celebration by the honoree's children, Robert L. III, Emma G. Jackson, and Atty. Kenneth S. Jordan and their families. The honoree's son, Robert III, served as master of ceremonies as several community leaders and friends gave testimony to his past social, political, and religious accomplishments. Dr. Jordan attends Serenity Christian Church.

Dr. Jordan was president of the National Christian Missionary Convention in 1957-58 when the church and racial integration was being tested.

Jordan is Our Pioneer African American Disciple Author

Decades before it was believed possible for African American Disciples of Christ to express viable thoughts on Christian history and theology in writing, Robert L. Jordan led the way. His congregation supported him.

In 1944 the United Christian Church of Detroit, MI, supported him in his writing and publication of TWO RACES IN ONE FELLOWSHIP, a pioneering outline of the emergence of Black Disciples of Christ within the predominantly White denomination.

During retirement in 1982 Jordan published his provocative BLACK THEOLOGY EXPOSED which challenged Blacks to refuse a quest for handouts and use the power God had already given them. Jordan remains actively concerned about church. WKF

For Whom the Bells Toll



Rev. Marie F. Bailey, 94

Raymore, MO- The passing of Rev. Bailey in a local infirmary May 19, 1996 marked the transition of a pioneer Home missionary in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She was among the early residents of the Foxwood Springs Living Center.

Among her numerous ministry endeavors following graduation from Johnson Bible College in Kimberling Heights, TN was to teach Appalachia young people attending the denomination's home missions institution called Hazel Green Academy, Hazel

Green, KY.

arie Bailey was a native of Effingham, IL who joined her husband, the late Samuel Meade Bailey, serving congregations in Kansas, Missouri, Virginia, Indiana, Texas and Oklahoma.

She received a Masters Degree from Phillips University in Enid, OK. Prior to being chaplain at the Foxwood Springs Living Center, she was on the staff at Overland Park Christian Church, KS and was State Director of Children's Work for the Christian Churches of Missouri.

Memorial Services were held at Belton Christian Church and Foxwood. A daughter, son-in-law in Dallas, Tx, 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren join many friends to mourn her loss.



Opal T. Routsong, 96

Raymore, MO- Opal Routsong was a proud and dignified spirit born in Clinton, MO.

A quest for challenge brought her employment as secretarial staff for the Navy in Washington, D. C.

A life-long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) she joined National City Church in Washington and later, Central Christian in Denver, CO..

Opal was a Foxwood Springs resident eager to share rich experience. One daughter, Jean Hyndman, Indian Head Park, Illinois, 3 grandchildren and many friends mourn her loss.

Eating Less May Bring Longer Life- Excerpted from an April 29, 1996 Associated Press Article

Washington, April 29 (AP) - Reducing calories by 30 percent appears to slow the rate of aging in monkeys, providing new evidence that humans might live longer by eating less...
"This shows that what has been demonstrated in mice

also can apply in primates," said Dr. George Roth, a scientist at the gerontology research center of the National Institute on Aging...
Dr. Roth is co-author of a study..in th Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences...

Joseph Kennitz, a researcher at the primate center at the University of Wisconsin said.."labs...suggest intervention...may extend life...
The study... involves 200 monkeys. Dr. Roth said the diets ... included all required vitamins and other nutrients

From an Editorial Viewpoint-

**T. G. Benjamin and
"A Sign of Respect"**

Thomas Garrett Benjamin, Jr, the 54 year old senior pastor of the Light of the World Christian Church, was recognized May 1, 1996 by selected colleagues from Pentecostal and independent Baptist churches and friends as a leader with proven ministerial spiritual overseer credentials.

The recognition, which featured a special consecration service normally used for bishops in connectional denominations, took place at 6 p. m. at the Indiana Convention Center.

The action, cited by local journalists as "a sign of respect," was endorsed by the Light of the World Christian Church and associates as a way to highlight the divinely ordained ministry of its gifted senior pastor.

