

Disciples of Christ Historical Society

## Digital Commons @ Disciples History

---

Update on the Black Church

Stone-Campbell Movement Periodicals

---

1979

### Update on the Black Church, 1979

William K. Fox

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.discipleshistory.org/updateblackchurch>

---

# Up-Date ON THE BLACK CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Office of the Administrative Secretary Indianapolis, Indiana

## NECESSITY FOR BLACK EXCELLENCE

By Jesse Jackson, founder of PEOPLE UNITED TO SAVE HUMANITY, Chicago, Illinois



*EXCELLENCE in MUSIC - one model is Anthony (Butch) Jones, accomplished organist, Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Jones was co-director of music for the Fifth Assembly of the National Convocation.*



*EXCELLENCE in CHURCHMANSHIP - Dr. John R. Compton of United Church, Cincinnati, OH - on left - receives a leadership award during 5th Convocation assembly from Dr. Daniel Heath of Rockford, IL, on right. Compton will become the first Black Disciple regional minister in February 1979. (See Page 10).*

"We must excel for four very practical reasons. **First**, we must excel because racism forces us to be superior just to be equal. Those are our survival options as blacks in a white, racist society.

"**Second**, we must excel because we are behind and you catch up when you're behind either by the opposition falling down or by you running faster. In the last seven years there are 47 percent more whites in med school, 64 percent more in law school. They're not slowing down, so we must run faster. Then we must excel because competition is keener. Because of technology and cybernetics, fewer people are doing more things.

"We must also excel because the resistance to our upward mobility is now crystallizing, in the expression of Bakke, and Bakke is resistance to the upward mobility of blacks. **And lastly**, we must excel because we need the emotional security of conquering odds, the gratification that one receives from getting—from making it when the world said one could not. It's important. In other words, our inner strength, our inner security is related to our capacity to excel. So when the society says we can't we must be able to say we can. When it says we won't, we must be able to say we will, in fact, to achieve against those odds.

"Those are the kinds of reasons why we contend we must do more, we must have superiority. What makes me feel good is that I know that it's a possible dream as opposed to an impossible one. We can catch up academically. We can learn. If we are biologically and emotionally fit, we can learn. It is possible. And the cynics and pessimists must understand it is possible.

"We ought to excel. It is our moral responsibility to achieve the best that we can. And last, that we must, it is imperative because our survival is at stake. Mediocrity from us could be another way of a kind of slow suicide."

*from BLACK ENTERPRISE, Sept., 1978*

## LITTLE ROCK AUGUST, 1978

Black Disciples of Christ in the Christian Church took steps toward becoming a more significant part of the church in Little Rock, AR during the Fifth Biennial Assembly. The body approved a year-long study calling for strengthened relationships with the whole church as well as increased development of black congregations.

The Convocation is sending 13 recommendations to various general and regional bodies, committees and boards. The Convocation is recommending that:

1. It continue addressing the needs of the total Church as well as the particular needs of black congregations;
2. A second person be added to Convocation staff now consisting of an administrative secretary;
3. Church-wide financial support of the Convocation be increased;
4. Guidelines for a church-wide affirmative action program and an office for that purpose be established;
5. There be greater coordination of services provided by general staff who are black;
6. Leadership training for lay persons and clergy be improved;
7. The Convocation and other church events be used for program experiments.
8. Dialogue on issues of mutual concern of blacks and whites be initiated at the regional and local levels;
9. Minority persons be encouraged to submit articles, photographs and letters to *The Disciple*, the bi-monthly church magazine;
10. Church-wide financial support for **UP-DATE**, the Convocation's publication, be explored;
11. Church-wide effort to increase evangelism and to develop new congregations be initiated;
12. A study group explore ways the black leadership base of the Convocation can be expanded; and
13. Ways the Convocation may become a recognized organization in the mission of the church be explored.

The 740 participants in the Convocation also sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter urging him to do something about the "erosion in U.S. moral and humanitarian commitment." That erosion, they said, is reflected in the Supreme Court's Bakke decision, California's tax slashing Proposition 13 and negative reactions to United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young.

The Convocation asked the President to consider:

"The limiting legal arrangements

and historical mal-treatment" of Native Americans.

"Untoward conditions and miscarriage of justice" for thousands of minority persons in prison.

"Questionable judgements of some courts," such as in the case of 10 persons convicted of arson in a Wilmington, NC civil disturbance.

The Convocation commended the President for his support of Ambassador Young and urged him to probe deeply the "underlying realities" which prompted Young's statement that the U.S. has thousands of political prisoners.

Bishop H.H. Brookins of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Los Angeles, got the Disciples started talking about Bakke, Young and Proposition 13. Bishop Brookins, who gave three addresses, said Young may have made a political misstatement regarding U.S. political prisoners, but that the statement was true.

When judges free some people waiting trial and don't free others, those not freed are political prisoners, he said.

Another speaker, Dr. Yvonne Delk of the United Church of Christ staff in New York City, and Chairwoman of UCC Black Staff, called 1978 a crucial time for black witness "with our people dying in the ghettos and the pendulum of justice and social concern swinging from left to right."

Dr. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, told more than 500 attending the All-Convocation Banquet that blacks have been loyal to America and the time has come to collect. "We've got a blank check in our pockets and we want it cashed," he thundered to the crowd. He chided the church for "passing by on the other side of the road" when it comes to human need and said that blacks need to make certain that affirmative action takes place.

Among other speakers was Convocation president Oscar Haynes, Washington, DC layman who challenged the group to witness to the estimated 80 million Americans that he said have no formal church ties.

Bishop James L. Melvin, Goldsboro, NC, bishop of the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly of the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ), in the final Convocation sermon said "the great command to go into all nations and preach and teach has had more influence than any other sentence of the Bible."

"That command is still good today," said Bishop Melvin as he urged the Convocation to "become effective witnesses after leaving Little Rock."

The Convocation had met under the theme, "Go, Witness for Me."

Installed as officers for 1978-80

were Ozark Range Sr., Indianapolis, Ind., director of black ministry for the church, president; Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, Miss., school teacher, vice-president; Marjorie C. Parker, Indianapolis, coordinator of the Cooperative Office Education at Arsenal Technical High School, secretary; and Frank B. Bradley, Hagerstown, Md., pastor of Second Christian Church, treasurer.

The Convocation also elected officers for 1980-82, including Dr. Thomas G. Benjamin, Indianapolis, pastor of Second Christian Church, president.

*Christian Church News*

**ANY GROUP OF CHURCHES AND/OR REGION DESIRING TO HOST AN ASSEMBLY IN 1980, 1982 or 1984 SHOULD INDICATE THIS DESIRE BY DECEMBER 30, 1978.**



*Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.*

## LITTLE ROCK AND BEYOND

By Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.\*

I left the Little Rock Assembly of the National Convocation of the Christian Church with great appreciation for all the proceedings there. I was grateful for the inspiration, educational opportunities, fellowship and the business. I regard the report of the Task Force on the future of the convocation as highly significant and I am hoping that all of us who share in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will take the recommendations seriously. Indeed, the recommendations speak to us in ways that are frank and honest.

Certainly the Convocation has grown in numbers, and spirit because God has been with us. On the other hand, it has succeeded because everyone involved was willing to play his or her part. In every enterprise of life some must lead and some follow; some plan and some toil; some are architects, while others are

builders. But it does not greatly matter whether we are leaders or followers, architects or builders so long as we do the work cut out for us or fulfill the obligations to life in general, and the Christian life in particular to which God has called us. It is not what an individual does, but what that individual makes of himself that is important.

God does not judge us by how near we are to the top of the mountain, but by the direction in which we are climbing.

\*1st Vice-Moderator at the General Assembly and pastor of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, Mo.

## CONVOCAATION BOARD ACTIONS-OCT. 78

In addition to receiving reports and making general evaluations of Convocation work, the Board of Trustees meeting in Indianapolis, IN October 16-17, 1978 established task force groups to:

1. Evaluate the current status of Convocation income and expenditures and devise proposals for stabilization;
2. Review current practices for the production, distribution, and financing of UP-DATE and explore for additional resources;
3. Gather pertinent data on all official requests for hosting the biennial assemblies in 1980, 1982, and 1984;
4. Develop a detailed proposal for a National Disciples of Christ Crusade in consultation with appropriate Division of Homeland Ministries staff;
5. Develop a clear interpretation of what the Convocation's role and foci should be for the next quadrennial and
6. Develop a plan and criteria for selection of Black Disciples of Christ leaders for involvement in the institutional structures of the church.

## BLACK DISCIPLES ASSEMBLED AND CONVENED—

● Birmingham, Alabama - Approximately 125 persons representing 17 predominantly Black congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama convened at Macedonia Christian Church in the One-Hundredth Annual Session of the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention June 22-25, 1978.

There was emphasis on the centennial observance and the theme - GO WIT-

NESS FOR ME. Four resource persons from outside Alabama plus members of the Regional Church office staff joined President C.J. Hinson and Executive Secretary Earl Murray in the leadership of this historic event.

*Continued on Page 4*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Ozark Range, Indianapolis, IN*

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ. It is with a deep sense of pride and humility that I pen these few words for your perusal.

The National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as I perceive it, is what one might describe as a phenomenon! As I reflect upon its history and that of its predecessor, the National Christian Missionary Convention, I remember the predictions of death, loss of direction - at best an attitude of benign neglect. Some even suggested it would "just go away" in the manner of a Texas dust storm.

But, alas, it grew beyond our wildest dreams. Why? Only God knows. But I suspect that it was in order that we continue—as a Convocation—even more persistently to assist our denomination to become a stronger expression of the Church.

How can this be accomplished one may ask? I urge each one of you to help the Convocation monitor, advise, and impact the various church structures.

Let our presence be known. Let our purposes be clearly understood. And in a variety of ways, take and provide leadership that will enable the whole Church to respond affirmatively to the aspirations and dreams articulated by the Convocation.

I am firmly convinced that the whole church must take the leadership in securing racial justice and a consistent practice of love for all humankind.

## AWARDS GIVEN

Fourteen black Disciples received awards for outstanding service during the Fifth Assembly of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Little Rock.

The awards recognized service to the convocation, the church's black fellowship organization, and to the denomination.

Mrs. Marjorie C. Parker, Indianapolis, Ind., convocation secretary, presented the awards to:

Maldonia Jackson, Whitehall, Ala., and Carmen Gibson, Xenia, Ohio, for their "international witness." Miss Jackson spent two years as an English teacher in Japan and Miss Gibson served in Zambia and Jamaica, two years in each country.

Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C., and A.C. Stone, Cincinnati, Ohio for their service as laymen. Haynes is serving as the first lay president of the convocation and Stone initiated a fund for college and seminary scholarships.

Mrs. Edith K. Brooms, Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Cecilia G. Smith, London, Ky., as laywomen; T.R. Moore, pastor of Mount Sinai Christian Church, North Little Rock, Ark., as a minister; Thomas Lilly, Brooklyn, N.Y., minister of music of Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church; and Bishop S.W.R. Keyes, Jamesville, N.C., and Bishop Wilber D. Keyes, Roper, N.C., bishops of black assembly churches on the eastern seaboard.

Dr. and Mrs. William K. Fox, Indianapolis, Ind., were honored as an outstanding minister-wife team. He is administrative secretary of the convocation which represents some 70,000 black Disciples.

Also honored was the late Dr. C.L. Parks, an early staff member of the church's United Christian Missionary Society who worked for many years with black churches in North Carolina and who founded Greenleaf Christian Church at Goldsboro, N.C.

Each honoree received a plaque of the chalice and St. Andrews cross, symbol of the Christian Church.

## MAKING BUSINESS SMOOTH

Leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are proposing new steps to ease parliamentary logjams that tend to limit debate on issues at the church's massive General Assembly.

One possible step would be to schedule debate on major issues on dif-

*Continued on Page 6*

## BLACK DISCIPLES ASSEMBLED & CONVENED

From Page 3

● **Brooklyn, New York** - Persons representing 11 congregations of the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) in the Metropolitan New York - New Jersey area came to the St. Mary's Church of Christ for the Fourth Annual Assembly of the United Fellowship of the Churches of Christ, Inc. September 28 - October 1, 1978.

The theme was "Master Builders for Christ". Overseeing Bishop is Dr. J.W. Gardner. The presiding Bishop is Elder H. Stevens. (These congregations were formerly a part of the Northeastern District Assembly of the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ).)

The Assembly is active in establishing new congregations in Plainfield and New Brunswick, New Jersey where the witness of the Disciples of Christ is historically weak.

● **Goldsboro, North Carolina** - Approximately 1,000 persons representing 88 congregations attended the 106th Annual Assembly of the Churches of Christ (Disciples of Christ) held in the Goldsboro Disciples of Christ Institute October 17-22, 1978.

Bishop J.L. Melvin and First - and Second - Vice Bishops M.W. Johnson and Ben Sutton, Jr., respectively, led the enthusiastic gathering in considering the theme: WHAT DO WE TREASURE?

Important actions of the Assembly included:

1. **Approval for ordination** as a preaching elder by the Board of Ministry - Elizabeth Hammonds and George Royal. (Ten persons were tested.)

2. **Advised the Committee on Holy Orders** to bring back some suggested "guidelines" for the reinstatement of an "Evangelistic License" credential for "those ministers who do not want to pastor."

3. **Agreed to ask the Board of Elders** to maintain a mission work in a relocated place for the St. Mary's church in Wilmington, NC.

4. **Planned to help Elder L.D. Melvin, Jr.** launch the first Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ mission work in Raleigh, NC November 5, 1978.

5. **Gave the pastors** of some 50 congregations "30 days grace" to complete their reports to the District.

6. **Contributed \$929** in free will offerings to buy an artificial leg for a minister.

7. **Adopted eight Political Action Committee recommendations** which encouraged the

● establishment of a "permanent Political

FIFTH ASSEMBLY FINANCE REPORT*				
National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)				
Little Rock, Arkansas		August 2-6, 1978		Convention Center
INCOME				
Source:	Budget	Via Gen. Office	At Assembly	Total
Registrations	\$ 7,412.50	\$ 6,679.06	\$ 2,098.40	\$ 8,777.46
Donations (\$19.78)	2,500.00	3,098.32	44.78	3,143.10
Church Units	2,000.00	500.00	---	500.00
CMF (banquet)	1,200.00	---	3,182.00	3,182.00
Offerings	2,000.00	---	2,482.36	2,482.36
Ministers Benevolence	---	245.00	---	245.00
Program Book	1,500.00	---	---	---
Exhibitors	1,500.00	1,723.50	140.00	1,863.50
Sales	500.00	---	129.13	129.13
Star Supporter	7,500.00	1,759.78	3,735.45	5,495.23
Ministers Wives	5,000.00	1,173.60	5,152.20	6,325.80
Luncheons-Dinners				
Jarvis		716.53		
Overseas			277.00	
CWF			667.50	
Min. Wives			165.00	
Ministers			260.00	
UCC-Disc.			50.00	
Miscellaneous (gifts, etc)			350.00	350.00
Convocation Supplement	2,000.00	---	---	---
	\$33,112.50	\$15,895.79	\$18,733.82	\$34,629.61
DISBURSEMENTS				
Item:				
School Operation	\$ 1,500.00	41.07	\$ ---	\$ 41.07
Overseas Leaders	---	---	651.54	651.54
Keynoters	2,500.00	458.11	2,015.00	2,473.22
Banquet	1,200.00	3,019.63	836.57	3,856.20
Music Leaders	400.00	715.70	485.00	1,200.70
Worship Materials	250.00	350.79	---	350.79
Awards, Buttons	750.00	762.71	---	762.71
Promotional Materials	2,750.00	2,472.36	183.89	2,656.25
Ministers Benevolence	1,200.00	---	---	---
Program Book	1,200.00	683.30	---	683.30
Housing	---	---	120.00	120.00
Host Committee	1,200.00	2,072.52	---	2,072.52
Program Committee	1,750.00	2,199.34	---	2,199.34
Star Supporter	7,500.00	5,495.23	---	5,495.23
Ministers Wives	5,000.00	6,325.80	---	6,325.80
Activities	---	---	---	2,501.03
Lunch-Dinners				
Jarvis		993.03		
Overseas		287.00		
CWF		675.00		
Min. Wives		173.74		
Ministers		256.26		
UCC-Disc.		116.00		
Equipment-rentals and Convention Center	3,500.00	1,747.52	1,310.49	3,058.01
Gratuities	350.00	312.50	550.00	862.50
Miscellaneous	800.00	1,005.01	---	1,121.01
TOTAL	\$31,850.00	\$30,162.62	\$ 6,172.49	\$36,335.11
*Pending Audit				

October 9, 1978

tical Action Committee in all" congregations

- voter registration
- taking a stand "on political and moral issues which vitally affect the Church" (i.e. pornography, legal abortion and homosexuality)
- opposing "liquor by the drink" issue

- attendance at "city council meetings to keep abreast with current issues, &
- writing state and federal government representatives "expressing issues that come before them."

Presiding Bishop Melvin is pastor of the St. Mark Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, and attended Jarvis Christian College.

### ● **Newton Grove, North Carolina**

The 106th Session of the Western Assembly Disciples of Christ convened in the White Oak Disciples of Christ Church November 1-5, 1978 to consider the theme: MOVING AHEAD WITH FAITH AND WORKS. Elder C.J. Williams, the youngest bishop among the Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ, presided.

Among the features were the leadership workshop under the direction of Associate Regional Minister Karey Gee of Wilson, NC and the "Miss Western Assembly for 1978-79" contest.

Ernest Newborn, Administrative Director for Reconciliation, Indianapolis, Indiana, shared in the Assembly as a general Church staff representative.

## BRADLEY ON JAMAICA

Drawing upon his experience in Jamaica about one year ago, Elder Frank Bradley of Washington, D.C. is giving the following counsel to concerned persons.

Creative interaction in the name of the Church of Christ could take place if increased effort was made for:

1. a pastoral exchange program to be worked out with one or more of the congregations on the Island, allowing one or more of the pastors to visit the States at least from six to eight weeks;
2. a cultural exchange program be initiated among the young people. There are some very talented young people in our churches there;
3. a look into the possibilities of a Disciples' Home for the aged. There is no such facility on the island.
4. a Directed Study/Practicum program be set up with the churches there, permitting some of our young ministers an opportunity to get field experience. He or she should be given college credits for time spent and work done.

Brother Bradley, formerly minister at Second Christian Church in Hagerstown, MD, is Treasurer of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

## BLACKS VICTIMS OF HISTORY

By Joseph S. Saunders

"Blacks in this country as well as in Africa have long been victims of history," said Bokanga Lokulutu, African student from Zaire who is currently completing graduate study in political science at the University of Illinois.

"You have had your slavery period; we have been colonized. I would not like my brothers and sisters here or in Africa to again be such victims," Mr. Lokulutu added.

Mbandaka, a city in the Equator Region of Zaire, is home to Mr. Lokulutu. He has been in the United States since 1975 - first in St. Paul, Minnesota for undergraduate work and now at Urbana, Illinois.

"The key issue for blacks wherever they are," said the political science student, "is the concept of so-called inferior race."

"No race is inferior or superior.

Blacks must show themselves as important as other races. They don't have to have any complex. They must occupy their place in society."

During his three years in America, Mr. Lokulutu's association has been mostly with students. He found black Americans friendly but was curious about their habit of isolating themselves.