Though an unusual ceremony for a congregation within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tradition, it dramatically reminds all of us that there are many unheralded but devoted pastors within the household of faith who daily humbly and successfully fulfill their ordination as Christian ministers.

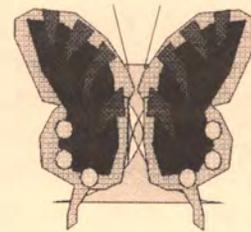
Some congregations willingly and others grudgingly provide their pastor with an annual "Pastor's Anniversary" when a "Love Offering" and other gifts are shared. This is "A Sign of Respect" for a dedicated pastor.

We praise God for the Light of the World Christian Church and its history of witness to the life and meaningful presence of Jesus Christ as Lord—a presence exhibited in its daily programs and reflected in the leadership of its senior pastor. When Pastor Benjamin, ac-

cepted "A Sign of Respect" which enabled him to be addressed as "Bishop," he intensified the challenge of Christian ordination faced by every minister.

There needs to be a variety of God's ministries in today's world. Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower Tom to use the "Sign of Respect" creatively to foster God's Will and overwhelm any personal or materialistic agenda. **WKF**

Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower Tom to use the "Sign of Respect" creatively to foster God's Will and overwhelm any personal or materialistic agenda. WKF



Walking for Fitness- Excerpts from Personal Health, Jane E. Brody, NYT

The New York Times, April 17, 1996- Walking is the nation's most popular activity, five times as popular as jogging. Almost everyone can do it safely, including...the elderly ... the obese, those with arthritis, diabetes... and people recovering from heart attacks or

bypass surgery... It is highly adaptable. You can walk alone or with company, ... you can talk while walking. You can lose weight walking...The faster you walk the more calories you use...Stand up straight and walk with your ears, shoulders, hips knees,

and ankles in a vertical line. Keep your head erect, chin pulled in toward your neck, back straight, buttocks and stomach tucked in... Look forward with your eyes about 15 to 20 feet ahead... Keep your shoulders relaxed and directly above your hips...

Faithful Readers Continue to Support

DONORS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE: Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO; Harvey/Sybel Thomas, Marthetta G. Mc Mickle, Chicago, IL; Karl and Ethelyn Ervin, Stockton, CA; Melba A. Hawkins, Hawkins, TX; Mary Joyce Bechtel, Sun Lakes, AZ; B. R. Terry, New York, NY; Lucile Coward, St. Laurent. P.Q. Canada; Berda R. Sewell, Kansas City, MO; Marilyn L. Foulkes, Winnifred/Joseph Smith, Ruth/Robert Hudson, Ernest/Janice Newborn, Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Johnnie H. Calvert, Ellicott City, MD; Glenn/Charlotte Shoemaker, Raymore, MO; Marlis Morgan, Sugar Land, TX; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO; Enoch W. Henry/O. L. Allen, Los Angeles, CA; Marjorie Hill Johnson, St. Louis, MO.

Look for us (Editor and Board Members) in Birmingham, AL!

Check the general program book National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the Oldtimers' Grapevine advertisement and Good Faith Form.

Look at the figures following your name in the address.

The first number gives the month and the last two numbers the year when you last made a donation to aid in meeting the operating expenses for creating, publishing and distributing The Oldtimers' Grapevine.

Board members and the editor will attend the fourteenth biennial session of the National Convocation in Birmingham, AL August 2 - 6, 1996.

Greet us whenever you see us. Share what you can in support of the network. Let us know how we can improve THE GRAPEVINE!

Please share your issue of The Oldtimers' Grapevine with a friend. They may decide to become a regular reader.

Thanks so much!



The Oldtimers' Grapevine

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**1996 JCC- HOM VOL-
UNTEERS AT WORK**

Shoemaker & Allison



Missionary Toomey



Youth & Zula Abney



The Jarvis 1996 "Hands-On-Mission Succeeds!"

Hawkins, TX- The Rev. Uris Roberson, On-Site Coordinator for the 1996 Hands-On-Mission program at Jarvis Christian College June 17-21 and and his wife, Shirley, who assisted, were up-beat for the closing of the event. President Sebetha Jenkins was elated.

*Senior high school students Cynthia Nelson, Angela McMillan, Renea Thompson, Dionne Tension, Marquesha Garrett, and Agie McLemore from nearby towns made the event intergenerational.

*Hannah J. Toomey (Forest Grove, OR), a recently returned missionary from Jamaica, provided international flavor.

Glenn Shoemaker (Raymore, MO) and Bill Allison (Big Sandy, TX) worked skillfully to restore the platform in the main lecture hall of Myer building and then covered it with a rug. Platform chairs were beautifully reupholstered by a Hawkins, TX volunteer.

*Dr. Autry Acrey, guided faculty and staff in painting the hallways and offices of the "A" Building.

*Charlotte Shoemaker, Reubena and William Fox (Raymore, MO), Roland Perry (Kansas City, KS) and Hannah Toomey painted or cleaned rooms, and fire hydrants, or trimmed and beautified trees and flower beds.

*College Pastor Spivey

led the redecoration of the chapel lounge. Two hundred National Youth Sports Program youth directed by Mrs. Zula Abney, did a mass trash sweep of the campus.

*Staff Lela Jackson enabled fellowship to include bowling, swimming, cultural presentation and dining in the President's Home.

*Local volunteers included Jewel McCalla, Doris Rutherford, Melba Hawkins, Dorothy Lanier, Debra Wesley, Pam Colon, and Howard Hawkins.

*The interracial group represented 4 states 7 denominations; 6 ministers, and 4 with their wives. This was the 2nd H.O.M.

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In This Issue...

Revolutionary War Monument- 50 Year Award - An Editorial Viewpoint -

The Oldtimers' Grapevine

"...I'm 66 years 'young' and fractured my right ankle a few months before, and discovered the torch was heavier than ...anticipated"

September/October 1996

Volume VI, No. 5

Hotz says:

"When the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay Committee in Atlanta notified me that my assignment was to run the Frankfort, IN route. I was a bit disappointed...I was hoping to run a segment in the capital city. But when my flag bearer and I motored to Frankfort on Sunday June 2, to scout my location and distance, we noted signs on local businesses and the huge banner strung across
(Continued on 2)

HOTZ CARRIES OLYMPIC TORCH!

Indianapolis, IN- When the Coca Cola Company's Indiana Olympic Torch Bearer's Force sponsoring the carrying of the 1996 Olympic Torch throughout Indiana read the story of Marilyn Hotz's volunteer work with PACE Public Action in Correctional Effort, a United Way organization, they readily approved of her carrying **The Torch**. Marilyn has been an active member since 1967 working primarily in the area of criminal justice with particular emphasis on



At left running next to Marilyn Hotz is her official escort, Aaron Moody, a high school track star from Upland, IN. Another escort carries a spare torch; next to him another runner with "the mother flame" that came all the way from Greece. At right, after her "run" Marilyn at Moose Lodge as people reach for her and the Torch while a Georgia state police officer looks on.

women. In 1984 she was given the Volunteer of the

Year Award by the Indi-
(Continued on page 2)

Minister's Wives/Spouses Achieve Goals Set

Birmingham, AL- The enthusiastic leadership of Pat Maples of Dallas, TX, President of the Ministers Wives and Spouses Fellowship of the National Convocation for the past two years, carried through

the 14th. biennial session activity.

Members of the Fellowship gave liberal support for the Christian Services for Children in Selma Clothing Drive for boys

and girls 1 to 13 years of age sponsored during the Convocation

A 1996 Yearbook featuring "Minister's Spouses in Action", coordinated by
(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue

Hotz Carries the Olympic Torch _____	1
Liberation Award Given to Veterans _____	3
Update on Lois Mothershed-Pot _____	4
Seasoned "Oldtimers" and a "Baby Boomer" Lead NCCC _____	5

High School Track Star Accompanied Marilyn

(Continued from page 1)

Indianapolis Volunteer Action Center of the Community Service Council.