"They always sit by themselves," he said "and do not identify with white students." The African visitor wondered whether it was self-segregation or fear of losing their identity.

Mr. Lokulutu also found black American students more or less indifferent to their African brothers.

"Neither of us should develop complexes in this area," he said. "We must not only establish identity with each other, but develop a spirit of cooperation between whites and blacks."

"If we continue to identify by groups, we will never solve our problems," said the student from Zaire. "We have much in common - race, history. And American blacks with a better understanding of Africa's problems can be helpful to us."

Mr. Lokulutu felt that whites served as hosts to Africans because of the nature of the foreign student program. He did not know whether or not black families were being asked or applying to accept African students.

## EARLY PAY-OFF

The pastor and members of Bentley Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Knoxville, Tennessee, are shouting with "tidings of great joy." The last payment on the church mortgage was paid in September 1978 - **five years** before the date of maturity!

This church was built in 1967 under the leadership of the late Elder H.C. Poston. Now after eleven years of mortgage payments it is debt-free.

With God's help, the dedication and efforts of the members, and the motivation of Pastor Titus Haynes, the church has paid off the mortgage balance of \$10,000 in eight months. Dr. Haynes, former pastor of Salem Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) in New York, came to Bentley in January 1978, and he is already known in the church and community as "a God-sent man of action".

A mortgage celebration is scheduled for January 26-28, 1979, highlighting the Reverend Raymond E. Brown, vice-president of the Board of Church Extension (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis, Indiana as keynoter.

## Our Colleges



### \$35,000 GRANT

Dr. E.W. Rand, President of Jarvis Christian College, at Hawkins, Texas, has announced that Jarvis was awarded a "Presidential Discretionary Fund" grant of \$35,000 from the Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund, Inc.

Jarvis Christian College was one of twelve educational institutions affiliated with the United Negro College Fund to receive the grant. These institutions are all private, predominantly black, four-year undergraduate colleges. The funds will be disbursed at each school at the discretion of the college president over a two-to three-year period.

The presidents of all UNCF undergraduate colleges were invited to submit an application letter to the Klingenstein Fund. The grants were awarded according to the merits of the application letters.

"The Klingenstein Fund grants are uniquely sensitive to the varying needs of our institutions," said Christopher F. Eddy, Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund. "Black Colleges today are being forced to stretch their limited resources. This program offers an imaginative new approach for the schools' current financial concerns."

### CENTER OPENS

Jarvis' new Learning Center has opened on the lower level of the Olin Building Reading Lab, under the sponsorship of the Division of Basic Studies.

The Learning Center offers services for students on an individual referral and drop-in basis with personalized tutorial sessions or short courses in speed-reading and comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, writing sentences, paragraphs, essays and research papers, notetaking, preparation for exams, mathematics, and other learning skills.

"The purpose," says Ms. Jacquelin Rand, Director, "is always one of both helping the student to perform better in the classroom and to experience personal growth."



# For Whom the Bells Toll

**BLAIR T. HUNT, 90**, Pastor Emeritus of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN died July 26, 1978. He was born October 1, 1888 to Blair Theodore and Emma (House) Hunt. He was married to Ernestine Jacobs. They had three sons—Blair, Wilson and Ernest. The Rev. Hunt was an educator, a civic and a religious leader. He received his master's degree in education from Tennessee State U., his bachelor of theology from Roger Williams U., and his Associate of Arts degree from Harvard U.

Hunt was principal of Booker T. Washington High School for 27 years, and a member of the Shelby County Board of Education up to the time of his death. During his administration, the city's first athletic field for blacks was built.

His participation in civic affairs included a fund drive for the Iroquois Division of Girl Scouts which raised enough money to build a camp, starting a YMCA for blacks, chairman of the board for the Abe Scharff YMCA, and directing the Shelby County TB fund drive for blacks. He was president of Tri-State Fair for 10 years, a board member of the Historical Society, and a trustee of Tougaloo College in Mississippi. Hunt served as a first lieutenant with the 340th Service Battalion during World War I. He was also a political leader in his community.

Blair T. Hunt was given an award in 1947 by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for his outstanding contributions to his community. A \$250,000 gymnasium constructed on the campus of Booker T. Washington High School was named in his honor.

When in 1921 the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church was organized, Hunt was chosen to be its first minister. He helped to organize two other Christian Churches—Walker Memorial and Riverview in Memphis. He served on both the state and national board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and was a president at the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. before it ceased to meet in 1969. Dr. Benjamin Hooks, executive secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—a co-worker with Dr. Hunt when he served a Baptist congregation in Memphis, brought the eulogy.

**MRS. DEETSY BLACKBURN GRAY** died in Indianapolis, IN Sept. 24, 1978. Memorial services were held Sept. 27, 1978 in Indianapolis. Following a long residency in St. Louis, MO and the death of her husband, she joined a sister in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Gray began her long career as an eighth grade teacher at a mission school at Lum, Alabama from 1915 to 1920 under the auspices of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. She was the first woman field worker with Patrick Henry Moss doing leadership training for Sunday Schools in black Disciples of Christ congregations, and the first black technical employee secured by the Christian Board of Publication.

After marriage in 1927 to Prince Albert Gray, she played a very active role in his ministries at Second Christian Church, Fulton, Missouri and later when he was evangelist for the state of Missouri, and finally when he was minister for the Centennial Christian Church of St. Louis, Missouri. Following retirement, the Grays joined Union Avenue Christian Church of St. Louis where Mrs. Gray became an involved and highly respected member. The Rev. R.H. Peoples of Indianapolis brought the eulogy.

## MAKING BUSINESS SMOOTH

*From Page 3*

ferent days than the motions and votes on those issues.

Another would be to allow greater freedom in combining similar business items into a single action before they reach the assembly.

A third would bar resolutions that take the same position the preceding General Assembly has taken, unless it can be shown that the conditions have changed substantially.

The 43-member Administrative Committee of the church, 60 per cent of it lay persons, spent a major portion of its regular meeting in Indianapolis October 27-29 dealing with possible assembly procedure changes.

The proposals were pulled together from ideas offered by church members following a controversial 1977 General

Assembly in Kansas City. Much of the Kansas City time dealt with the explosive homosexual issue and some participants complained that debate was dominated by parliamentary wrangling and not the issues.

The proposals for reform still are in flux. The Administrative Committee will meet again March 11-13. The committee's final recommendations will go to the Disciples' General Board July 28-31.

*Christian Church News*

## SUMMER 1978 ECHOES

**DETROIT, MI** - "Tell somebody my family says, 'Thank you.'" These words of appreciation were spoken to Pastor LaMar Clark of United Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this summer by a young man who had just learned somebody would pay his way to camp, since he did not have any money.

In a Fall report letter, Dr. Clark tried to tell all the "somebodies" who contributed to the more than \$4,000-Pathfinder Program, sponsored by the congregation, "thank you." Some 105 children were served in the Summer program; 51 attended Camp Crystal for a week.

"On Youth Day, July 30, 1978," writes Pastor Clark, "four of our young people came forward for baptism along with the mother of one of our campers. Several other persons who had no previous acquaintance with United Christian Church, have come to know the Disciples of Christ through the Pathfinder Program. They have expressed a desire to affiliate with United."

The General Reconciliation Committee, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Michigan, First Congregational Church of Royal Oak, Michigan; North Congregational Church of Southfield, Michigan joined faithful members in the United congregation to give youth what Dr. Clark terms "a cold glass of ice water" this Summer.

**NASHVILLE, TN** - Vacation Bible School at the Alameda Christian Church July 24-28, 1978 grew from a total of 75 involved on opening day to 145 by the time it ended. There was an average of 98 in attendance daily with one feature being an adult class (31 years old up) which had an enrollment of sixteen.

A weiner roast in Hadley Park on Saturday, and a Sunday afternoon program of readings, skits, songs, and a dialogue and monologue closed out the

Christian education experience.

Director for the event was Mrs. Alean S. Bowser, with teachers being Sisters Mary Lake, Carol Merritt, Susie Matthews, Lizzie M. Morton, Anna Lyons, Beverly Jordan, Margaret Berry, Tina Crawford, Annette Jackson; also Annette Phillips, Laura Grant and Sallie Sisson.

Associated with the director in Administration were Sisters Donna Crowder, refreshment chairperson; Leona Sullivan, assistant director; also Brothers George Johnson, Church School Superintendent and H. Browser, coordinator and Pastor.

**WICHITA, KS** - The North Heights Christian Church was among the several predominantly Black Disciples of Christ congregations which sent women to attend the Sixth International Christian Womens Fellowship Quadrennial Assembly at Purdue University, Lafayette, IN June 26-30, 1978. Those commissioned by Pastor G. Ellison to go were Sisters Audrey Graves, Jessie Robinson, Lola B. Jones, Jean Pouncil, and Deborah Hutchinson.

**MEMPHIS, TN** - Women from the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church sent to the CWF Quadrennial Assembly were Sisters Sharon Boyle, Elise P. Sanford, Lucy Coleman, Lula Mae Murphy, Emily L. Jackson, Janet Johnson, F.W. Johnson, Emma Lee Wilson, Jimmie Mitchell, Anne H. Striddling, Cathy O'Conner, Shadyne Williams and H.C. Poston.

**BATH, SC** - Sister Eliza Cave, president of the CWF department of the South Carolina Christian Missionary Convention, and member of the Sixth International CWF Assembly program committee, recruited attendants from the entire region of South Carolina. Some 26 women were recruited - 14 of them were Black. They all journeyed to Lafayette, IN and back in a chartered bus.

## LEWIS CMF VICE-PRESIDENT

Rufus Lewis, layman in the Jeffries Memorial Christian Church of Birmingham, AL, is the new first vice-president of the Christian Men's Fellowship in the Alabama-Northwest Region.

Brother Lewis was elected during the 1978 regional men's retreat held here at Hargis Retreat Center in September. He served as song leader and conducted a workshop at the retreat.

The election of Lewis and presence of 12 blacks among the 79 men in attendance, is an indication of the strong and democratic leadership being given by Regional Minister Carl Flock.



### 1976 - 1978 STAR SUPPORTER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Before the Fifth Assembly  
(After Fourth 1976 Assembly  
Nashville, TN)

Effie L. Blair . . . . .	\$50.00
Loraine J. Groves . . . . .	5.00
Central Christian Church, Indpls. . . . .	250.00
Memorial Blvd. Church, St. Louis. . . . .	150.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>

1977

John E. Covington . . . . .	\$20.00
Lucille B. Boston . . . . .	5.00
Adult Bible Classes-Park Manor . . . . .	61.00
Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship . . . . .	450.00
Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund, Dayton . . . . .	500.00
Memorial Blvd. Church, St. Louis. . . . .	230.00
Canada Drive Church (J. Colbert). . . . .	10.00
Christian Church Arlington Hts. . . . .	100.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,376.00</b>

1978

(Before the Convocation Fifth Assembly)

Donald Rogers . . . . .	\$15.00
Ruth Hobbs . . . . .	15.00
Gregg Brown . . . . .	10.00
Jesse Hawkins . . . . .	25.00
Wm. & Reubena Fox . . . . .	15.00
Jason Cowan . . . . .	50.00
Helen Cleaver . . . . .	50.00
Lola B. Greer . . . . .	15.00
Lillian Peel . . . . .	15.00
Beverly Warrick . . . . .	15.00
Mrs. Jacob Rolla . . . . .	19.78
Fletcher Fountain . . . . .	15.00
Peter James . . . . .	15.00
Annie L. Harris . . . . .	5.00
Rosa Page Welch . . . . .	15.00
Claudia Bennett . . . . .	25.00
James A. Noe . . . . .	15.00
Lester Rickman . . . . .	15.00
Carnella J. Barnes . . . . .	50.00
Jimmie Gentle . . . . .	25.00
James Ratten . . . . .	20.00
T.J. Liggett . . . . .	15.00
Janie L. Saulsbury . . . . .	5.00
Jack & Jennie Oliver . . . . .	40.00
Mary V. Moore . . . . .	15.00
Florence D. Jones . . . . .	25.00
Effie & Owen Burford . . . . .	25.00
Bessie E. Chandler . . . . .	15.00
Eunice Miller . . . . .	20.00
William J. Alphin . . . . .	15.00
James T. Chandler, Sr. . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Richard L. Cole . . . . .	10.00

William M. Smith . . . . .	25.00
Ronald Graham . . . . .	50.00
Donald B. Rogers . . . . .	15.00
Zellie M. Peoples . . . . .	10.00
North Heights Church (Wichita). . . . .	15.00
Mission Clay Pro. Corp. . . . .	50.00
Hillside Christian Church (Indpls). . . . .	15.00
Fifth Christian Church (Cincinnati). . . . .	50.00
Central Christian Church (Enid, OK) . . . . .	75.00
Memorial Blvd. Church (St. Louis) . . . . .	30.00
Central Christian Church (Kansas City, MO)	300.00
Webster Groves Church (St. Louis) . . . . .	400.00

Sub-Total \$1704.78

Contributions During Convocation Fifth Assembly - 1978	
Philip & Ada Myrick . . . . .	20.00
Jacob Sakiel . . . . .	10.00
John Cromer . . . . .	10.00
Ruth B. Ward . . . . .	10.00
John Carpenter . . . . .	10.00
Nurses Union, Fellowship Ch. Phil. . . . .	5.00
Christian Church, Capital Area . . . . .	100.00
James & Mary Griggsby . . . . .	30.00
John M. & Vyrle Brown . . . . .	30.00
Rev. James W. Smedly . . . . .	15.00
Jacqua L. Brown . . . . .	15.00
Ella Patterson . . . . .	15.00
Lucille Morrison . . . . .	15.00
Willow St. Ch. Ch. Chicago, IL . . . . .	50.00
Ruth B. Stott . . . . .	15.00
Marjorie Hill Johnson . . . . .	20.00
Wm.K. & Reubena Fox . . . . .	25.00
Dr. Lamar Clark . . . . .	10.00
C.W. Spencer . . . . .	10.00
Edgar Whitlock . . . . .	10.00
Rev. Delores Carpenter . . . . .	25.00
Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden . . . . .	25.00
Miss. Christian Missionary Conv. . . . .	50.00
Park Manor Christian Church:	
Mrs. Mabel O. Walker . . . . .	10.00
Messrs. Bailey & Markham . . . . .	10.00
Mr./Mrs. Henry Edwards . . . . .	10.00
Mr./Mrs. Albert Daniels . . . . .	15.00
Montee T. Akers, Jr. . . . .	10.00
Richard & Dolores Highbaugh . . . . .	10.00
Stephen Garrison . . . . .	10.00
Aelma Brown . . . . .	5.00
Evalyn Smith . . . . .	10.00
Rosa Lee Clay . . . . .	10.00
Julie Hawkins . . . . .	15.00
Geraldine Mattries . . . . .	10.00
Agnes D. Yarbrough . . . . .	10.00
Helen C. Lewis . . . . .	10.00
B.V. Price . . . . .	10.00
Fletcher M. Walker Jr. . . . .	20.00
Eldna Herford . . . . .	6.00
Marcella S. Johnson . . . . .	10.00
E. Toy Fletcher . . . . .	10.00
Ester Fletcher . . . . .	10.00
Rosalie Greenwood . . . . .	10.00
Rev. Charles H. Webb . . . . .	25.00
James R. Ford . . . . .	10.00
Elvie L. Thomas . . . . .	7.00
Amelia Webb . . . . .	25.00
Henry Hawkins . . . . .	15.00
Star Supporter Bkfst. . . . .	50.00
Arcola H. Simmons . . . . .	10.00
Eva M. Scott . . . . .	20.00
Rubena Adams . . . . .	5.50
Mary Shine . . . . .	10.00
Frank Adams . . . . .	25.00
Ella M. Simmonds . . . . .	10.00
Norma L. Cody . . . . .	10.00
Mr./Mrs. Anderson . . . . .	12.00
Martha Shine . . . . .	10.00
Silar Norman . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Ora Thomas . . . . .	1.00
Mr./Mrs. Willie Wilson . . . . .	20.00
Gertrude J. Webb . . . . .	10.00
Esther Lee Turner . . . . .	5.00
Ms. Carolyn Asbury . . . . .	10.00
Artie M. Scott . . . . .	7.50
Jane Pleas . . . . .	10.00
Beatrice Jackson . . . . .	10.00
Mattie B. Pelton . . . . .	5.00
Bernette Glover . . . . .	10.00

Continued on Page 16

# PICTORIAL REFLECTIONS ON



"GO WITNESS FOR ME"

By Robert L. Brock

Many people in this world have never heard the Good News About Jesus Christ, The Living Word Who came to earth to set men free. So He speaks and says "Go Witness For Me."

Go to those still living in sin. And to the ones mistreated by the world. Even those lost out on life's path. If you're a Christian, "Go Witness For Me."

Go to those who are fighting the good fight. And to the many who are in need. Help them to look up, my friends. I want you to "Go Witness For Me."

Souls are hungry, wanting to know the truth. They need the Living Water of Life. No one seems to hear their plea. So I need you to "Go Witness For Me."

You should tell others what I have told you. For I have blessed you and your family. If you plan to live throughout your life. Then you must "Go Witness For Me."

\*Minister, Jeffries Memorial Church, Birmingham, Alabama

# THE FIFTH ASSEMBLY EVENT



melot  
nn

ME"  
\*  
not heard  
/ord,  
ee,  
ess For Me."  
en.  
s For Me".  
he alley,  
ow's valley.  
o see.  
Me".  
fed.  
Living Bread.  
or Me".  
done for you,  
cted you too.  
ernity  
Me".  
Church,

## COMPTON TO IND. REG. OFFICE

Dr. John R. Compton of Cincinnati, Ohio, pastor, will become the first black regional minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada February 1.

Dr. Compton, pastor of United Christian Church, will take the chief executive position for the Christian Church in Indiana and will be based in Indianapolis.

As Indiana's regional executive Dr. Compton will have spiritual oversight of 219 congregations with approximately 70,000 members and administrative oversight of regional programs of evangelism, education, leadership development, ministry and stewardship.

Regional moderator Mrs. Marilyn Moffett of Waynetown, in announcing his election by the board, praised Dr. Compton as "an able administrator, an effective preacher, a good listener" who has served congregations, regions and the denomination.

"He believes in the oneness of the church and that the church is called upon by God to speak to and show love and concern for individuals as well as society as a whole," she said.

Dr. Compton has pastored the Ohio congregation for 25 of the past 30 years, serving from 1948-66 and from 1971 to the present. He also pastored Fulton Street Christian Church in Palestine, Texas, from 1944-48.

Dr. Compton served as associate regional minister for Ohio from 1966-69. He was assistant to the general minister and president of the denomination and administrative secretary of its National Convocation, a black fellowship body, from 1969-71.

He was second vice-moderator of the denomination from 1973-75. Currently, he is on the Commission on Budget Evaluation, the allocating body of the church.

Dr. Compton chaired the church's race-and-poverty program steering committee from 1970-77 and the committee on black church work from 1971-72, serving until 1976.

He was president of the National Christian Missionary Society, the predecessor of the National Convocation, in 1960 and was on the board of trustees of the United Christian Missionary Society from 1960-66.