Marilyn says "When the shuttle bus let me off at the Carter Lumber Company (in Frankfort, IN) to begin my run, I was amazed at the number of citizens lined up along the road, waiting to see the torch arrive... As I turned the corridor fashioned by ropes on the Moose Lodge driveway, I was surprised by the huge crowd and planned celebration.

"Previously, my instructions after reaching the Moose Lodge included lighting the torch for the cyclist pedaling the flame to Indianapolis, emptying the gas from my torch, and

hopping on the shuttle bus transporting me back to my car in the "Hot Dogs" parking lot...

"As I stood on the podium and looked into the faces of the people assembled, especially the children who were edging closer to where the torch was positioned on a stand, I saw the wonder and almost worshipful attitude in their gaze and manner, and I knew I needed to cancel my appointment with the return shuttle bus. Little fingers, big hands and cameras reaching out to the torch needed to be honored.

So I stayed for an hour while pictures were taken, autographs were given and everybody who wanted to hold the torch

had the chance to experience that joy. It was truly an awesome experience for many, and certainly for me.

"A special thanks to the citizens of Frankfort for the warm reception given the torch and the Coca Cola-sponsored torch bearers. I'm particularly thankful for the opportunity to share this "once in a lifetime" event..."

Marilyn began her work at Missions Building as a secretarial assistant in the Sales Literature Department interpreting United Christian Missionary Society materials. This was her specialty for most of her career. She retired in 1995 and received the Mae Yo Ward Award for faithful service.

Ministers' Wives/Spouses Set Pace- *from Page One*

Janice Newborn, was most successful. The biennial gift to the Star Supporter Scholarship Fund was \$12,000!

Attendants at the luncheon were asked to dress in red attire to symbolize redemption and being "Determined as the Holy Spirit Empowers us to

Love." Monday evening "A Reception in African Attire" engaged the entire biennial session in a gala fellowship.

Ministers' wives participated in a "Praise Service of African Dance" and inspired many of the attendants. For years the Ministers Wives and

Spouses Fellowship has been a model Convocation group in setting biennial goals and involving a large number of individuals and congregations in achieving the objectives set.

The Fellowship continues to set the pace for other NCCC fellowship groups.

the courthouse square, welcoming the torch and the torch bearers, and I felt comfortable that I was running in the 'right' place... I was amazed at the number of citizens lined up along the road, waiting to see the torch arrive. Prior to June 4, I was apprehensive that I could 'pull it off' with success. I am 66 years 'young' and fractured my right ankle a few months before, and discovered the torch was heavier than I anticipated. As I began my run the shouts of encouragement urged me on..."

“LIBERATION AWARD” GIVEN TO VETERANS

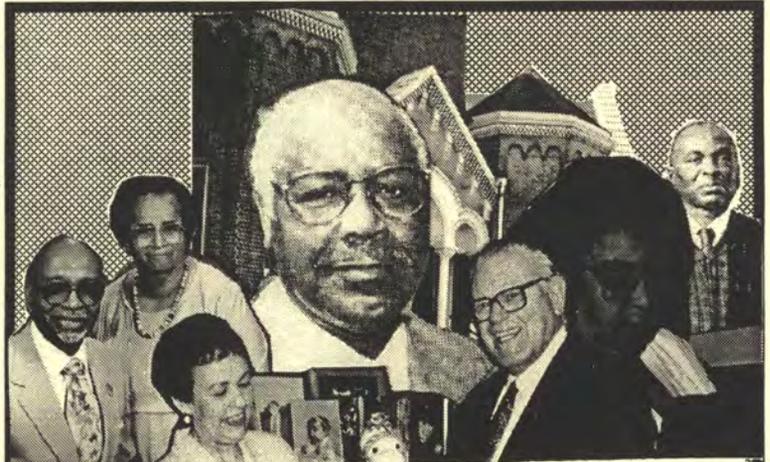
The following designations were given to the 1996 Liberation Award recipients:

Richard R. Lance- *Aggressive Affirmative Action Advocate*; William K. Fox, Sr.- *Effective Interventionist and Historian*; Samuel J. Hylton, Jr.- *Effective Social Activist*; Robert L. Jordan- *Pioneer Church Historian and Organizational Conceptor*.