Active in community organizations,

*Continued on Page 12*

(Half Year Response Roll Call)

### GIVING OF CONVOCATION CONGREGATIONS

(From the Church Finance Council report August 1, 1978. The number behind each state indicates the number of convocation-related congregations in the state) January 1, 1978 - June 30, 1978

Basic Mission Finance (BMF) Reconciliation (REC) Week of Compassion (WOC)

CHURCH NAME	BMF	REC	WOC	TOTAL
<b>ALABAMA (17)</b>				
Big Union	\$ 30.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 30.00
Jeffries Memorial	200.00	---	---	200.00
Macedonia	125.00	---	---	125.00
Mount Olive	---	---	5.00	5.00
Mount Pleasant	---	---	12.00	12.00
New Hope	25.00	---	75.00	100.00
Ross Street	---	---	34.74	34.74
Second	14.00	---	12.00	26.00
Snow Hill	10.00	---	16.00	26.00
Region Totals	\$ 404.00	\$ ---	\$ 154.74	\$ 558.74
<b>ARKANSAS (6)</b>				
Cross Street	\$ 451.93	\$ ---	\$ 50.00	\$ 501.93
Edwards Chapel	10.00	---	---	10.00
Mount Sinai	169.72	---	85.13	254.85
Regional Totals	\$ 631.65	\$ ---	\$ 135.13	\$ 766.78
<b>CALIFORNIA-SOUTH (5)</b> (No registration)				
	---	---	---	---
<b>CALIFORNIA-NORTH (1)</b>				
Mills Grove	\$ 132.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 132.00
Region Totals	\$ 132.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 132.00
<b>CAPITAL AREA (4)</b>				
Mount Olivet	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00	\$ ---	250.00
Second	160.00	---	---	160.00
Twelfth Street	---	---	400.00	400.00
Regional Totals	\$ 360.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 810.00
<b>FLORIDA (6)</b>				
Eastside Avenue	\$ 20.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 20.00
Regional Totals	\$ 20.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 20.00
<b>GEORGIA (10)</b>				
Bethel	\$ 10.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 10.00
Evergreen	10.00	---	---	10.00
Welcome Hope	50.00	---	20.00	70.00
Regional Totals	\$ 70.00	\$ ---	\$ 20.00	\$ 90.00
<b>ILLINOIS (6)</b>				
Park Manor	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 200.00	\$ ---	\$ 2,700.00
Parkway Gardens	98.25	---	423.05	521.30
Second (Rock)	---	---	50.00	50.00
Washington Park	10.00	---	5.00	15.00
Regional Totals	\$ 2,608.25	\$ ---	\$ 478.05	\$ 3,286.30
<b>INDIANA (2)</b>				
Second	\$ 4,653.67	\$ ---	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 5,853.67
Regional Totals	\$ 4,653.67	\$ ---	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 5,853.67
<b>KANSAS (5)</b>				
Morgan Avenue	\$ 40.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 40.00
North Heights	245.00	130.00	179.00	554.00
Second (Atchison)	100.00	---	---	100.00
Second (Lawrence)	---	---	15.00	15.00
Regional Totals	\$ 385.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 194.00	\$ 709.00
<b>KENTUCKY (26)</b>				
Broadway	\$ 65.06	\$ ---	\$ 18.50	\$ 83.56
Campbell Street	20.00	---	---	20.00
Central (Louisville)	---	25.00	---	25.00
E. Second (Lexington)	120.00	---	20.00	140.00
Fairview	178.01	---	---	178.01
High Street	145.00	---	202.60	347.60
Hill Street	134.43	---	25.40	159.83
Little Rock	15.00	---	10.00	25.00

CHURCH NAME	BMF	REC	WOC	TOTAL
North Main	36.06	---	23.75	59.81
Second (Mays Lick)	39.05	---	---	39.05
Seventh Street	25.00	---	---	25.00
Third	357.05	50.00	133.00	540.05
Regional Totals	\$ 1,134.66	\$ 75.00	\$ 433.25	\$ 1,642.91
<b>MICHIGAN (3)</b>				
United (Detroit)	\$ 600.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,150.00
Regional Totals	\$ 600.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,150.00
<b>MISSISSIPPI (27)</b>				
Central (Vicksburg)	\$ 20.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 20.00
Christian Chapel	281.35	110.00	126.55	517.90
First (Mound Bayou)	---	---	17.70	17.70
First (Shaw)	10.00	---	---	10.00
Indianola	---	45.00	---	45.00
St. Luke	60.00	---	---	60.00
United (Jackson)	---	---	74.89	74.89
Regional Totals	\$ 371.35	\$ 155.84	\$ 219.14	\$ 746.33
<b>MISSOURI (17)</b>				
Centennial	\$ 888.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,093.00
Central (Kansas City)	600.00	---	---	600.00
Fifth St. (Columbia)	---	---	72.00	72.00
Second (Frankford)	25.00	---	12.50	37.50
Second (Fulton)	97.25	---	---	97.25
Second (Jeff City)	150.00	120.00	100.00	370.00
Second (New London)	30.00	---	---	30.00
Second (Vandalia)	160.00	---	60.00	220.00
West Paseo	619.70	25.00	---	644.70
Willow Street	51.00	---	63.07	114.07
Region Totals	\$ 2,620.95	\$ 250.00	\$ 407.57	\$ 3,278.52
<b>NORTHEASTERN (11)</b>				
Friendship	\$ ---	\$ 40.00	\$ ---	\$ 40.00
Mount Zion	50.00	---	---	50.00
Park Avenue (E. Orange)	225.00	---	173.25	398.25
Second (Bronx)	---	---	48.25	48.25
Williamsburg	300.00	---	100.00	400.00
Region Totals	\$ 575.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 321.50	\$ 936.50
<b>NORTH CAROLINA (181)</b>				
Antioch(WinstonSalem)	\$ 15.67	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 15.67
Cleveland Ave.(Win.Sal.)	181.00	---	140.00	321.00
First (Concord)	---	---	200.00	200.00
First (Riedsville)	200.00	---	---	200.00
Goddard's Hill	10.00	---	---	10.00
Greenleaf(Goldsboro)	570.00	---	---	570.00
Grifton Chp. (Grifton)	230.00	---	---	230.00
Grove Park (Kinston)	569.64	---	---	569.64
Macedonia (Wilson)	10.00	---	---	10.00
St. James (Fountain)	40.67	---	151.10	191.77
St. James (Belhaven)	---	---	100.00	100.00
St. Luke (Tarboro)	---	---	70.00	70.00
St. Peter (Kinston)	---	---	107.00	107.00
Union Chapel (Roper)	100.00	---	---	100.00
Uniontown	30.00	---	---	30.00
Zion Grove (Columbia)	---	---	90.00	90.00
Region Totals	\$ 1,956.98	\$ ---	\$ 858.10	\$ 2,815.08
<b>OHIO (19)</b>				
Bond Hill	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Dunham	---	---	30.00	30.00
Faith United (Canton)	---	170.00	75.00	245.00
Fifth (Cincinnati)	250.00	150.00	150.00	550.00
Fifth (Cleveland)	100.00	75.00	---	175.00
First United (Xenia)	153.12	---	49.00	202.12
Lincoln Avenue	---	---	189.23	189.23
United (Cincinnati)	4,325.00	1,200.00	---	5,525.00
Regional Totals	\$ 4,828.12	\$ 1,645.00	\$ 593.23	\$ 7,066.35
<b>OKLAHOMA (6)</b>				
East Sixth Street	\$ 300.00	\$ ---	\$ 21.25	\$ 321.25
Pine Street	31.50	---	23.36	60.86
Second (Muskogee)	25.00	---	---	25.00
Wildewood	415.00	115.00	---	530.00
Region Totals	\$ 777.50	\$ 115.00	\$ 44.61	\$ 937.11

Continued on Page 12

# LIBERATION AND JUSTICE ISSUES

Financial contributions to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People between now and December 31, 1978 is vital to the life and effectiveness of this oldest and very important civil rights organization. Dr. William K. Fox, Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation and Convocation President Ozark Range are on a National NAACP AD-HOC RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS TASK FORCE which has documented the critical need! It will continue beyond December 31!

October 16, 1978 the Board of Trustees voted to urge all Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Churches of Christ (Disciples of Christ) congregations to promote "individual memberships" in the NAACP. Annual memberships cost \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00 and up. Youth membership (under 17) is \$1.00; (17 to 21 years old) \$2.00. A Life Membership is \$500.00. Memberships of \$10.00 and up include one year's subscription to *The Crisis* magazine.

They can be sent to the NAACP, 1790 Broadway, New York, NY 10019 or your local NAACP branch.

USE THE COUPON PROVIDED IN THIS ISSUE TO LET THE CONVOCATION OFFICE KNOW THAT YOU ARE JOINING THE NAACP AND/OR ARE GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

## OTHER ISSUES - ACTIONS

**Hunger** - Urge your U.S. Representative or Senator to vote "food for development" encouraging aid-receiving countries toward "self-reliance."

**Freedom** - Support liberation. Become informed via the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1062, New York, New York 10027.

**Civil Rights** - Urge support of the bill (S 1314) sponsored by Senator Gaylor (D-Wisconsin) which seeks to assure constitutional protection against illegal searches of our homes.

**Urban Crisis** - Join other church people in a nation-wide network to rebuild our cities and towns. Write Joan Brown Campbell, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

# TELL ME WHY?

by William K. Fox

This is not a line from the old youth conference camp fire song. But it is a live and nagging question bugging me as a churchman—A churchman looking at the few dollars and cents Convocation-related congregations are giving for the Church in mission. A churchman like you who knows God is blessing us RIGHT NOW! But you—and the congregation to which you belong—ARE GIVING MUCH TOO LITTLE MONEY to help carry out the Great Commission!

**TELL ME—WHY? This is only a report of the first six months in 1978, but why are so many large congregations missing?**

**TELL ME—WHY? The Reconciliation Fund Offering emphasis is in September-October, but why should so few congregations contribute to a fund which is designed primarily to bring about justice and freedom in the United States of America?**

**TELL ME—WHY? Any congregation of five or more members could save the PRICE OF A CUP OF COFFEE (or soft drink) per day and undergird the Basic Mission Finance of the Church. Tell me why every congregation—whatever the size—does not do it?**

**TELL ME—WHY? Congregations often raise money for missions or have organizational treasuries with money labeled "for missions" but such money seldom, if ever, gets sent to the Church Finance Council, Box 1986, Indpls., IN 46206. TELL ME—WHY?**

**December 31, 1978 is the last day in the calendar year for you to improve this dismal financial picture!**

**TELL ME WHY YOU—any three or more members led by God—could not improve the outreach giving of your congregation by then. TELL ME—WHY?**

## COMPTON, From Page 10

Dr. Compton is president of the Cincinnati branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A graduate of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, Dr. Compton holds the bachelor of divinity degree and an honorary doctorate from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, where he has been an affiliate staff member.

He and his wife Lucille have a grown daughter and son.

*Christian Church News*

CHURCH NAME	BMF	REC	WOC	TOTAL
<b>PENNSYLVANIA (1)</b>				
Fellowship	\$ 15.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 15.00
Region Totals	\$ 15.00	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 15.00
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA (19)</b>				
Briner	\$ 61.41	\$ ---	\$ 36.00	\$ 97.41
Canaan	50.00	---	---	50.00
Galilee	---	---	10.00	10.00
Holly Rock	32.00	---	---	32.00
Liberty Hill	25.00	---	---	25.00
Magdalene	60.00	---	---	60.00
St. Phillip	26.19	---	---	26.19
Three Mile Creek	---	---	14.00	14.00
Zion Pilgrim	65.88	---	---	65.88
Region Totals	\$ 320.48	\$ ---	\$ 60.00	\$ 380.48
<b>SOUTHWEST (44)</b>				
Anadarko	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00
Bethany	25.00	---	---	25.00
Bethlehem	62.00	---	---	62.00
Bolton	55.02	---	---	55.02
Bonnie View	206.72	---	25.00	281.72
Canada Drive	35.75	---	---	35.75
Cedar Grove	12.75	---	---	12.75
Center Point	10.00	---	---	10.00
Clark Street	127.50	---	36.00	163.50
Community	31.50	---	35.00	66.50
Corinth	20.00	---	---	20.00
Denley Drive	205.00	---	20.00	225.00
First	40.00	---	---	40.00
Fulton Street	48.00	---	16.00	64.00
Garden Grove	8.50	---	---	8.50
Holland Chapel	5.75	---	10.00	15.75
Murphy Street	7.20	---	---	7.20
Romine Street	160.00	35.00	40.00	235.00
Second (Ft. Worth)	105.00	---	20.00	125.00
St. James	10.00	---	---	10.00
Thirteenth Avenue	38.67	---	---	38.67
Vine Grove	7.87	---	---	7.87
Warren Avenue	753.35	---	---	753.35
Willow Park	32.04	---	---	32.04
Region Totals	\$ 2,007.62	\$ 35.00	\$ 307.00	\$ 2,345.62
<b>TENNESSEE (8)</b>				
Alameda	\$ 159.50	\$ ---	\$ 67.12	\$ 226.62
Bentley Street	25.00	---	---	25.00
Gay-Lea	250.00	---	25.00	275.00
Region Totals	\$ 434.50	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 526.62
<b>VIRGINIA (17)</b>				
Antioch (Martinsville)		\$ ---	\$ 136.41	\$ 136.41
Corinth	\$ 60.75	---	30.27	91.02
Fayette	294.00	---	150.00	444.00
Iron Belt	16.00	---	---	16.00
Louden Avenue	773.00	---	100.00	873.00
Meadow	232.32	---	51.00	283.32
Mt. Olive East	191.90	---	314.25	506.15
Mt. Olive No. 1.	10.00	---	---	10.00
West Liberty	10.00	---	---	10.00
Region Totals	\$ 1,587.97	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 2,369.90

**NOTE: The next issue of UP-DATE will show the contributions of such congregations as the following which Church Finance Council had not placed in the computer as being "Convocation-related": Michigan Park Church, Washington D.C., Capital Area; First Church, Rockford, IL, Illinois-Wisconsin Region; McCarty Memorial Church and 92nd Street Church, Los Angeles, California-South Region.**

**SEND YOUR \$ GIFT TODAY!  
KEEP UP-DATE ALIVE!**

# Vignettes from the FIELD

Among the Congregations

**Tennessee, Jonesboro** - Features during the Summer of 1978 in Bethel Christian Church included a Women's Day program with Ms. J.F. Birchette as speaker; the Adult Choir sponsored Pancake Breakfast; a Christian Men's Fellowship breakfast and a weekly crafts class. Elder M.E. Dunnville is the pastor.

**Missouri, Hannibal** - Through its Douglass Community Center, the Willow Street Christian Church enables several neighborhoods in the city to organize councils and receive guidance from a VISTA Advisory Committee which meets monthly in the Center. The councils work with the residents and city and county service agencies in the improvement of living conditions on a block-by-block basis. Elder James W. Smedley is the pastor of the Willow Street Church.

**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** - The Rev. Luz Bacerra, staff in the Department of Church Women in Indianapolis, IN with responsibility for social and economic issues and special planning for Black and Hispanic Church women, was a resource leader for the Regional CWF Enabling Council this fall.

**D.C., Washington** - "Noyes Fludde" - the Chester Miracle Play set to music by Benjamin Britten was performed in the National City Christian Church October 8, 1978 featuring Black actors Henry Burroughs as "Noah" and Kay Granger as "Mrs. Noah." Several of the congregation's youth played in the orchestra and/or portrayed the animals which went into Noah's Ark.

**Missouri, Kansas City** - Cliff Frazier, an All-American lineman from the University of California at Los Angeles, defensive star in the 1976 Rose Bowl game, and a member of the Kansas City Chiefs professional football team, brought the Pastor's Anniversary Celebration message at Central Christian Church in August. Mr. Frazier is a member of the congregation and nephew of Pastor Norman S. Fiddmont. This was the first annual anniversary observance.

**Kansas, Kansas City** - Elder Booker Theodore Dickason, Jr. was installed as pastor of the Quindaro Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) October 1, 1978. Dr. John R. Compton of Cincinnati,

OH gave the message. Ministers associated with the ceremony included Mary H. Adams, member of Quindaro; James Blair, director of the M.I.C.A. Disaster Team; Norman Fiddmont, minister at Central; David Downing, area minister-president; K. David Cole, minister at West Paseo; Claudia Highbaugh, professor-counselor at Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas; and Ronald Reed, regional minister for Kansas.

**Indiana, Indianapolis** - Second Christian has launched on a grand design for "building a religious center and educational center at Foxhill and Grandview" which calls for an initial financial effort of \$500,000 over the next three years. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin is the pastor.



BLACK DISCIPLES OF CHRIST  
IN THE COMMUNITY -

**XENIA, OH** - Carmen Gibson, an active member in the United Christian (formerly East Main Street) Church and English instructor at Wilberforce University, was selected as an "Outstanding Young Woman for 1977" by the Advisory Board of the Outstanding Young Women of America located in Montgomery, Alabama. Her name appears in their annual compilation of biographies.

**NASHVILLE, TN** - Joe McClure is First Vice President of the Cemetery Association of Tennessee, Inc. and program chairman of the 1978 Convention program to be held in Chattanooga, TN July 19-22, 1979. During that meeting he will become the first Black president of that organization. Mr. McClure has been manager of the Greenwood Cemetery for the past nine and one-half years. The Cemetery is owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. whose board is constituted by the Trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**DENVER, CO** - Rosa Page Welch, member of the Park Hill Church, will be directing the singing and providing special solos during an "Educational Convention" tour of the Mediterranean August 9-24, 1979. The emphasis will be upon "Paul, His Life, His time, His Message and His Ministry."

**MEMPHIS, TN** - L. Letitia Poston of the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church is Grand Associate Matron in the Royal Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. During the recent Ninety-Second Annual Communications in Pine Bluff, AR she spoke on "Showers of Blessings." She is also the Imperial Deputy for the Oasis of Memphis, TN. Ms.

Poston is a member of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**LOS ANGELES, CA** - Ada J. Liggins came to the then predominantly white McCarty Memorial Christian Church "in order for her two children to go to Sunday School." She joined the choir but was eventually told to get out and "go and sing in your own choir." She stayed on and has served as a trustee, chairwoman of the board of deaconess and treasurer and president of the CWF. McCarty is now 95% black.

**KNOXVILLE, TN** - Dr. Titus Haynes, pastor of the Bentley Street congregation and an instructor in the University of Tennessee School of Social Work, has had his Ph.D. manuscript accepted for publication by Vantage Press, Inc. The book concerns ministers in "inner city neighborhoods." Elder Haynes received his doctorate in Human Development and Religious Education from New York University.

**GOLDSBORO, NC** - Robert Gerald, a deacon, member of the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) and Treasurer of the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly, was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the State Commission on Human Justice in October 1978 to represent the District. The Commission deals with the rights of prisoners.

**NASHVILLE, TN** - Dr. Bessie E. Chandler, veteran Christian education specialist and pioneer in training for Church leaders - especially during the years of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. - had her ordination to the Christian ministry recognized October 19, 1978 by the Department of Ministry, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee. She is certified "as a minister in standing" and her name will appear in the Ministers Directory.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Dr. Calvin C. Sampson, an elder in the Michigan Park Christian Church and the church's treasurer, has been named editor of the Journal of the National Medical Association. Sampson is Professor of Pathology in Howard University, Pathologist Director of the University's School of Medical Technology, and professor in its College of Allied Health Sciences.

## SAVES HOUSE

Michael Clemens, a sixteen-year old senior, in Mobile Alabama, was recently cited by the Mobile Fire Department and the local newspapers for saving a neighbor's house from being burned down. Young Clemens is a member of the St. Marks Christian Church.

Michael's noble action came when he saw fire billowing in the bedroom of

*Continued on Page 14*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

Phase II of Black Church Education Cluster Training Events combining North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, was held at Franklinton Center, Bricks, North Carolina (Enfield) September 21-23, 1978. Other events were Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, held at Bryn Mawr Community Church, Chicago, Illinois, October 19-21, 1978; and New York, Philadelphia, Ohio held at Deerhill Retreat Center, New York November 16-18, 1978.

Over 300 participants shared in the three events. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of six denominations of the JED (Joint Educational Development) Churches who join in supporting the Black Church Education Resource Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

Phase III, 1979 will be held in Oakland, California and Atlanta, Georgia. Please watch this column for dates.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: SHARED APPROACHES FROM THE BLACK PERSPECTIVES.** A Use Guide and a Multi Media Packet interfacing Christian Education Shared Approaches is part of each Cluster event. The packet will be on sale after April 1979. Guidelines for avoiding stereotypes by race, class, sex and national origin formed an integral part of the ongoing process of developing Christian Education: Shared Approaches.

There are four Approaches in CE:SA:

#### 1. Knowing the Word

To hide the Word of God in our hearts...

#### 2. Interpreting the Word

To help us become "at home" with the Bible...

#### 3. Living the Word

To participate in the life and relationships of the Faith Community...



#### 4. Doing the Word

Remembering that "Faith without works is dead..."

Resources from the **Black Perspective** enables children, Youth and Adults within the Black Church to share in the liberation message. Build self identity, use strength of the **Black Family** speak to the needs of the Church in today's world.

Local regional and general staff serve as resource leaders. Please check with your minister or call your Regional Office to get reservations for the Education in your area.

As 1978 draws to a close, plans are in process to hold future events.

#### Cluster X

Louisiana at Lakeview Methodist Southwest at Assembly, Palestine, Texas on January 5-7, 1979

#### Cluster VI

Indiana at French Lick Sheraton Hotel, French Lick Indiana on January 12-14, 1979

#### Cluster VII

Ohio, Pennsylvania, Capital, Northeastern and Canada at Hilton Inn North, Columbus, Ohio on March 9-11, 1979

#### Cluster III

Central Rocky Mtn., Kansas, and Nebraska at Continuing Education Center, Lincoln, Nebraska on April 20-22, 1979

#### Cluster II

California N-Nevada, California S-Nevada and Arizona in the Phoenix vicinity on May 4-6, 1979

If you have educational needs and/or concerns you would like to dialogue about, please write Effie Blair, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

## ARNOLDS PLEDGE SUPPORT

Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius W. Arnold, pastor and co-pastor of the 92nd Street Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA have become the first to pledge \$1000 to the Capital Development Fund program being formed by the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Arnolds are graduates of Disciples of Christ institutions of higher education and served the church in Los Angeles for 36 years.

The Capital Development Fund program is under formation and will be officially launched in 1979.



### MAY A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and REWARDING NEW YEAR

be yours as you reflect upon the universal pause for spiritual reflection and renewal which comes through the advent of Jesus Christ

#### THE UP-DATE PRODUCTION TEAM

Michael A. Dominguez, *Design Consultant*

Thelma Pyatt, *Layout-Artist*

Schellie Russ, *Typist*

Joseph S. Saunders, *Columnist*

Robert Schafer, Jr., *Photography*

Douglas Willard, *Printer*

Martha Sykes, *Circulation*

Dodge Tracy, *Production Coordinator*

William K. Fox, *Managing Editor*

#### SAVES HOUSE, *From Page 13*

the house. Although crippled during football practice the day before, Michael quickly hobbled to the neighbor's house, picked up a garden hose, broke a window pane, and extinguished the fire. When the firemen arrived, Michael had the fire under control. The Fire Department praised Michael for this quick action and noble deed.

Owners of the house who were not at home at the time of the fire were extremely grateful to Michael for his action.

Michael serves in the St. Mark's congregation as the assistant superintendent of the Sunday School and as president of the Community Choir.

UP-DATE VOL. VI - Nos. 1/2

Winter Issue - 1979

NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

# -RESPONSE FORMS-

• LITTLE ROCK ON TAPE •

ORDER BLANK FOR CONVOCATION TAPES All cassettes are \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order.

Quantity _____	Wed. Keynote address, Oscar Haynes & Music	Quantity _____	Sat. Keynote address, Benjamin Hooks
_____	Bible Lectures (Thurs. & Fri.), H.H. Brookins	_____	Convocation Sermon Series: Harris, Benjamin, Melvin
_____	Thurs. Keynote Address, H.H. Brookins	_____	Convocation Banquet Features: Rand, Owens /Music
_____	Fri. Keynote Address, Yvonne Delk		

Order cassettes from: Office of Communication  
Christian Church Services  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

TOTAL AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

Convocation cassettes as indicated above.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## MY CONVOCATION \$\$ SUPPORT

Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be given by \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

I want to strengthen the NATIONAL CONVOCATION and enable it to survive in its effort to help the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) serve all of the people.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: NATIONAL CONVOCATION of the Christian Church  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

## RESPONSE TO FREEDOM CHALLENGE

Dear Mr. Fox:

I am sending my NAACP membership \_\_\_\_\_ Financial gift \_\_\_\_\_ to the national office of the NAACP. I see this as a part of my responsibility for good Christian citizenship.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: W.K. Fox, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

**THIS MAY BE THE LAST UP-DATE!!  
! WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!**

**STAR SUPPORTERS** *from Pg. 7*

Lizzie Brown . . . . .	1.00	Gov. E. Reid, Jr. . . . .	15.00	Rev. Karey Gee . . . . .	10.00
Lillian E. Mitchell . . . . .	10.00	Charles E. Turner, Sr. . . . .	15.00	Eula Cawthon . . . . .	20.00
Mattie C. Williams . . . . .	5.00	E. Roy Kellam . . . . .	15.00	Mary V. Moore . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Eddie Griffin . . . . .	10.00	George H. Reid . . . . .	15.00	Frank G. Reid . . . . .	25.00
Albert J. Davis . . . . .	10.00	Gale E. Preston . . . . .	15.00	Macon W. Williams . . . . .	10.00
Roxie A. Davis . . . . .	10.00	John R. Redd . . . . .	15.00	Dayton, Xenia, Springfield, Columbus OH (Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund) . . . . .	500.00
Herbert Simmons . . . . .	10.00	Richard Turner, Sr. . . . .	15.00	CMF Stuyvesant Hts. Ch. Brooklyn NY . . . . .	150.00
Mr./Mrs. Montee Akers, Sr. . . . .	20.00	Moir Ruboyd Koger . . . . .	15.00	CMF 12th St. Washn D.C. . . . .	250.00
Carrie G. Walker . . . . .	10.00	Earneest L. Valentine . . . . .	15.00	Anonymous . . . . .	2.00
J.C. Lewis . . . . .	10.00	Joe L. Hairston . . . . .	15.00	CMF Banquet Offering . . . . .	192.45
Pilar Facey . . . . .	10.00	James Moore . . . . .	15.00	Total Recd. at '78 Convocation . . . . .	\$3,640.45
Lelia Parks . . . . .	10.00	Percy E. Valentine . . . . .	15.00	(After Fifth Assembly - Little Rock, AR)	
Henry & Julia Hawkins . . . . .	20.00	Odatta Redd . . . . .	15.00	Kenneth E. Henry . . . . .	25.00
Mattie Williams . . . . .	10.00	Annie Tatum . . . . .	15.00	Stephen Garrison . . . . .	10.00
Harvey & Sybel Thomas . . . . .	25.00	Virginia Reid . . . . .	15.00	Patrick Berry . . . . .	10.00
Tommy Dotson . . . . .	10.00	Ethel R. Shelton . . . . .	15.00	Jack Oliver . . . . .	25.00
Evie Harrell . . . . .	2.00	Mary W. Davis . . . . .	10.00	William Martin Smith . . . . .	25.00
Louise Jordan . . . . .	10.00	Virginia Hairston . . . . .	10.00	Ronald W. Graham . . . . .	25.00
Ellis Jordan . . . . .	15.00	Sharon Reid . . . . .	10.00	David Millner . . . . .	5.00
Larry Jackson . . . . .	10.00	Joe L. Preston . . . . .	15.00	Bessie R. Terry . . . . .	15.00
Mr./Mrs. Zedrick Braden . . . . .	10.00	Mary Lou Tanks . . . . .	5.00	Lucille Compton . . . . .	35.00
Ruth Harris . . . . .	10.00	Mary H. Reid . . . . .	15.00	Effie M. Blair . . . . .	10.00
Velma Scott . . . . .	10.00	Margretha Kellam . . . . .	10.00	Mary V. Moore . . . . .	10.00
Fannie White . . . . .	10.00	William Simms . . . . .	20.00	Fifth Church (Cleveland) . . . . .	50.00
Mrs. B. Crane . . . . .	5.00	J.T. Johnson . . . . .	25.00	Central Church (Enid, OK) . . . . .	75.00
Deborah A. Jordan . . . . .	10.00	Richard L. Saunders . . . . .	10.00	12th St. CMF (Washington) . . . . .	200.00
Lesly Smith . . . . .	10.00	Wm. Martin Smith . . . . .	10.00	Guice Caddillac (Cincinnati) . . . . .	50.00
John & Ida Grady . . . . .	10.00	Elder Thomas N. Walker . . . . .	10.00	Sub-Total . . . . .	\$570.00
George Washington . . . . .	10.00	Jean Woolfolk . . . . .	10.00	<b>SUMMARY</b>	
Vernal Hemphill . . . . .	10.00	Elnora A. Alexander . . . . .	5.00	(Recd. via Office of Convocation after	
Inez Lewis . . . . .	5.00	Cynthia Hale . . . . .	10.00	4th Assembly to Nov. 1, 1978)	
Winston Simmonds . . . . .	2.00	Robert L. Stephens . . . . .	10.00	1976 . . . . .	\$400.00
Dorothy Liverpool . . . . .	15.00	A.T. Miller . . . . .	20.00	1977 . . . . .	1376.00
William B. Jordan . . . . .	2.00	Mr./Mrs. Sylvester F. Smith . . . . .	20.00	1978 . . . . .	5915.23
Dr. & Mrs. Claude Walker . . . . .	25.00	Rev. Robert M. Thomas . . . . .	25.00	Total . . . . .	\$7,691.23
Robert L. Brown . . . . .	10.00	Geroge & Ruth Owens . . . . .	20.00		
Otis Nixon . . . . .	5.00	Richard & Cordelia Hill . . . . .	20.00		
Mt. Olive East Ch. Ch. Martinsville, Va.: . . . . .		Mary Fugate . . . . .	10.00		
George Hart . . . . .	15.00	Ruth Dickson . . . . .	10.00		
		Maldonia Jackson . . . . .	10.00		



**CHURCH BURNS MORTGAGE**  
North Heights Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas, held a "mortgage burning" service on August 13, 1978. Among those taking part in the mortgage burning were (left to right) Corine E. Graves, Jessie Robinson, Deborah Williams, Clara Mayberry and the Rev. G. Ellison Lakes. The congregation now has no major debts.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis  
Indiana 46206

*Address Correction Requested  
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed*

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

670 079163 44  
ROLAND K HUFF  
1101 NINETEENTH AVE, S  
NASHVILLE, TN 37212

spring 1979

# Up-Date ON THE BLACK CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Office of the Administrative Secretary Indianapolis, Indiana

## BLACK, HISPANIC COMMITTEE

# Seeks Expanded Affirmative Action

An affirmative action officer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and more relevant church literature for Spanish congregations are two goals set by the Committee on Black and Hispanic Concerns during their December meeting.

Mrs. Zola Walker, Hawkins, Texas, Jarvis Christian College staff member, in reporting on Black Disciples concerns stated "the whole Christian Church needs to emphasize affirmative action, not just minorities."

### TOO WHITISH, OUTDATED

Ruben I. Cruz, pastor of Spanish Christian Church, Chicago, Ill., termed "Curriculo Hispano Bilingue" literature currently being distributed for Hispanic use, "too whitish, outdated before produced, at too low an intelligence level and insufficiently Bible-based."

Mrs. Walker told administrative unit representatives, black Disciples want stewardship consultant teams to work directly with their churches, consideration of an associate staff person to work with the National Convocation and church funding of **Up-Date**, quarterly convocation publication for Black Disciples.

### LISTS KEY CONCERNS

Dr. William K. Fox, assistant to the general minister and president, chairs the committee with David A. Vargas, director of program services to Hispanic and bilingual congregations, serving as vice-chairperson.

Dr. Fox listed evangelism and congregational growth as "key concerns of Blacks and Hispanics." He added that "Spanish concern for theological training was relative to black needs and that the two groups share much in common."

### COMMON STRATEGIES

Rev. Vargas indicated a need for Blacks and Hispanics "to get to know each other better, share expertise, build positive images and develop common strategies for church growth."

Although some members from both of the groups questioned lumping concerns together, majority opinion agreed

*Continued on Page 15*



### NAACP CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Ind., largest Black Disciples congregation in the country, was the first church in the city to purchase a \$2,500 Corporate Membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, senior minister at Second Christian, presents the check to Miss Carol Stevenson, Indianapolis NAACP Branch vice-president, and Dr. Lehman Adams, the branch's life membership committee chairperson.

# Reconciliation Grants Total \$91,150

Grants totaling \$91,150 were approved by the General Reconciliation Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during its November meeting.

Urban Emergency Action committee which coordinates Division of Homeland Ministries programs related to race and poverty, received \$26,200 for its projects.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was granted \$11,800 with the suggestion that \$1,000 be used for a Golden Heritage

Membership in the name of the Christian Church. Balance will be applied to the NAACP's current financial deficit of \$300,000.

Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, a National Council of Churches program unit, was approved for a grant of \$7,400 pending decisions regarding future status and direction of the organization.

Church Action for Safe and Just Communities, which supervised more than a dozen projects in the area of criminal justice, was granted \$15,000.

Council of Southern Mountains, Inc., an organization of grassroots poor people's groups primarily from the Appalachian Mountains, received a grant of \$5,000.

Wildewood Christian Church Child Development Center, Oklahoma City, Okla., received a grant of \$5,000; Saturday Program for Children, a project involving elementary school children and sponsored by St. Philip's Christian Church, Cleveland, Ohio, received \$3,500.

National Farm Worker Ministry, a church movement to support farm workers, was granted \$5,000. Mississippi Hunger Coalition, a project to alleviate hunger problems in the state, received \$1,500.

Committee to Free Rice/Poindexter, a network of Disciples concerned about injustice and human rights violations within the United States, received a grant of \$4,000. Common Place, a Peoria, Ill., community center, received a \$500 grant.

Quindaro Neighborhood Summer Program for teaching basic educational skills and sponsored by Quindaro Community Christian Church, Kansas City, Kan., received a grant of \$1,750.

Project Equality, a national program concerned with fair employment opportunities for racial minorities, received a grant of \$1,200.

Ernest J. Newborn, administrative director of Reconciliation, noted more churches participated in the program than did in 1977.

## VOICES FROM AFRICA

*BILL SUTHERLAND, AFSC SOUTHERN AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE*

(Bill Sutherland, an American, has spent over 25 years in Africa. He currently serves on the staff of the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization concerned with social justice, development and peace.)

"Blacks of South Africa and Rhodesia have attempted to achieve self-realization non-violently, but now feel there is no other way but violence," says Bill Sutherland, a Black American.

Sutherland has worked with African liberation movements for many years and is well acquainted with modern leaders on the continent. He sees the only change in the current intensified strife as "being for the worse" and young African Blacks "not satisfied until they have overthrown the system of slavery."

"Africans feel they are not only fighting white minorities in their countries, but the entire western world," Sutherland claimed. "credibility of United States and British governments is at a new low," he stated. Africans now see themselves as "pawns in a chess game between East and West," added the AFSC representative.

"Apartheid survives largely because of western support and a significant part of that support has come from U.S. corporations, diplomatic policies, and military and intelligence agencies," he said.

"Terrorism has been going on for decades in Africa with Rhodesia and South Africa not only attacking their own people, but also those in border countries of Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, and Botswana," stated Sutherland based on his travels.

"Basically the terror has been against blacks," he added. "South Africa has used its 'suppression of communism act' as an excuse against anybody standing up for their rights."

Sutherland feels the Smith regime in Rhodesia is doomed unless U.S. and England increase their aid. He feels the struggle in South Africa will continue for years. And although the United States has "strong influence on South Africa," Sutherland feels the "best chance for a just solution lies in external countries stop messing in."

"Although the outside world is waiting for a break up and there is more disagreement and tension between front line states than I have ever seen before, the Patriotic Front is holding together," said Sutherland.

*JASON MFULA, DIRECTOR MINDOLO ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION*

(Jason Mfula, an African, is from Zambia in Southern Africa. Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation which he directs, has been training African leaders for

*Continued on Page 7*

LET IT  
BEGIN  
WITH  
ME!



**Reconciliation**

# Vignettes from the FIELD



## Among the Congregations

**Los Angeles, California** - 92nd Street Christian Church, pastored by Dr. Cornelius W. Arnold, reports 38 additions to the church in 1978. Dr. Arnold's 50 years in the ministry is currently being recorded in a history of the church.

**Dallas, Texas** - Kenneth D. Hunt was the Laity Day speaker at Warren Avenue Christian Church. Mr. Hunt, chairperson of the Christian education department at Warren, based his message on the theme, "Let the Whole World Sing." Showing how people can live together through the medium of music, Mr. Hunt asked the congregation "what songs they were singing to those looking for guidance."

**Detroit, Michigan** - United Christian Church, pastored by Rev. Lamar Clark, has adopted a budget for 1979 doubling that of the previous year. United's budget of \$134,379 includes \$62,000 for its new church fund and \$27,000 for outreach projects. "From a budget of only \$23,000 in 1974," said Rev. Clark, "personal giving has increased over 15 percent yearly." Recent United activities include participation by Rev. and Mrs. Clark in an all-faith seminar at the Norman Vincent Peale's Foundation for Christian Living; a festival of music with ten choirs taking part; a special memorial service for deceased members; and advance planning for establishment of a credit union.

**Dayton, Ohio** - Five persons were baptized and an additional five taken in by transfer at Summit Christian Church on Sunday, March 4. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk, associate for constituency development, United Church of Christ, New York City, was "Women's Day" speaker on Sunday, March 11. Dr. Delk who serves as chairwoman of the UCC National Black Staff Council, gave an inspiring address to a capacity audience. Summit's Christian Men's Fellowship is completing plans for Men's Day in May with Dr. William Hannah as the guest speaker.