These leaders often worked together as colleagues to establish precedents, key policies and programs which showcased the church's interest in liberation.

Birmingham, AL- As the successful 14th biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church ended with the All-Convocation Banquet August 6th in Sheraton Civic Center Hotel four veteran churchmen were honored as recipients of the Liberation Award.

The efforts of Richard R. Lance, retiring president of the National Benevolent Association, St. Louis, MO; William K. Fox, Sr., retired general church office staff, Raymore, MO;; Samuel J. Hylton, Jr., senior pastor of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO; and Robert L. Jordan, retired senior pastor and founder of the United



Honorees upper left, Samuel Hylton, supper right, Mrs. Hylton; lower left, William and Reubena Fox, center Janice and Rick Lance, lower right, Robert Jordan, wife deceased.

Christian Church in Detroit, MI were given special recognition for advancing justice and wholeness in the Church

Katherine Fox Cunningham of Indianapolis, IN, daughter of William K. and Reubena M. S. Fox, represented her father in his absence.

The Liberation Award was initiated in 1980 as a means of special recognition of individuals who had made significant contributions to liberation concerns within the Church.

This remains the criteria for selection. The 1996 recipients brought that number to twenty-four.

1996 Liberation Award Recipients Untiring Warriors

Richard Lance came to the presidency of the NBA Central Office after being a career officer in the U. S. Air Force and a field director for NBA units, to stimulate the implementation of bold affirmative action in fair employment practices and quality social services to all persons regardless of ethnic or racial origins.

William K. Fox, Sr. was pastor of Centennial Christian

Church in the early 1950's when the St. Louis branch of the Committee on Racial Equality (CORE) met in the church to plan "sit-ins" and test racially segregated eating and housing establishments. He joined with the local NAACP to picket schools in 1954 when the U. S. Supreme Court ruled against public school segregation. Fox had staff responsibility to address such issues when he served

metro and state councils of churches, and eventually administered the National Convocation of the Christian Church for 10 years with similar interest and dedication.

Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., regarded as "Dean of Disciples of Christ Ministers" after serving Centennial Christian Church as pastor effectively

(Continued on Page 4)

UPDATE ON LOIS MOTHERSHED-POT

Editor's Note: A few weeks ago Helen Spauling of Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO was pleased to host a friend and former church staff associate, Mrs. Lois Mothershed-Pot of The Netherlands, for a few days. The W. K. Foxes, also acquainted with Mrs. Pot's former church services, were able to join Helen as hosts. Lois is an alumna of Phillips and Drake; her parents are loyal Jarvis C.C. alumni. The following are excerpts from a recent summary she sent to the editor.

The Netherlands-
 "Seeing you was one of the very pleasant experiences of my visit to the United States this summer. It was a reunion in the real sense..."



Left to right: Helen Spaulding, Lois Mothershed-Pot, and Reubena M. S. Fox. Dr. Spaulding administered the Church's CWF program when Lois was a staff member.

"In preparation for the United Nation's 4th. World Conference in September 1995, I began a project with colleagues from the Dutch Association of University Women. We started with a workshop on combining work and family at the Regional Conference in Vienna, Austria.

During the Beijing Conference we presented the

same theme. We found that the problems facing the approximately 25,000 women there are universal. The cultural differences arise in the methods used to solve the problems. Something that grew out of my work as Special Projects Coordinator (for the Dutch Association of University Women) is my

(Continued on Page 5)

Untiring Warriors Honored- from Page 3

for 36 years, has received metro. regional and national acclaim for mobilizing St. Louis community leaders to address social issues.

Under his guidance the congregation has become a pioneer in the sponsorship of modern housing for seniors and handicapped persons. Recently various local, state and national dignitaries attended the dedication of a newly con-

structed unit named "Hylton Point Apartments" in his honor.

Robert L. Jordan, Sr. left the west coast as a young seminarian to "beat all odds" of "church experts" to establish a Disciples of Christ church in the major industrial center of Detroit. He became actively engaged in political and social action in the area. Later he was chair of the National Christian

Missionary Convention's Social Action Commission which served as the "Gadfly" to the conscience of the Church prior to the "Civil Rights Revolution" and the church's adoption of "The Merger Agreement" and related social policies.

These veterans remain active in dedicated ministry with the faithful support of wives and family members.

Lois, a former U.C.M.S. staff member serving Christian Womens Fellowship groups, says: "Our older son, Michael, is in the final stage of his law studies at the University of Amsterdam. The younger son works at one of the national TV stations in the graphics department. They're still active musicians. My husband and I are both on boards of orchestras; his is the Rotterdam Philharmonic and mine is a small chamber music orchestra. Of course, I often sing and Jim often plays for me"

In
Birmingham a
Strategic Plan
Committee of
the NCCC pro-
posed the fol-
lowing Goals
for 1996-2000:

1. Establish a leader-development process which empowers both clergy and lay African American members...to effectively carry out Christian mission and ministry.
 2. Challenge ourselves and the larger church to model the oneness expressed in the Gospel.
 3. Challenge every congregation to be faithful to its call to Christian ministry with
- (Continued on page 7)

"Oldtimers" and a "Baby Boomer" to Lead the NCCC

Birmingham, AL- Representatives of the congregations related to the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting here August 2-6, 1996 chose the following church workers to lead the organization for 1996-1998:

Della January, Springfield, OH, President. Mrs. January is a widow of a former Disciples minister. She has been active within the local and regional church; former National Convocation board member and officer; active with the Ministers Wives/Spouses Fellowship

James O. Griffin, Kilgore, TX- Vice-President. Dr. Griffin is a former school administra-

tor and ordained minister who has served on the NCCC board, moderated his regional church structure; currently heads the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship, and has served on General Church unit boards.

Belva Brown Jordan, Lancaster, PA. Secretary. Belva is the daughter of ministerial parents, deceased; the "Baby Boomer" who has been a general church staff administrator, and is now on the Lancaster College staff.

Harvey Thomas, Chicago, IL- Treasurer. Veteran church worker at all levels; member on several regional and general church boards, multiple experiences as a church leader and world traveler.

Advantages of Old Age

Growing older is a breeze. I don't have to do nuthin' - it just happens.

Sure there are negative aspects, like the aches and pains, but that even helps my social life. We all hurt all over, so the subject matter is endless.

The bunch I run around with are all in the same boat, so I never get left behind.

I even look better as I get older. I'm too fat to wrinkle, so I don't need a face lift. My life has been simplified. I look good in anything I wear, 'cause I can't see too well. I don't worry about high fashion either. I buy what I like: loose and baggy.

I even simplified my will. I just took a piece of paper and wrote on it, "Being of sound mind, I spent it all."

Lois Pot Up-Date

(Continued from page 4)

present work with migrants and refugees in Holland... This can involve anything from writing formal letter to local representatives to making their wishes known (lobbying) on a national and European level.

In November I am taking my group to Strasbourg, France to experience the European dimension of our work. We'll observe the work of the European Parliament for several days.

"In my group I have people from Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Philippines, Zaire, etc. We use Dutch, English and French in our training..."

I don't have to make big decisions anymore. I just concern myself with what color tennis shoes to wear to the wedding or whether McDonald's will sell me a Happy Meal.

I enjoy senior discounts too I plan to have my age tattooed right across my forehead.