*Continued on Page 14*

## NATIONAL CONVOCATION CALENDAR 1979 Events and Activities of Black Church Interest

DATES	EVENT & SPONSOR	PLACE
<b>APRIL</b>		
2-6	Mission Week - Goldsboro-Raleigh District	Goldsboro, NC
6-8	Educational Event - (DHM-DCE) Central Ch.	Kansas City, MO
7	State Board Meeting - Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship	Fulton St. CC, Palestine, TX
23-24	National Convocation Board of Trustees	Indpls, IN
27-29	Regional Fellowship Assembly - Alabama - Northwest Florida Region	First CC Dotham, AL
27-29	Regional Assembly - Mid-America Region	Columbia, MO
29	Southwest Ohio Area Songspiration	United CC, Xenia, OH
29	Black Disciples Ministers Fellowship	Union Svc. CC, Cleveland, OH
30 - May 2	New Congregation Establishment Consultation (DHM & BCE)	Indpls., IN
<b>MAY</b>		
4-5	Festival of Faith - Illinois-Wisconsin	Canton, IL
4-6	Regional Assembly - Mississippi Region	Hattisburg, MS
17-19	Reconciliation General Steering Committee (NE Region)	New York, NY
17-20	Regional Assembly - Virginia Region	Martinsville, VA
22-27	General Assembly of Churches of Christ, (Disciples of Christ)	Roper, NC
<b>JUNE</b>		
1-2	Greenwood Cemetery Company - National Christian Missionary Convention	Nashville, TN
7-9	Black Disciples Church Educators' Event (DHM-DCE)	Jarvis College Hawkins, TX
20-24	Alabama Christian Missionary Convention	Montgomery, AL
22-24	CWF Retreat - Mid-America Region William Woods College	Fulton, MO
22-24	CWF Encounter - Oklahoma Region Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK
22-24	Assembly of Women - Southwest Region - TCU	Ft. Worth, TX
25-26	NAACP Convention (National)	Louisville, KY
27-29	Mississippi Leadership Training Conference	Tougaloo, MS
11-15	Sessions '79 - Disciples Men's Gathering Department of Church Men	Purdue Univ. W. Lafayette, IN
<b>JULY</b>		
8-14	A.C.M.C. Youth Conference	Second CC, Montgomery, AL
11-15	Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention	Second CC Lexington, KY
11-15	Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship	Jarvis College Hawkins, TX

# NCCC Task Forces Readying Reports

"All of the tasks forces appointed by the board of trustees in October have held their initial meetings," said Rev. Ozark Range Sr., president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

"The task forces will report at the April 1979 trustees meeting," added Rev. Range, "and we will plan follow up steps at that time."

Several task forces were named to seek implementation of recommenda-

tions made by National Convocation members in response to the 1978 "Evaluation of the National Convocation" study report.

Thirteen recommendations were made in the report for increasing the scope and improving the work of the organization of Black Disciples churches.

Rev. Range asked member churches to make their improvement efforts "outward as well as inward."

"The purpose of the Convocation must always be to serve as a vehicle for reaching the disadvantaged within our church, community and world," he stated.

"We must be initiators of program as well as monitors, advocates, ombudsmen and enablers," he said. "We must be ever watchful of those issues which best serve the members of the Christian Church as a whole in the preaching and living of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Indicating that the problems of racism are far from having been met, Rev. Range warned Convocation members that "sexism is not synonymous with racism."

"We want to help solve the problems brought on by sex discrimination, but for the present, we still need to devote our major energies to the racism prevalent in our church and society."

The Disciples minister also indicated concern about the growing need of scholarship aid for young blacks pursuing college careers. As director of Black Ministry for the Christian Church, he deals with scholarships but aid from his office is limited to ministerial students.

"If each of our churches would help a needy college student, we could do much in this area," said the Convocation head. He acknowledged that all churches would not have the means to give full scholarships, but claimed "an occasional five, ten, twenty or fifty dollar bill" could sometimes mean continuing or dropping out of college.



## Tree Lighting Ceremony Held At Greenwood

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Christmas season was featured here with a "Christ Child Tree" lighting ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery on December 3, 1978.

Four Nashville churches, Gay-Lea Christian, Alameda Christian, Gordon United Methodist and Seay-Hubbard United Methodist, took part in the first of what will be an annual affair.

Joe McClure, manager of Greenwood, stated, "it has been a long tradition for cemeteries to commemorate our Lord's resurrection."

"The occasion of the Christ Child Tree will place emphasis on the Lord's birth."

Greenwood Cemetery is one of the properties willed to the National Christian Missionary Convention (now National Convocation) by Preston Taylor.

Rev. William S. Dansby Jr., pastor of Gay-Lea Christian, was the principal speaker. Musical selections were rendered by Alameda Christian choirs.

Rev. James L. Moon, United Methodist minister, led the audience in prayer; Rev. Dogan Williams, also UM, did the narration for the ceremony. Scripture was read by Rev. Bruce H. Bowser, a Disciple.

Program participants are shown in the upper photo. Allen S. Estill, regional minister of the Christian Church in Tennessee, also took part.



Joe McClure  
Mgr. Greenwood Cemetery

### UP-DATE STAFF

W.K. Fox . . . . . Editor  
J.S. Saunders . . . . . Mgr. Editor  
Thelma Pyatt . . . . . Composition  
Published in Cooperation with  
Office of Communication

# Up-Date

ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Supporting The Convocation

Two important questions were posed in a recent letter - "Is the National Convocation a denominational organization?" "If so, who is responsible for its maintenance?" The writer was concerned about the need for gifts to assure the existence of the Black church organization.

There are no crystal clear answers. The history of the National Convocation, its purpose and how it functions must all be considered, as well as its aspirations and current means of support.

Black Disciples churches and church leaders, for whom the National Convocation was designed to aid, must supply part of the answers. First by asking themselves "how helpful has the Convocation been to me?" And then, "what is my responsibility to its continuance and growth?"

Another important question we can ask ourselves is "what level of existence do we want for our own organization?"

If we want it to grow and become a more viable and visible part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), if we want to expand its programs and activities - we must support it with our finances - through gifts, bequests and endowments.

It is important that we continue and in many cases increase our support of the Christian Church through the Church Finance Council. But it is not enough that we stop there. "I gave at the office" is an overworked excuse that Black Disciples must not be guilty of.

In the final analysis, responsibility for the National Convocation rests with we who stand to benefit from its workings.

## Close The Back Door

A major reason for the decline in membership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is that we lose members by the back door faster than we bring them in at the front. And listing absentees as non-participants does not change the fact.

Greater emphasis is placed on gaining new members than on holding after we get them. Our failure to fully welcome, orient and involve individuals who join or show interest in our churches, causes them to search elsewhere for the spiritual food and fellowship they seek.

Black Disciples churches, especially, need to stop kidding themselves. We're not dying - we're committing suicide!

It isn't a matter of running out of prospective members. The people are there. How else do you account for the constant establishment of black churches of other denominations in every available building on every open corner in our cities?

The church today, is operating in a buyer's market. The mere presence of your edifice is no inducement. Nor is the fact that you have been conducting services there for many years.

Take a good look at your church program. How relevant is it to youth and the needs of your community? What does it offer besides singing and praying and preaching - and taking up collection?

Is yours a closed-door operation? Do the same tired old people hold all the offices and run the program in the same tired old manner? Do you place a higher priority on building with bricks than on building with people?

The harvest is plentiful and the laborers can be also - if you close the back doors of your church and offer your members meaningful work and programs.

## PEN TRACKS

By Joe Saunders

Who was the Rev. Jim Jones?  
Marxist? Mesmerist? Madman?

Hundreds of hours and millions of words will be spent in trying to answer these questions and in trying to solve the riddle of the ill-fated settlement in the jungles of Guyana, South America.

Clergy of many denominations and faiths will expound on the how and why; and on condemnation of cults and sects and those who follow them.

And then they will return to business as usual - preaching colorless sermons of a Christ who calms the seas but does not rock the boats of middle class standards.

Sermons of a Christ who knows that the church budget must be met and the whims of large donors must be catered to; a Christ who classifies the poor as lazy, the troubled as mentally ill, the sick as the public's responsibility and the stranger as an undesirable alien.

And after all of the pious pronouncements, the events that made Jonestown possible, will still be ignored.

Nobody wanted the derelicts that flocked to Jim Jones and his Peoples Temple - mostly black, poor relievers, dope addicts, prostitutes, alcoholics, former prisoners.

Remind you of something? So true! These were the troubled people whose burdens Christ would have sought to ease even though there was no room for them in the organized church!

Jonestown offers a challenge to we who call ourselves Christians. The voices of the hundreds of dead cry out - "We were hungry and you fed us not - thirsty, and you gave us no drink."

Jonestown is a symbol. A symbol of the failure of The Church to recognize the needs of the people and to minister unto those needs.

Until the Church comes out of its sanctuary and gives Jesus back to the world, the causes and conditions false prophets breed upon, will yet be with us.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) observes January 15 as "Martin Luther King Day." An increasing number of cities throughout the United States, agencies, organizations and concerns, have also made it a holiday. Efforts are being made to make the birthday of this outstanding religious leader, a national holiday. This year at Missions Building the life of the late Dr. King was used as theme for week-long chapel services. Following is the chapel address given by Dr. Raymond E. Brown, vice-president of the Board of Church Extension.



## AND THE BEAT GOES ON

By Raymond E. Brown

Isaiah 61: 1-2 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring Good News to the suffering and afflicted. He has sent me to comfort the broken hearted, to announce liberty to captives and to open the eyes of the blind. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of God's favor to them has come, and the day of His wrath to their enemies." (The Living Bible)

The speaker of these words does not call himself the servant, but the mission he sets before himself recalls that of the servant. He is an evangelist, consecrated and endowed of the Lord, to declare the coming of the year of divine favor and a day of judgment. He is sent to the distressed and down hearted people of God. They are described as the afflicted (underprivileged) the brokenhearted, the captives, and the bound (those caught in a confining and oppressive social situation). The people, both physically and spiritually wretched, needed good tidings. Hopes unfulfilled had brought frustration of soul.

Luke 4: 18-21 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted and to announce that captives shall be released and the blind shall see, that the down-trodden shall be freed from their oppressors, and that God is ready to give blessings to all who come to Him." He closed the book and handed it back to the attendant and sat down.....Then he added "These scriptures came true today."

It was characteristic of Jesus that he selected this same passage which glows with the message of God's pity and compassion. The power God sent to earth in Jesus was the power of His love. The only weapon Jesus ever used to win His way was love. So He lived and so He taught.

In the first instance a man sees for himself the mission which is his. In the second instance which happened about 500 years after the first, a young man in the beginning of his ministry accepts this role as his and declares "These scriptures came true in me today."

About 1,967 years after this second event, there was a young man who stood up and spoke in Ebenezer Baptist Church. Here are some of those words:

"If any of you are around when I meet my day . . . I wonder what I want him to say . . . I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right and walk with them.

"I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to clothe the naked. I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity . . . Yes, if you want to, say that I was a drum major. Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness."

Continued on Page 15

## Church Receives \$10,000 Gift

PORT GIBSON, Miss. - A memorial bequest of nearly \$11,000 was given to Christian Chapel here recently, in memory of a former member of the church.

Lulu J. McClodden Marsh of West Point, Miss., left the church one-fifth of her estate, \$10,958.76, in memory of her late son, Jerome Pyles, a former member of Christian Chapel.

As an indication of appreciation for the gift, Christian Chapel has renamed its fellowship hall, Marsh-Pyles Hall.

Christian Chapel, a black congregation of approximately 150 members, is located at 502 Church Street, Port Gibson.

## Commend Churches For Support Of Reconciliation

Letters of appreciation were sent to several Black Disciples churches for their outstanding participation in the 1978 Reconciliation fund campaign.

Recipients of letters from Ernest J. Newborn, administrative director of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), included Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin Jr., Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Ind., whose congregation gave \$1,208.24; and Dr. Charles H. Webb Sr., Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Ill., for the gift of \$500 from his congregation.

The letters read in part, "it is especially encouraging to have this evidence of your strong support for the church's reconciling ministry to a divided and broken world."



# Our Colleges



## MINISTER RECRUITERS

Jarvis Christian College is asking Disciples ministers to aid in their current drive for quality students.

Special consideration will be given to students referred by ministers including financial aid and assistance in finding jobs on the campus.

Applications are available for high school seniors, members of Disciples churches or the community.

## AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Leonard Johnson Jr., a junior at Jarvis, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Camp Normal Benevolent Foundation.

An accounting major with a minor in business administration, Johnson hopes eventually to establish his own public accounting firm. He plans to attend graduate school with a joint major in law and business administration.

## VISITING PROFESSOR

Lawrence St. Clair, personnel manager on the divisional staff of Western Electric Company, recently served as a visiting professor at Jarvis.

Mr. St. Clair lectured on personnel management. His visit to Jarvis was sponsored by the Black Executive Exchange Program jointly sponsored by the National Urban League and Jarvis' Division of Social Science & Business.

Under the BEEP program, over 200 black professional and business persons are serving as guest lecturers at 30 black colleges and universities including Jarvis.

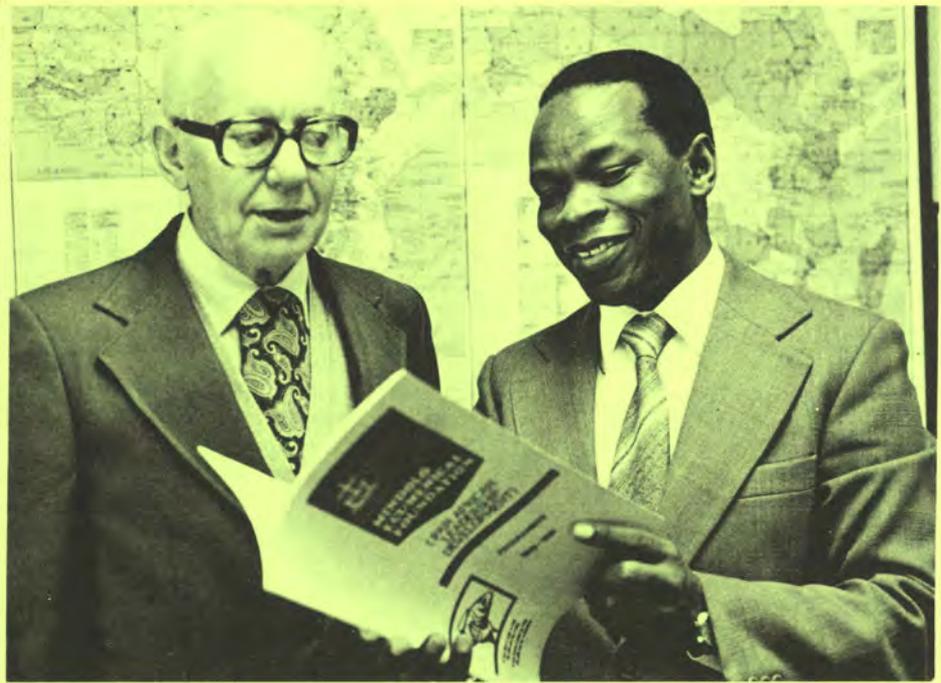
## NEW ALUMNI CHAPTER

A Denver alumni chapter composed of graduates and former students from Jarvis and Southern Christian Institute has been organized with Mr. Ed Rollins as president of the new chapter with Mrs. Rosa Page Welch serving as membership chairperson.

## NEWSPAPER IN CLASSROOM

An in-service program on using the

*Continued on Page 14*



*JASON MFULA, DIRECTOR of the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe, Zambia, tells Dr. Robert G. Nelson, executive secretary of the department of Africa, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of leadership training courses being conducted by the educational institution located in Southern Africa. Disciples have been supporting Mindolo with funds and personnel since its founding in 1958. Mr. Mfula's comments on the current situation in Southern Africa are found on page two of this issue.*

## Voices From Africa - from pg. 2

over 20 years for work in churches, governments and schools. Disciples have supported the work at Mindolo since its beginning in 1958.)

Africans from more than 15 countries have sent students to Mindolo for leadership courses especially designed for church workers, youth and women. The school is noted for its new approaches to training including a mobile school which travels to African villages where the students and their needs are.

Projects and programs designed at Mindolo meet current needs on the continent and in the area of handicrafts, utilize the natural resources or areas where the people are.

"Before independence," said Mr. Mfula, "many Africans thought one had to speak English and eat tinned foods with knives and forks before they could be considered educated."

"Among other things we teach them to think as Africans, to eat their own foodstuffs, use their own resources and appreciate their own cultures."

Zambia borders on Rhodesia, Angola, Botswana and Mozambique, all Southern African countries frequently in the news columns.

Many of the African leaders who have fled from Rhodesia and South Africa are now living in Zambia. A large number of refugees are also located there. "We consider ourselves one of the front line countries and we have got to make a sacrifice," said Mr. Mfula.

Expressing confidence in eventual liberation of African countries striving to rid themselves of white minority rule, Mr. Mfula looks forward to freedom. He feels the Patriotic Front will prevail.

"Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation will face an even greater challenge when the conflict ends," Mr. Mfula stated. "Churches and governments will be looking for a place where people can be trained as quickly as possible." He intends to have Mindolo ready to conduct that training.

## 2500 Churchmen Expected At Sessions '79



**MAN TO MAN**  
IT'LL BE AN EXPERIENCE!



sessions 79

June 11-15

**Disciples Men's Gathering**

W. LAFAYETTE, Ind. - It will be "man to man" here on the Purdue University campus, June 11-15, when an anticipated 2,500 male Disciples gather for "Sessions '79."

The five-day meeting sponsored by the department of church men, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will include speakers, Bible lectures, dramas, singing and interest groups centered on leadership training for men in church congregations.

Black Disciples, both clergy and laity, are urged to register for the important event which takes place only once every three years.

Theme for the 1979 gathering is "God's Present Purpose to Fulfill." Music will include selections by the Jarvis Christian College choir.

Among principal speakers will be Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, M.D., president of Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Jose Bonino, faculty member of Evangelica de Teologia, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mary Cosby, Church of the Savior, Washington, D.C.; and Dr. William Hannah, executive secretary of the department of evangelism and membership, Christian Church.

Over 80 workshops designed to provide inspiration and motivation as well as education and training will be held.

Blacks leading workshops include Ernest and Janice Newborn (Marriage

Communication and Enrichment), Alvin Jackson (A New Vision for Black Congregations), Ozark Range Sr., (Morality: Who Sets the Standards), and William Hannah (New Congregation Establishment).

All of the workshops as well as other features of Sessions '79 are pertinent to Black Church work. Congregations are urged to register as many of their men as possible.

## Black Ministers Retreat At Jarvis

HAWKINS, Texas - Black Disciples ministers gathered here at Jarvis Christian College, March 13-15 for their fifth annual National Black Ministers Retreat.

Dr. Harry S. Wright, dean of chapel at Bishop College, Dallas, Texas, lectured twice during the retreat. He is also professor of religion and philosophy at the school. "The Minister - Spiritual Shepherd" was theme for the retreat.

A complete account with pictures will be featured in the Summer Issue of Up-Date.