(Continued on Page 6)

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:



Ethelyn E. Irvin

Stockton, CA- Ethelyn Elaire Conable Irvin, 74, died of pancreatic cancer Saturday, June 1, 1996.

Though a native of Ax-tell, KS, she had lived 58 years in California. After moving to Lakeport, CA when she was 16 years old, she met and married her husband, Karl Irvin, Jr.

She donated long years of service and membership on the Board of Directors to the Emergency Food Bank in Stockton where she and her husband lived for 32 years.

She shared in church life with her husband, the Rev. Karl Irvin, Jr. in pastorates in Sacramento, Woodland, Visalia, and Stockton and a short term of service at Chapman University in Orange, CA.

The family urged that flowers be supplanted by gift remembrances to Stockton's Emergency Good Bank. The Service of Celebration recorded that Ethelyn was a propagator of roses (and other flowers). Many who attended had roses in their gardens "nurtured into life by Ethelyn."

Survivors include: husband, Karl Irvin, Jr.; four daughters and sons-in-law; son and daughter-in-law; three grandsons and two granddaughters.



Lorraine Harris

Raymore, MO- Lorraine Harris, a 93 year old native of New Bloomfield, Missouri and member of Raymore Christian Church who passed away July 12, 1996. Friends remember her as the little lady who lived life with a twinkle in her eye. During her employment years she was a seamstress who became a Worthy Matron and District Deputy in the Eastern Star. She is survived by a daughter in New York City and sister in Redford, Michigan.

At the left Lorraine Harris reveals her "twinkle in the eye" life style by wearing a 1995 "Easter Hat" at Foxwood Spring's Living Center's impromptu Easter Style Show.

This "twinkle in the eye" was also revealed by the bows worn in her hair daily which always matched her attire.

She became Foxwood's model exhibit for faithful fitness walking. Five years ago following a hip operation, the doctor told her to walk. Lorraine agreed. She walked the halls at Foxwood three to four times daily.

GROWING OLD "A BREEZE"- Continued from Page 5

I don't even have to wonder if my teeth are clean.

I just taken them out and look at them.

I'm having more fun as I get older. I can go to sleep in church and people think I'm being grandmotherly.

I have learned to laugh at myself and to appreciate the child within. That's where my dreams and imagination

originate.

Growing old has nothing to do with the number of years you have lived. I am as old as my despair and as young as my faith.

I'm three-fourth of the way through my Living Grace Package and I'm eager to see what's at the BOTTOM.

SOURCE: Unknown- Contributed by Betty Bowman, Raymore, MO



(Continued
from Page 5)

persons inside the congregation, the community and the world.

4. Develop an effective recruitment system to increase the number of licensed and ordained African Americans in ministry.

The Task Group proposed 44 "objectives" necessary to achieve these major goals.

The Task Group was comprised by S. Greene, chair, Norma Ellington-Twitty, John R. Foulkes, L. Wayne Stewart, Sotello V. Long, and Richard Hamm.

"Oldtimer" Readers Now in Japan, Netherlands, Greece and Canada

T H A N K S

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The Oldtimers' Grapevine

The Challenge of Pain to the Soul *by Norman V. Peale*

How can you learn to live with pain if you must?

*Believe that pain can teach you something extra deep about life's values.

*Think of your pain as a release mechanism to bring greatness of spirit out of you.

*Realize that some pain may be psychic pain resulting from unhealthy thinking. Supplant that with healthy thinking.

*Banish hates, grudges, resentments and guilt. This will conserve energy

to meet your problems.

*Keep the atmosphere around you as peaceful, quiet and serene as possible.

*Practice the art of being cheerful.

*Believe that God has some purpose in your pain.

*Do pleasant and interesting things each day to counteract the unpleasantness of pain.

*Keep busy in a constructive way.

*Pray, and continue pray-

ing. As Brother Lawrence wrote, hundreds of years ago, "God is often...nearer to us, and more effectually present with us, in sickness than in health... Put then all your trust in him."