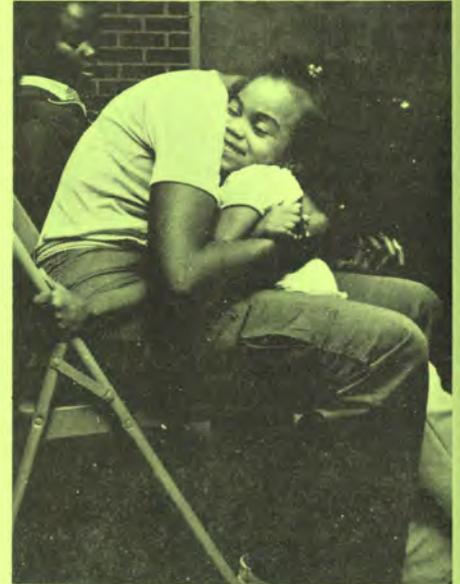
## Jamaica Delegate



Ruth Hobbs, vice president of the National Convocation, will represent the organization at the 1979 Synod of Disciples of Christ in Jamaica to be held at Kinston, April 17-19.

While in Jamaica, Mrs. Hobbs will visit and confer with Disciples' congregations in the country.

Mrs. Hobbs, who serves as the chair-



*LANGUAGE OF LOVE does not require speaking, yet it is understood in every tongue. As shown in the picture above, an embrace conveys the meaning better than a thousand words. The youngsters are members of Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Winston-Salem, No. Carolina, pastored by Rev. J.O. Williams.*  
(Photo by R.L. Schafer, Jr.)

## Capital Area Region Observes King Birthday

WASHINGTON, DC - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Capital Area held its first regional observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., January 14 at Bethany Christian Church.

Using "The Dream Is Alive" as theme for the observance, speakers included Dr. John Crawford, dean of chapel at Howard University, and Dr. Phillip Wogaman, academic dean of Wesley Theological Seminary.

The program co-sponsored by the regional office and the Black Ministers and Spouses, preceded the January 15 regional church holiday.

person of the program steering committee for the 1980 National Convocation, will be particularly interested in leadership training events conducted by churches in Jamaica.

RACISM AND THE CHURCH

# Detroit Pastor Sees Black Voice Muffled

*LaMar Clark is pastor of United Christian Church at Detroit, Michigan. In response to a newspaper story, Rev. Clark gave the following views on the church situation in his city and state relative to black participation.*

\* \* \*

The Michigan Chronicle recently ran a front-page story concerning the fact that blacks and females had been left off of the negotiating groups by both the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) study groups for the presentation of major (or minor) pages on consultation.

Several voices were raised in protest from both sides of the aisle. A "quippy" joint statement issued by Dr. Kenneth Teegarden and Dr. Avery Post, heads of the two churches, in essence said "we hear you."

Ever since I have been old enough to spell "racism" I have been protesting it. In fact I have protested racism so long now that many ears, both black and white, have been deafened to my observations.

I have for years stated that all agendas were prepared with the white constituency in mind. Also, that committee composition is structured to limit the potential voice of minority groups.

For instance, the Michigan Reconciliation Fund Committee which was basically established for the enablement of black and minority endeavors, is, and has been 100 percent white. The Mission Task Force that relates to the urban mission thrusts in this state is 85 percent white. These two groups pass on items of particular interest to minority churches and organizations.

In a recent meeting of the mission task force, a recommendation or plan was made to send a group to East Harlem to get a "first hand" look at poverty. They also plan to go to the Appalachia area to check out poverty.

This in spite of the statistical fact that within 30 miles of where the meeting was held, stands a city with one of the largest minority unemployment rolls in the United States. A city where 25,000 persons go to bed hungry each night. East Harlem is almost 800 miles away from Michigan.

When we speak of "insensitivity" we must cite these types of paradoxes.

It must be said in all honesty, that most of the racism that permeates the mainline churches is not by deliberate design, but is caused mostly by simply not taking all of the various facts of the church under consideration. Especially the minority group's problems. However, whether racism is by design or not, the end results are the same.

In Michigan there exists three black congregations (Saginaw First is not yet black) with a Yearbook total of 779 active members out of 8,555 recorded. It is easy to say "they get their fair share based on numbers." I am sure many are taking this line of thinking.

Yet, if we are going to talk about wholeness of the church, the numbers must be forgotten and the needs must be our chief concern.

There is a serious need in the Michigan Region for a minority staff person to survey and articulate the basic needs of the minority groups in regard to church development, nurture program and assembly and conference planning.

In the personnel committee meeting to call a new regional minister, all the black applicants were eliminated. It was agreed that a female or black would be given priority consideration for the associate position. That did not materialize, in fact, no advertisement was sent out announcing the opening.

So again, minorities are left out.

The article that appeared in the Chronicle dealt with the issue that is paramount in the minds of many black pastors in white-dominated judicatories. "When do we get a hearing, and who sets the agenda for the body?"

Ofttimes white Christians feel that an acknowledgement of the wrong and the creation of a "confessional prayer" will suffice. I contend that nothing short of an action mandate including a moratorium on doing business the way it's been done, can change the complexion of the problem both locally and nationally.

**THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR INPUT**  
Attend Your Area, District, Regional General Assemblies



*PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY OF AGED. Mr. and Mrs. N.J. Bell, both born in 1896, are featured in "Vintage, The Bold Survivors," a new book by Pilgrim Press, publishing house of the United Church of Christ Board of Homeland Ministries. The new volume by Joan Dufault, is a photographic narrative that probes the lives of 38 aging men and women from many countries and varied backgrounds. (RNS Photo)*

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR SAYS:

## Reconciliation Has Special Meaning For Blacks

"Reconciliation has a special meaning for racial minority persons and congregations," says Rev. Ernest J. Newborn, administrative director of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

"Reconciliation is a vital and important program of our church," added the director.

Address communications to  
Editor of UP-DATE  
NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206



### Attorney To Head Ford Foundation

NEW YORK - Franklin A. Thomas, an attorney and community developer who lives in the predominantly black Bedford-Styvesant section of Brooklyn, has been named president of the Ford Foundation, the nation's richest private underwriter of many social development projects.

Mr. Thomas succeeds McGeorge Bundy, who will retire June 1, 1979. Mr. Bundy noted that the choice of his replacement was significant. He said, "this is the first time a black man has taken a job of this magnitude that doesn't have 'black' marked on it." RNS Photo

"The program was born," said Rev. Newborn, "during the sixties when riots and racial conflict erupted in more than eighty American cities.

"In March 1968, Disciples issued a call for redemptive and reconciling action. Reconciliation was the church response to the continuing crisis in human relations."

Reconciliation has received more than \$4,500,000 from congregations and individuals since 1968. The funds were used to support local, regional and national programs designed to get at root causes of racism and poverty.

"Reconciliation is the church's response to human need," says Newborn.

The Disciples minister devines this need to "bring good news to the poor and powerless; give relief to the suffering; give sight to the blind; set free the oppressed; and proclaim God's love and favor."

"It is a response to God's reconciling love," he adds, "'who was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.'"

Claiming the Reconciliation program of the Christian Church "can involve every member of the congregation," Newborn asked that in addition to sharing in special offerings, Disciples -

"Use their economic power for racial justice; become involved in local, state and national legislative affairs; organize to combat individual and institutional racism in America; and develop action strategies against racial discrimination in employment."

Rev. Newborn said congregations could get involved by -

"Getting approval of the church board to participate in Reconciliation; appointing a special Reconciliation committee or assign the responsibility to an existing committee; outlining a program to inform and confront each member for a commitment; and assigning responsibility for the follow-through."

"The need for Reconciliation is no less urgent now than during the sixties and early seventies," Rev. Newborn said.

"We are today confronted with the evils of racism, injustice and poverty. The church (that's you and me) must contin-

ue to respond to God's redemptive and reconciling love!"

## Up-Date personality



If you have received a letter or package from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during the past ten years, the odds are almost 100 to one that Mrs. Martha L. Sykes had something to do with it.

Mrs. Sykes is Missions Building's oldest employee in years of service but one of the youngest at heart.

She began working for the Christian Church on January 4, 1943, at the age of 17. She had just graduated from Crispus Attucks High School and her principal, Russell A. Lane, recommended her for the job.

Thirty-five years and a career that progressed from messenger to mail and transportation clerk to mailroom supervisor - finds Mrs. Sykes still enjoying her work.

"I have had other job offers," she says, "but I like the people and working conditions here. It has been a joy working at Missions Building."

The hundreds of men and women who have come and gone - and Disciples employees now here - find Martha Sykes a delightful person to know. Her ready smile and friendly greeting makes instant friends of all she comes in contact with.

DEPARTMENT WORKS AT

# Helping Church Membership Grow

## Bank Founder Turns VISTA Volunteer

John R. Hayden graduated from Ohio University at Athens in 1963, with a major in finance and accounting. He completed the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1966 with an MBA degree.

Hayden's Harvard thesis was titled "How to Set Up Banks in the Ghetto." To prove that thesis, he has aided in founding successful minority owned or controlled banks in Boston, Mass., Dayton, Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Ind.

Hayden, a member of Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio, is now devoting his financial expertise to work with Volunteers in Service To America. His VISTA assignment is with the Garden Valley Neighborhood House in Cleveland, Ohio.

At Garden Valley, he will be working with local businessmen, institutions and consumers on various projects including senior citizens' housing.

Hayden is pleased with the opportunity to put his knowledge and experience in economic development to public use. At the end of the year, however, he hopes to return to the world of finance, accounting and management.

Employers with prospective openings in those areas, can secure copies of his impressive resume from **Up-Date**.

"Membership recovery - the task of recovering the 'church dropout' - is a major concern of our department," said Dr. William Hannah, executive secretary of the Department of Evangelism and Membership of the Christian Church.

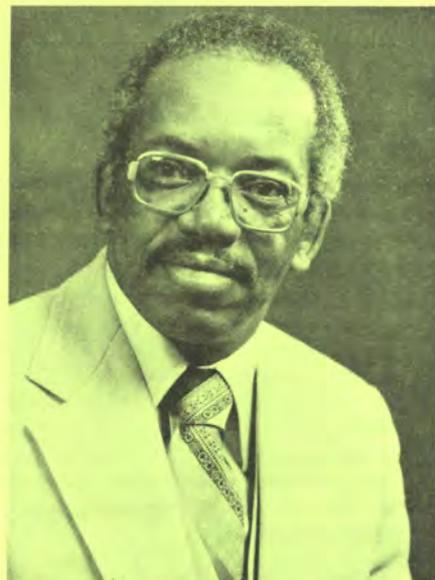
The department he heads is responsible for much of the life and mission of Disciples churches. Recently it has instituted a "Reunion Program" designed to recover former members.

Department of Evangelism and Membership's specific concerns are establishing new congregations and strengthening existing ones.

It provides staff consultants to help congregations diagnose their present program effectiveness; and on a limited basis, provides financial help to congregations that clearly indicate a need for this assistance.

Department staff services available to congregations in the area of evangelism include workshops, seminars and preaching. Regions and other church units are assisted upon request.

"Adventures in Evangelism" is a new resource available to regions and congregations. One of the most comprehensive developed by the department, it motivates, informs, inspires and moves churches and members to action.



Dr. William Hannah

"Other resources available," Dr. Hannah stated, "include A Look, Biblical Basis for Evangelism, One Diaconate, Eldership Series, Chain of Prayer, and A Congregation's Year's Program of Evangelism."

Churches seeking help or resources should contact the Department of Evangelism and Membership, 222 So. Downey Avenue, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206.

TRANSAFRICA SAYS:

## Monitoring Rhodesian Elections Can Prolong White Minority Rule

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "The Rhodesian April elections are designed by Ian Smith to perpetuate de facto white minority rule, and at the same time, win United States approval," says Trans-Africa, a black organization lobbying on African issues.

Under the constitution to be voted upon, the white four percent minority will control 28 percent of parliament and cabinet seats, Trans-Africa claims.

Also that judiciary, army, police and civil service will remain under white control.

"American acknowledgement of the April elections will serve to validate the vastly discriminatory constitution on which they are rested," says Trans-Africa. Also that United States' approval of the election process is vital to Ian Smith's strategy to have sanctions against Rhodesia lifted.

The group of distinguished blacks composing Trans-Africa urges that letters be written to congressional senators, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and UN Ambassador Andrew Young, requesting we not send observers as monitors for the Rhodesian elections.



◀ **SALISBURY, Rhodesia** - United Methodist Bishop Abel Muzorewa, one of three black leaders in Rhodesia's interim government, takes time out from the country's problems to pick vegetables in his home garden. The Bishop has demanded that Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith withdraw from office when a new black dominated government is elected.

CE OFFERS SEVERAL

## Educational Events For Black Church

Rev. Effie L. Blair, director of education for minority constituencies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), announces several educational events of special interest to Black Disciples church leaders.

"Three events have been scheduled," said Rev. Blair, "with the first to be held in Alabama, March 23-25."

Hargis Christian Retreat Center near Birmingham, Alabama will be site for the Alabama Leader Training Conference in March. Representatives from the 20 churches composing the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention are expected to attend. Resource leaders from units and departments of the Christian Church will take part in the event designed around issues and concerns of local congregations.

Three Black Disciples congregations of Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas will participate in a Metro Leader Training Conference at Central Christian Church, 3801 Lin-



*Rev. Effie L. Blair*

wood Boulevard, Kansas City, MO.

Church roles in youth ministries, stewardship and finance, CWF and CMF, evangelism and Christian education will be subjects of seminars.

Opening session of the Kansas City conference will be devoted to Disciples history with a showing of filmstrips on "People of the Parenthesis" and "The Other Alexander."

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas will host the second Biennial National Black Church Educators Event. Over 200 Christian educators are expected to take part in the June 7-9 event.

Dr. Gayraud Wilmore, professor of Martin Luther King Black Church Studies, Crozier Theological Seminary, will be the Bible lecturer.

Panel sessions will focus on current trends in Black Church education within the larger church structure.

Joint Education Development team for Black Churches will serve as resource persons. Jarvis Christian College choir will present a mini concert.

## City Lauds John R. Compton At January Farewell Banquet

CINCINNATI, Ohio - This city said its farewells to Dr. John R. Compton on January 18. He was leaving the pastorate of United Christian Church, a position he had held for nearly 30 years, to become a Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana.

It was a sad and a joyous affair. All goodbyes are sad in that they sever long-standing relationships. Joy was found in the new position Dr. Compton was assuming - head of one of the most important regions in the Christian Church.

A large number of Cincinnati organizations were represented at the farewell banquet held at the Netherland Hilton Hotel. John Compton had been a busy and important individual in the life of the community.

Guests were present from a wide range of churches and church activities; Urban League and NAACP; Cincinnati's board of education, human relations commission and city council. Several were there from various agencies includ-

ing community chest, YMCA, child care and neighborhood services.

Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the Christian Church, served as guest speaker. Cincinnati's Mayor Bobbie Sterne brought greetings and presented the departing pastor with "keys to the city" in hope of enticing him back.

Dr. Compton was presented several plaques for his distinguished service.

The appointment as a regional minister caps an illustrious religious career for Dr. John R. Compton. Limited number of Black Disciples churches in Indiana, is a clear indication that the selection was based on merit and ability.

In addition to his long years as a minister and community worker in Ohio and Cincinnati, Compton has served the Christian Church in many capacities at state, regional and national levels.

He has been a vice moderator of the General Assembly, a director on several administrative unit boards, a member



*Dr. John R. Compton*

of special committees and commissions, seminary teacher, president of the National Convocation, and administrative assistant to the Disciples president and general minister.

**Copies of UP-DATE  
Are Limited!**

**Share This One  
With a Friend!**

# Black Disciples Lax In Church Support

Church and individual contributions to Basic Mission Finance is what supports the major work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Many Black Disciples congregations evidently are not aware of this. Or judging from 1978 year end statistical reports compiled by the Church Finance Council, they are unconcerned.

A review of the giving of 440 congregations, all considered National Convocation churches, revealed 288 made no contribution at all to Basic Mission Finance during the year.

A large number of the remaining 152 churches made only token gifts of from five to fifty dollars for basic church work. These same two groups also proved either negligent or lax in special category

giving such as Week of Compassion, Reconciliation and Black Church Support.

North Carolina churches ended the year with the worst record. - 167 of the 181 gave nothing to BMF. In Kentucky, 16 of 26 churches were in the zero column; In Mississippi, 15 of 27.

Texas, 18 of 44; Ohio, 10 of 19; So. Carolina, 10 of 19; Alabama, 6 of 17; Missouri, 8 of 17; Virginia, 6 of 17 - the list of non-donors covers 23 regions in the church.

Five of six churches in Florida gave nothing; five out of 10 in Georgia; two out of six in Illinois; two out of six in Oklahoma; two out of seven in Tennessee; two out of six in Arkansas; three out of four in California.

Northeastern region records indi-

cated no giving by seven of 11 black churches. In Indiana, two out of three churches gave nothing. However, the donor church, Second Christian of Indianapolis, gave \$12,114.92 for support of the work of the church.

Giving is not the only indication of Christianity - but giving is part of being Christian. And in order to merit support, we must render support to the best of our ability.

Black Disciples are often prone to question the seriousness in which they are taken by the Christian Church. Their giving might be part of the answer. How serious would you take a congregation, or its leaders, that year after year shows itself ready and willing to receive - but never willing to give?

## 1978 RECORD OF BLACK CHURCH GIVING

REGION	BMF	BLACK CHURCH SUPPORT	CAPITAL	RECONCILIATION	WEEK OF COMPASSION
ALABAMA	1,359.55			246.45	154.74
ARKANSAS	1,115.32		1,168.00		135.13
CALIFORNIA, NORTH	969.05				
CAPITAL AREA	809.00		600.00	400.00	400.00
FLORIDA	20.00				
GEORGIA	213.00				20.00
ILLINOIS	7,407.29		2,408.50	1,295.66	128.05
INDIANA	9,090.68		606.00	1,218.24	1,200.00
KANSAS	727.00	205.00		280.00	194.00
KENTUCKY	2,080.39	1,845.63	25.00	464.60	569.25
MICHIGAN	610.73			175.00	431.43
MID-AMERICA	4,396.95	3,614.52	50.00	720.00	627.57
MISSISSIPPI	849.13			445.44	219.14
NORTH CAROLINA	3,475.59			57.00	983.10
NORTHEASTERN	1,825.00			70.00	322.00
OHIO	7,731.05	1,534.40	630.00	2,009.33	743.23
OKLAHOMA	1,137.50			125.00	44.61
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST	50.00				
PENNSYLVANIA	101.00			10.00	10.00
SOUTH CAROLINA	414.98				88.00
SOUTHWEST	3,349.98	1,929.12		148.74	489.95
TENNESSEE	2,503.50			455.00	97.12
VIRGINIA	2,576.07		109.10	460.24	781.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$52,812.76</b>	<b>\$9,128.67</b>	<b>\$5,596.50</b>	<b>\$8,580.70</b>	<b>\$7,639.25</b>



**THEY MUST BE CAREFULLY TAUGHT.** The circle of young men and women from Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Winston-Salem, No. Carolina, are getting a lesson in Disciples history. Rev. J.O. Williams is their pastor.

(Photo by R. L. Schafer, Jr.)

## Vignettes from the FIELD

From Page 3

**St. Louis, Missouri** - Centennial Christian Church has set a goal of 70 representatives for the October General Assembly. Mrs. Oneida Reed is serving as church registrar.

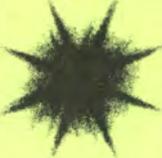
**Los Angeles, California** - Rev. and Mrs. C.W. Arnold attended a conference on the "Implications of Jonestown for the Black Church" held at San Francisco and sponsored by the National Conference of Black Churchmen. They represented the National Convocation at the meeting.

**Kinston, No. Carolina** - The Rev. C.W. Sutton began serving as full time pastor of Grove Park Christian Church on January 1, 1979, after almost 16 years pastoring on a part-time basis. Special services were held to mark the important change in the life of the church.

**Memphis, Tennessee** - Walker Memorial Christian Church paid special tribute to their pastor, Rev. G.A. Evans and his wife in February for "24 years of faithful service." Twenty churches in the Memphis area participated in the week long event.

**Detroit, Michigan** - Northwestern Christian Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of their pastor, Rev. Willie Watkins Jr., with special services. A graduate of Winston-Salem State University, Indi-

ana University and Christian Theological Seminary, Rev. Watkins served as youth minister at Park Manor Christian prior to coming to Northwestern in 1973.

**PROCLAIM  
PROCLAIM  
PROCLAIM  
CHRIST  
LORD  
LORD  
LORD**



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ST. LOUIS  
OCT. 26-31, 1979**

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES of CHRIST)**

## Our Colleges From Page 7



newspaper in the classroom was sponsored by Jarvis Division of Education for college student teachers.

Newspapers have been incorporated into curriculums at Dallas and other Texas cities. In addition to the educational value, it is felt that use of the papers might inspire students to do creative writing and to consider newspaper careers.

### AKA OBSERVANCE

The Zeta Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority at Jarvis observed Founders' Week in February. Activities included special Sunday services, a tea, fashion and talent show, and the Spring Ivy Cotillion during which sorority pledges were presented.

### ACTORS APPEAR AT JARVIS

Ossie Davis, noted playwright, director and actor, and his actress wife, Ruby Dee, presented "An Evening in Black America" on March 19.

The performance which included dramatic readings, anecdotes and scenarios by black authors, was part of the college's cultural enrichment program.

The husband and wife team are currently heard on 60 National Black Network radio stations on the "Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Story Hour."

### PRESENT DANCE GROUP

The Wajumbe Cultural Ensemble, a California-based black dance troupe, both performed and conducted classes at Jarvis in February.

Wajumbe, meaning "people who bring a message" in Kiswahili, uses dance, music, poetry and drama to present an African view to audiences. They performed in Lagos, Nigeria in 1977.

**Read UP-DATE  
To Keep Informed  
On Black Church  
Activities.**



## For Whom the Bells Toll

■ **ANNA BELLE JACKSON JONES** died March 1, 1979 at Indianapolis, Indiana, following a long illness. She was the director of missionary education and the Christian Women's Fellowship of the National Christian Missionary Convention for a ten year period.

When the program services of the National Convention were merged with those of the United Christian Missionary Society, July 1, 1960, Mrs. Jones became director of field services in the department of Christian Women's Fellowship.

Memorial services were conducted at Second Christian Church in Indianapolis.

■ **HARRY MONROE GASKINS**, elder at Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio, died December 7, 1978.

Mr. Gaskins for many years served as vice president of the education committee of the National Missionary Convention and was an early booster of the Star Supporter Fund.

A familiar figure at Black Disciples state and national conventions, he was a diligent worker in support of education and training for ministers.

In recognition of his contributions to the Dayton church, members of Summit have resolved to conduct a yearly scholarship drive in his name.

■ **MOSES L. LAMBERT**, a native of Balton, Mississippi, graduated from Southern Christian Institute in 1934. After degrees from Alabama State Teachers College and A&T College at Greensboro, No. Carolina, he served as an elementary teacher for several years.

Rev. Lambert served as pastor of First Christian Church, Reidsville, No. Carolina from 1934 to 1977. He was a former president of the Piedmont Tri-State Convention and chairman and promoter for the construction of Christian View camp site.

■ **MARY WILLIS WASHINGTON**, long a member of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, Missouri, died on January 2, 1979. She served her church as treasurer, financial secretary and youth advisor. Her early years were spent at the Annie Malone Children's Home. She became a teacher and devoted her life to work with children.

---

### AND THE BEAT GOES ON - continued from Page 6

So today I am here to say to you that Martin Luther King was a drum major and as drum majors are prone to do, he stood out in front of the movement and helped to set and maintain the cadence or beat. The drum major does not play the music but he or she does march. He or she directs the march not only with the baton but with the whistle as well.

The drum major has to be the leader. No one stands in front of the drum major. He or she may not be able to play the music but the drum major must know the music which is played. The marchers depend on the drum major to point the way yet the marchers must march and keep the beat. And the beat goes on!

This march is not a new one just written or played in this time but the march has been going on for centuries. There have been many drum majors who have stood out in the forefront. Some heads were chopped off, others were fed to lions, some fell from dreaded diseases far from places called home. Some were burned at the stake, others fell from the weight of the years on their shoulders. At least one was hanged on a cross and another was felled by an assassin's bullet. But somehow the world has not learned that though you get rid of the drum major you don't stop the music. The beat goes on.

It has been more than 23 years since the organized movement began to take shape in Montgomery, Alabama. It has been almost 11 years since Martin Luther King, Jr. was felled by the assassin's bullet in Memphis. Surely, things are not what they ought to be. People have not learned to live together as Christians. Human life means almost nothing. Hunger still runs rampant in our world. Conflict still rages between the haves and the have-nots. Unemployment among young blacks is still atrocious in a land of plenty. Eleven years after his death and we are still spending thousands of dollars trying to prove it was a conspiracy, when the causes for which he died still lack financial resources.

Yet the beat does go on, in the hearts, steps and lives of those who continue to fight oppression, prejudice, discrimination, dehumanization and any form of abuse of God's people. The beat goes on and shall continue to go on so long as all of us can sing his song: "If I can help somebody as I pass along."

Start  
Planning  
Now  
For the  
1980  
CONVOCATION

### Seeks Expanded Affirmative Action

From Page 1

"the committee was the only current structure for making concerns known to the church and that it should be continued."

### SOME VIEWS DIFFER

"The committee has viability for Hispanics until we can create our own structures," a Hispanic member stated.

"Although we share dreams, hopes and aspirations, we differ in identities, experiences and culture," said a black committee member. "Lumping us together dilutes our effectiveness."

The committee reviews church work related to Blacks and Hispanics and programs of administrative units to assure minority inclusion.

## Increase Black Student Grants

Black ministerial students from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will receive increased scholarship grants of \$150 beginning with the 1979-80 academic year.

Undergraduates will be eligible for grants of \$1,050 and seminarians \$1,500 with the increase.

The Star Supporter Fund of the Christian Men's Fellowship of the National Convocation is the major source of revenue for the grants, with supplements from operational budgets of the department of ministry.

Rev. Ozark Range Sr., Director of Black Ministry for Disciples, said scholarship aid is currently being given to twenty students.

"More than 25 black ministers who were helped by scholarships from the Star Supporter Fund, are currently pastoring Disciples congregations," said Rev. Range.



**HELPS BLACK  
MINISTERIAL STUDENTS**  
Contact Dept. Church Men  
for information

## Ministerial Marriages



**Rev. & Mrs. Ozark Range Sr.**

Rev. Ozark Range Sr., director of Black Ministry for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Mrs. Ruth Hutchinson Dickson were united in marriage, December 21, 1979.

Rev. Range attended Southern Christian Institute, Texas Christian University and Christian Theological Seminary. He pastored churches in Texas and Ohio and directed Black church work in Mississippi prior to accepting his present position in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Range, currently teaching in the Indianapolis public school system, is an accomplished musician and studied piano and organ at McGill Conservatory of Music, Montreal, Canada.



**Rev. & Mrs. George Hart**

Rev. George Hart, pastor of Mt. Olive East Christian Church, Martinsville, Va., and Ms. June Virginia Hampton of New York City, were united in marriage, September 1, 1978.

Rev. Hart, a native of Reidsville, N.C., and former president of the Piedmont Tri-State District Convention, currently serves as coordinator for the Black Disciples organization. He has been pastor of Mt. Olive East for the past nine years.

Mrs. Hart, born in Eden, N.C., moved to New York City twenty years ago where she worked in the data processing department of the New York Times.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis  
Indiana 46206

*Address Correction Requested  
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed*

**Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

Indianapolis, Ind.  
Permit No. 413

124 079163 44  
ROLAND K HUFF  
1101 NINETEENTH AVE, S  
NASHVILLE, TN 37212

# Up-Date



ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

*Summer  
1979*

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Office of the Administrative Secretary Indianapolis, Indiana

## NATIONAL CONVOCATION TRUSTEES

# Launch 2.5 Million Fund Campaign

A \$2.5 million endowment fund goal was set by the board of trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church during its April meeting held in Indianapolis.

"Such a fund will enable us to increase and stabilize the work of the Convocation," said Dr. William K. Fox, administrative secretary for the organization devoted to black Disciples work.

The trustees also named Cincinnati, Ohio, as site for the National Convocation's 1980 assembly and approved a budget of \$40,422 for the biennial meeting.

"Giving in love; sharing in service" will be theme for the 1980 Convocation. Speakers, program features and workshops will emphasize "giving of time, talent and treasure" to church work.

Task force reports on the focus and interpretation of the National Convocation; Up-Date, quarterly publication on black church work; and development of black church-wide leadership were approved by the trustees.

Establishment of the \$2.5 million "Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund" began with a \$5,000 check from Greenwood Cemetery, a Nashville, TN property willed to the former National Christian Missionary Convention by the late Preston Taylor.

Joe McClure, manager of the cemetery, in presenting the check to the board of trustees, termed it the first of what he hoped "would be an annual allotment from cemetery profits."

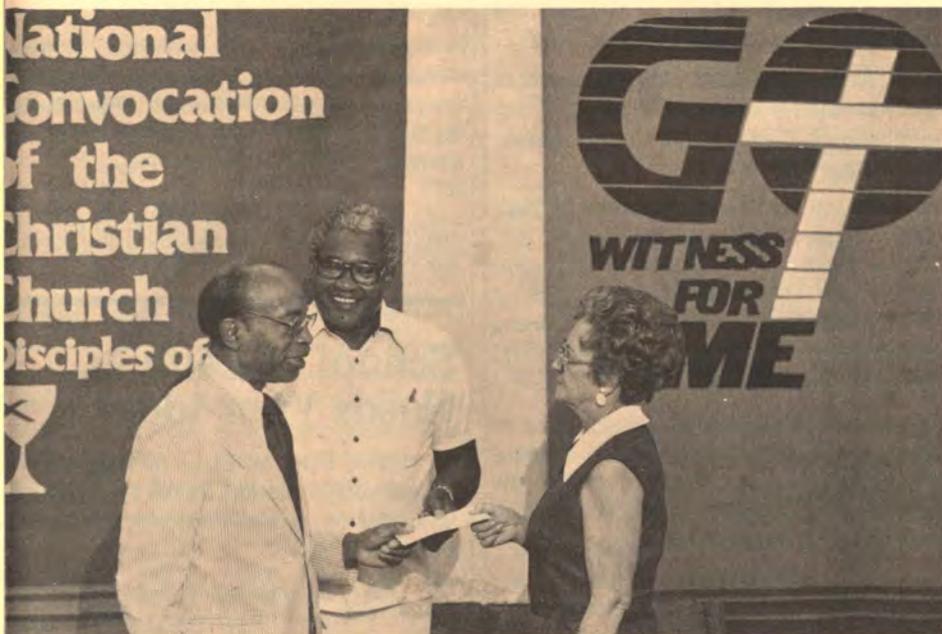
"I feel we are now in a position to follow the wishes of Mr. Taylor as expressed in his will," said McClure.

Preston Taylor, black Disciples founder of the National Christian Missionary Convention, willed several business properties including the cemetery to the organization for support of "Christian education and training of young colored people, the missionary enterprises of my church, and the preaching of the Gospel at home."

National Convocation officers will seek gifts from churches and individuals as a means of reaching the fund goal. Christian Church Foundation will serve as a depository for gifts and will manage the fund.

Ozark Range Sr., Convocation president, urged trustees and other black church leaders to set an example through early gifts to the endowment fund.

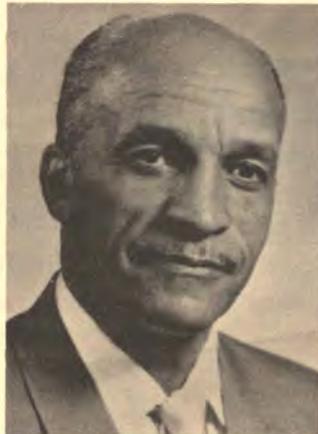
"Willed bequests will also be sought," said Range.



**CHARTER FUND DONORS** - Dr. William K. Fox, administrative secretary of the National Convocation, and Rev. Ozark Range Sr., Convocation president, give Mrs. Opal Rohrer, Christian Church Foundation representative, checks representing initial donations to the endowment fund. Charter donors to date include Board of directors of Greenwood Cemetery Company, Nashville, Tenn., \$5,000; Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius W. Arnold, Los Angeles, Calif., \$1,000; Dr. and Mrs. William K. Fox, Indianapolis, Ind., \$500; and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Saunders, Dayton, Ohio, \$500. Donations should be sent to the National Convocation, Box 1986, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206. Christian Church Foundation will manage the fund. Earnings will be used to support Convocation education and mission programs. A first year goal of \$100,000 has been set for the endowment fund.



Patricia Russell



John B. McLendon Jr.



Kenneth E. Henry



Clarence Johnson

## Lawyer, Athlete, Professor, Minister, Speakers For National Convocation

Major speakers for the sixth biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will include a lawyer, athlete, college professor and a young Disciples minister who formerly served as a member of the staff of Division of Homeland Ministries.

The Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio, will be the site of the August 5-10, 1980 gathering of Black Disciples. Dr. William K. Fox, administrative secretary of the National Convocation, expects a record number to attend the six-day affair.

The Convocation will officially open on Wednesday, August 6, with Rev. Ozark Range, Sr., president, giving the keynote address based on the theme, "Giving in Love: Sharing in Service."

Dr. Kenneth E. Henry, associate professor of church history at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA, will serve as Bible lecturer.

Dr. Henry, a Disciple, is a graduate of Jarvis Christian College and a former professor at the Hawkins, Texas school. He received the B.D. and S.T.M. degrees from Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn., and is currently a Ph. D. candidate at Yale.

He has served on various Christian Church boards and has written several historical articles.

Rev. Clarence Johnson, senior minister of United Christian Church, Jackson, MS, will be the principal speaker for Thursday, August 7 session of the Convocation.

Rev. Johnson, a graduate of Touga-

loo (Miss.) College, received his M.Div. degree from Christian Theological Seminary. One of his major interests is social action and he has been involved in a wide range of community activities.

Rev. Johnson was the initial director of Black Ministry for Disciples and during his period of employment at Indianapolis headquarters of the church, originated programs of salary support and scholarship that are still in effect.

Atty. Patricia A. Russell, chief of the complaints branch, Federal Communications Commission, is the speaker for Friday, August 8.

Ms. Russell is a graduate of Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY, was awarded the Juris Doctorate Degree by Howard University School of Law in 1973. Her qualifications include being authorized to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Following teaching assignments in Detroit and Indianapolis public schools, Ms. Russell accepted a position with the FCC. She has received several promotions leading to her present position.

Atty. Russell, a noted lecturer, has spoken for various professional, educational, civic and religious organizations. She is a member of a wide range of civic and professional groups and has won many awards for outstanding service.

John B. McLendon Jr., first black basketball coach to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, will be guest speaker at the All-Convocation Banquet, Saturday, August 9.

Coach McLendon's basketball feats

are legendary and include leading high school, college, amateur, industrial and professional teams to outstanding seasons.

While at Tennessee A&I University, he was the first coach in basketball history to win three successive NAIA championships. In 1961, he took a U.S.A. all-star team to Europe, winning all 10 games played.

McLendon coached the Denver Rockets of the American Basketball Association in 1969. His book, "Fast Break Basketball," has been widely read and studied by coaches and players.

A layman, McLendon has been a member of Disciples churches in Kansas, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky.

## School of Faith Needs Your Ideas

Rev. Effie M. Blair, director of the School of Faith and Life for the National Convocation, wants "feedback from pews and pulpit."

"We are excited about possibilities for work shops on subjects reflecting our theme," says Rev. Blair. She is asking congregations to forward their interests and needs in order to make the planned work shops more meaningful to Black Disciples.

Convocation theme is "Giving in Love: Sharing in Service." Comments must be received by mid-November to be considered. Write to her c/o National Convocation, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

# Vignettes from the FIELD



## Among the Congregations

**Washington, D.C.** - Twelfth Street Christian Church held a "mortgage burning" ceremony May 20, with Dr. Raymond E. Brown, vice president of the Board of Church Extension, delivering the sermon. Rev. George W. Jones is the pastor; Rev. Mary B. Oliver associate pastor.

**Nashville, Tennessee** - Joe McClure, manager of Greenwood Cemetery, attended the International Association of Cemeteries in Honolulu, Hawaii in April. Brother McClure serves on the board of directors. Greenwood Cemetery is owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc.

**St. Louis, Missouri** - Dr. Samuel W. Hylton Jr., first vice moderator of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), continues to blaze new trails in the church. Recently he brought the morning worship message in the National City Church of Washington, D.C., as part of a joint service involving choir and members of the 12th Street congregation in the Capitol City. William Howland is minister at National City and George W. Jones at 12th Street.

**Dallas, Texas** - Archie J. Warren, formerly minister at Eastside Avenue Christian in Jacksonville, Florida, was installed as pastor of Romine Street Christian Church, April 18. William K. Fox of Indianapolis, Indiana and Charles L. Faulkner of Greenville, Texas brought the morning and afternoon installation messages. Participants in the afternoon installation ritual included Harrell A. Rea, Southwest regional minister, Eugene K. Brink, Dallas area minister, M.C. Dickson, pastor of Warren Avenue Christian, and James O. Griffin of Romine who served as master of ceremonies.

**Los Angeles, California** - Members of the 92nd Street Christian Church honored day care center director Ann Calvin and assistant director Rosia Beard recently with appreciation gifts. Mrs. Calvin has been the director for the past 26 years. The center was founded in 1948. It has

*Continued on page 11*

## NATIONAL CONVOCATION CALENDAR 1979 Events and Activities of Black Church Interest

DATES	EVENT & SPONSOR	PLACE
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
12-16	Northeastern District Assembly, Churches of Christ (Disciples of Christ)	St. Paul CC, DC Brooklyn, NY
13-14	CMF Retreat, Virginia Region	Craig Springs, VA
15-16	CWF Retreat, Virginia Region	Craig Springs, VA
14-16	CMF Retreat, Kansas Region	
14-16	CMF/CWF Retreats, Ohio Region	Camp Christian
27-30	United Fellowship of Churches of Christ (Disciples of Christ)	Brooklyn, NY
28-30	Meetings for all Eastern Districts, (CC,DC) Contact bishops for sites	Unannounced
30	Southwest Ohio Songspiration	Unannounced
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
5-7	Missionary Convention, Goldsboro-Raleigh Dist.	Goldsboro, NC
5-7	CMF Retreat, Oklahoma Region	Texoma Camp Kingston, OK
9-11	Ministers Retreat, North Carolina Region	Christmount Black Mountain, NC
11-14	Washington-Norfolk District Assembly, Churches of Christ (DC)	Roper, NC
12-14	South Carolina Christian Missionary Convention, Popular Hill Church	Leaksville, SC
15-16	National Convocation Board of Trustees	Indianapolis, IN
19-21	Union Assembly (Rocky Mount-Richmond), Churches of Christ (DC)	Richmond, VA
23-28	Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly, Churches of Christ (DC)	Goldsboro, NC
24-25	Convocation for Women Ministers, Division Homeland Ministries	St. Louis, MO
25-26	National Evangelistic Association	St. Louis, MO
26	International Christian Women's Fellowship Commission	St. Louis, MO
26-31	General Assembly of the Christian Church	St. Louis, MO
31	Western Assembly, Churches of Christ (DC)	Newton, Grove, NC
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
4	End Western Assembly	Newton Grove, NC
9-11	Southern Assembly	Clinton, NC
15-16	Reconciliation General Steering Committee	Indianapolis, IN
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
5-8	Conference of Regional Ministers & Moderators	St. Louis, MO
12-14	Committee on Black & Hispanic Concerns	Indianapolis, IN
25	Christmas	Everywhere
28-30	Meetings for all Eastern Districts	Contact Bishops
30	Southwest Ohio Songspiration	To be Announced
30	Black Disciples Ministers Fellowship Union Service	Cleveland, OH

BISHOP TUTU SAYS**"Remove, Don't Improve Comfort of Chains"**

BOSTON (RNS) - A noted church leader from South Africa said here that blacks like himself would be given prison sentences if they were to urge U.S. firms to divest their holdings in the country.

Angelic Bishop Desmond Tutu,

general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, asserted that "if I say I advocate divestment by American firms, that statement would earn me under our security legislation, a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison. That's why people are just a little

bit coy."

The 47-year old prelate told his audience at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral that Americans and U.S. firms have "a fundamental moral decision to make. Don't pass the buck and expect us to make the decision for you."

While he stopped short of specifically urging divestment, Bishop Tutu spoke against arguments that are sometimes used to justify continued U.S. corporate operations in South Africa.

"Some people say 'Our presence creates jobs and we have used our presence to change the situation,'" he noted.

"When blacks get cynical they say, 'That's very interesting but it looks as if you're benefitting from cheap labor.'"

Such ameliorative actions, Bishop Tutu asserted, constitute "moving the furniture around, not changing the structure of the building." He declared "We don't want our chains made comfortable, we want our chains removed."

Asked about the recent decision of Polaroid Corporation to leave South Africa rather than permit its photo equipment to be used to enforce apartheid restrictions, the church leader said, "Maybe it is better to have some people out of work with the prospect that in the future we will have a better South Africa where whites and blacks together can hold up their heads in pride."

If U.S. firms want to continue investing in South Africa, the bishop suggested, they should demand that the labor force be housed as family units near the place of work of the breadwinner, that black labor be unionized, and that there be "substantial investment in black education" on the part of the firms.

Bishop Tutu said recent changes in South African labor laws to permit blacks to form unions are "an important step forward," but added that they are deficient in not forcing white unions to accept blacks or in combatting the discrimination of "closed shop" agreements made by white unions.

Looking to the future, the church leader asserted that the apartheid system "is evil and immoral and for that very reason, because we inhabit a moral universe, it is doomed to failure."

**Claims Jonestown Warnings Ignored**

A federal report on the Jonestown mass suicides said the State Department had several warnings of the impending disaster but failed to act properly, partly due to poor judgement.

The report said U.S. officials apparently didn't realize the seriousness of the People's Temple situation and were "extremely inefficient" in handling complaints.

Among warnings was an affidavit from a defector telling of rehearsals for a mass suicide.

Petitions from parents and relatives of Jonestown members attempted to convince the State Department that

the situation there was "desperate."

A June 1978 request from the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown seeking permission to ask the Guyanese government for checks and tighter control over Jonestown was also denied.

**Praise Him - Quietly!**

Complaints from neighbors of a Baltimore congregation is forcing it to move. It was claimed the Church of God members used "drums, horns, pots and pans" to reinforce their singing and shouting during services held three times weekly.

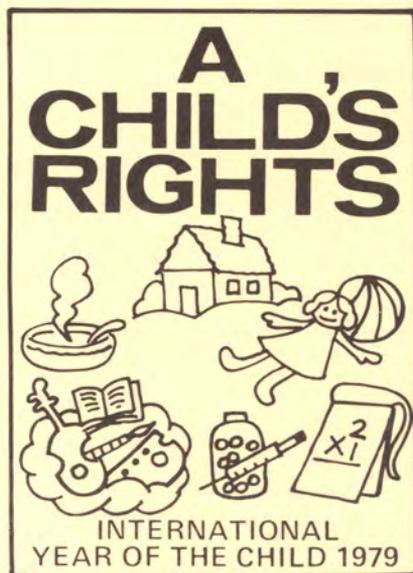
**African Turmoil Hurting Children**

NAIROBI - Half of the refugees in the world have fled turmoil in African nations, and one out of every two of them are children, according to estimates.

Four million refugees in Africa constitute nearly half of the 8.5 million in the world, says the All Africa Conference of Churches, and is "indicative of the alarming magnitude of the problem of human rights violations on the continent."

Aida Gindy, East African regional director for United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund, said most of the refugee children were victims of wars in Namibia and Zimbabwe, with the Horn of Africa alone accounting for nearly 200,000 of them.

She added that at least 80 percent of the children who are refugees in 10 countries in East Africa have inadequate health services and no access to clean water.



1979 is the Year of the Child. It is a time to end child abuse and neglect. It is a time to take steps to insure all children the right - to love, education and opportunity; to adequate food and special care if needed; to develop individual abilities in a spirit of peace and brotherhood.

# Up-Date

ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Published Quarterly in Cooperation with  
Office of Communication, Christian Church

W.K. Fox, Editor - J.S. Saunders, Mgr. Editor  
R. Schafer, Jr., Photographer - T. Pyatt, Compositor

Address All Communications to Editor, Up-Date  
P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

*Pen Tracks*  
by Joe Saunders

I wish all Black Disciples could read the will of the late Preston Taylor. Written in 1925, it expresses a vision seldom found in church leaders. A vision of faith and hope for the future that still shines bright and clear after over a half-century.

Preston Taylor, a Black Disciples minister, was a founder and long-time president of the National Christian Missionary Convention, predecessor to the National Convocation.

Under terms of his will, property he owned at Nashville, Tennessee, was bequeathed to the NCMC upon death of his wife, Ida D. Taylor.

"I have been a minister of the Christian Church for fifty-six years," Taylor said, "and am very much interested in the Christian education and training of young colored people, the missionary enterprises of my church, and the preaching of the Gospel at home. . ."

Preston Taylor's property has furnished a large percentage of the National Convocation's operating expenses and has kept his vision of a viable organization for Black Disciples alive.

It is time now for us to pick up the challenge and increase the work that he started.

A Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund has been established. An initial fund goal of two and one-half million dollars has been set. What can we do to reach this goal?

It is anticipated that some, like Taylor, will remember the National Convocation in their wills. But before we die, we must live.

It behooves the hundreds of Black Disciples churches with their thousands of members to take the initiative in this worthy endeavor.

If each church made a cash gift of \$100 or more to the fund; and each congregational member gave five dollars or more - it would show that we are serious and encourage others capable of making more substantial gifts.

Preston Taylor had a dream. It was an unselfish dream for others. And he

*Continued on page 10*

## Good News Is Disturbing

The Good News is sometimes disturbing.

We think the poor stewardship of so many of our congregations is deplorable. We want them to do something about it, so we point it out. But some of our church leaders feel that this discrepancy in their church life should be minimized; that rather than point out short-comings, we should confine ourselves to telling about church support sources available to them.

Some leaders found the large number of their churches making little or no contribution to general church work disturbing. We hope they will be disturbed enough to do something about it.

In our last issue, we printed comments of a black church pastor that some whites found disturbing. We did not endorse his opinion although it is a wider spread one than some think. It is an opinion that needs to be brought out into the open and dealt with.

It would be a simple matter for the staff of **Up-Date** to confine the columns to bright little "uplift" items; help people to forget the disturbing elements in the Good News. But we don't see this as our role.

We see ourselves as providing a forum for black church opinion; for stimulating thought and growth; for pointing out challenges and incentives; for increasing dialogue and participation between segments of our church. Sometimes in attempting to do this, our words and content will be disturbing. But we hope they will make our readers think and re-examine themselves.

The Good News was disturbing. It presented an unpopular view that was contrary to custom. It destroyed long-standing images and preconceptions. It began changes that are still taking place. It led to a crucifixion in attempt to minimize and lessen its impact.

We want **Up-Date** to be an effective organ. We would rather be effective than popular. To be so, we will at times seem to espouse unpopular positions. But we know the Good News is sometimes disturbing.

### PLAN NOW TO ATTEND NATIONAL CONVOCATION

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

"Giving in Love; Sharing in Service"

Cincinnati, Ohio

August 5 - 10, 1980

## BLACK PASTORS TOLD Share People's Problems

"Share the problems and anguish of your people and be symbols of hope," black ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were told during their annual retreat held in March on the campus of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas.

The event was sponsored by the department of ministry of the Christian Church in cooperation with the Black Ministers Fellowship of the National Convocation.

Dr. Harry S. Wright, dean of chapel and professor of religion and philosophy at Bishop College, Dallas, Texas, was the major speaker. "The Minister, Spiritual Shepherd" was the retreat theme.

"If you would be real shepherds, you must first know what it means to be sheep," Dr. Wright told the 107 participants. He urged the ministers "to bring knowledge, life and guidance" to the people; to, like John the Baptist, "be voices crying in the ghetto wilderness,

telling the undying truths of God."

Although many of the participants came from Texas, the retreat attracted black ministers from California, New Jersey, Ohio, Mississippi and North and South Carolina. A large number of those present were graduates of the host college.

The three addresses by Dr. Wright were termed "soul sessions" and each was followed by small group discussions on how to implement and broaden the messages. His subjects were "Administering to Crisis," "The Real Church in a Real World" and "Prayer As a Creative Force."

"God's power has not been usurped by Moscow or the Pentagon," said Dr. Wright in urging the assembled ministers to "spread the Good News."

"The goal of history is the kingdom of God" was a message the college dean said was going unannounced by preachers. He warned that "people who don't hear bells may hear bombs."

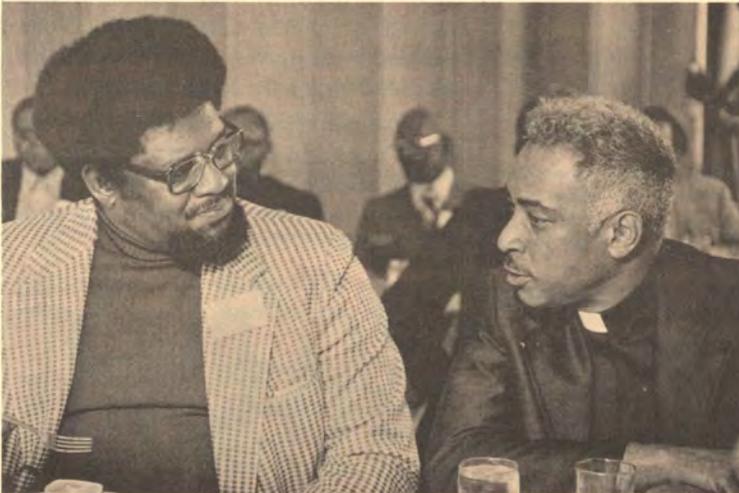
Dr. Wright claimed "you must understand your culture before you can communicate with it." He asked his audience to forget their degrees and speak in terms the people could understand and were familiar with.

"Don't deal with mountain peaks," he added. "Deal with vegetables that grow in low valleys."

"People don't come to church on Sunday to hear bad news or the preacher's warmed-over blues," he said.

Workshops were held on a variety of subjects including multi-media presentation, problems in pastoral ministry and the minister and his community relationships. "The Other Alexander," a slide projection on black Disciples history developed by Joseph Saunders and Robert Schafer, Jr., was shown in plenary.

Ozark Range Sr., director of black ministry for the church, coordinated the retreat with the assistance of M.C. Dickson, Dallas, president of the Black Ministers Fellowship.





Oscar Haynes, immediate past president of the National Convocation and moderator of the Christian Church in the Capital Area, has been nominated as second vice-moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Elections will be held during the St. Louis General Assembly with officers to serve two-year terms ending in 1981.

## After 31 Years

by W.K. Fox

A brisk 10 minute walk from New Haven, Connecticut's AMTRACK Railway Station is White Street smack in the middle of urban deterioration and the Black community.

For 31 years the vigorous little congregation, Thomas Chapel Church of Christ, (Disciples of Christ) at 30 White Street has been a ray of hope to hundreds of persons immersed in hopelessness.

Founding minister and fearless Pastor Luther T. Thomas has led the growing congregation from 3 members to more than 400. Sunday the small sanctuary is packed with pre-school children to senior adults. Worship is warm and stimulating.

An ambitious bussing program carries members and friends up and down the Eastern Seaboard to church gatherings, sight-seeing and recreation.

Plans for constructing a \$650,000 new Church center are being developed. The first phase includes nine months of ground-breaking worship services led by support congregations; selling of ground-breaking shovels and related articles.

Thomas Chapel Church is the frontier out-post of the Disciples of Christ in the Northeast. It requests the help of other concerned Church persons.

## NO RESERVED SEATS

### A Message From A. Philip Randolph

By W.K. Fox

It was providential that I was in New York City the week that A. Philip Randolph died.

Saturday evening, May 19, I took the short subway ride from Times Square to the Randolph Job Training Center at 162 Fifth Avenue to join Mayor Koch and hundreds of other dignitaries in a Wake celebrating the Life of the 90-year old civil rights worker.

As I got on the elevator to go to the celebration on the 11th floor, the following Randolph quotation was placed in my hands by one of the hostesses:

*"...At the banquet table of nature there are no reserved seats. You get what you can hold. You can't take anything without some power. And power comes from organization..."*

These sayings can be dismissed as the words of a hard-nosed labor organizer. But they are the words of one who conceived, help mobilize and directed the great "March on Washington" in 1963. These are the thoughts of one who in 1925 led and organized the lowly train porters into the powerful Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

These are the words of one who at 90 years of age was actively involved in a massive job training program for under-privileged persons - a tireless leader whose institution's program gives the means of hope to hundreds of hopeless persons daily.

*"...At the banquet table of nature there are no reserved seats."*

Randolph's message - like the message left by the late founding fathers of Black Disciples of Christ structures like the National Christian Missionary Convention and an institution like Jarvis Christian College - still must be heard and heeded.

Power does come through organization. But in the Church, that organization must be Christ-centered and Biblically rooted. Power resulting from such an organization will enable you to "get what you can take, and keep what you can hold."

The National Convocation of the Christian Church is striving to be such a Christ-centered and Biblically rooted organization.

## Up-Date personality



Mrs. Annie Love Fain, Palestine, Texas, was the 1979 recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award presented by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs. Fain, a member of Fulton Street Christian Church, is a Licensed Visiting Nurse. During her 35 years in health care, she has worked at several hospitals and nursing homes in Texas.

Daughter of the late Rev. E.W. Henry and Mrs. Ophelia Henry, she attended the Chicago Post Graduate School of Nursing, the Glover and Davenport X-Ray Training Courses and the Palestine School of Vocational Nursing.

Mrs. Fain's award is not the first won by members of the Henry family. Her father received the local club's Religious Award in 1966; the Henry family received the club's Meritorious Family Award in 1974; and in 1978, her son received the Youth Citizenship Award.

A brother, Dr. Enoch W. Henry Jr., serves on the international staff of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as director of special congregational services.

RECONCILIATION DIRECTOR SAYS

## Unemployment A "Ticking Time Bomb"

Unemployment is a "ticking time bomb that, if unheeded, could generate conflict like that of the 1960's," said Ernest J. Newborn of Indianapolis, Ind., as a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) race and poverty committee met in New York City, May 16-20.

Unemployment among blacks in 1979 is twice (12 percent as compared to six percent) that of whites, said Newborn, administrative director of Reconciliation, race and poverty program of the church. For black teen-agers, he said, the unemployment rate is 37 percent.

"Reconciliation has played a significant role in the remarkable social, economic and political gains for blacks and other minorities. There has been a sharp

increase of minorities entering college. There are 45 times as many black elected officials as in the early 1960's," said Newborn.

The General Reconciliation Committee, which directs the Disciples' program, approved \$108,125 in grants to 23 projects throughout the country. The program, which started in 1969, is beginning its second decade of service.

One of the largest grants is \$26,500 for a program involving middle class whites with inner city blacks in community action in 23 cities.



Ernest J. Newborn

---

### A Letter to the Editor of the Atlanta Constitution

By Julian Bond\*

Good news at last. Race and racism, . . . are "exaggerated too much" according to one of the authors of a survey reported by Tyrone D. Terry in the March 10, 1979 edition of *Weekend Extra*. (Atlanta Constitution)

Just wait 'til the one-and-a-half million unemployed Blacks in America learn they'll have to seek some other cause for their condition.

Imagine how surprised the 367,000 unemployed black teenagers will be to learn that their race isn't the reason their jobless figures went up last year while a reduction occurred in similar statistics for white youth.

I can't wait to find out the real reason unemployment among Blacks is higher now than at any time since the Depression, or why black jobless figures are 2.3 times as high as among whites.

It isn't race, according to Louis Henri Bolce III and Susan H. Gray. In an article in the *Public Interest*, a New York quarterly, these scholars conclude that "old line black leaders" and that old devil "the media" are responsible for the great disparities between black and white income, education, employment and life expectancy.

I'm curious to learn exactly why it is the proportion of black families that are poor increased between 1970 and 1978 in every region of the country except the Southeast. I'm sure the 200,000 unemployed black female heads of households will want to know why their unemployment rate is twice as high as among white women who head their families. Black men who head families will want an answer to the same question.

If race hasn't kept infant mortality rates higher than infant death rates for whites, or subtracted a year of expectable life from the life span of black men over the decade of the 60's, or kept the 1977 figure for black high school graduates 25 to 29 years old (48.5%) lower than the figure for whites the same age 27 years ago (55.2%), then what mysterious non-racial determinant is responsible?

"The black population cannot now be characterized as affluent or poor, educated or uneducated, skilled or unskilled, but all of these" Bolce and Gray write.

But for some reason, three times as many white men (34%) and women (22%) completed college in 1976 as did black men and women (11%).

Although we're assured the reasons aren't racial, college educated black men still earn only 85% of the earnings of college educated white men; black women with a college degree earn only 70% of the income such white men do.

If the reason for all this isn't race, I wish the authors would conduct another study to tell me what it is.

\*Julian Bond is in the Senate of the Georgia legislature. This letter appeared in the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION and in the INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD'S MONTHLY REPORT.

---

## Court Rejects Sears Complaint

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A federal judge has dismissed a suit filed by Sears, Roebuck & Company charging that the government's allegedly conflicting employment guidelines were mainly responsible for the present low status of women and minorities in jobs, and that the government should resolve these conflicts.

Judge June L. Green ruled that "this alleged conflict is not sufficiently concrete" to give Sears basis to sue, and that a company as large as Sears could be expected to find a way to provide equal employment opportunities.

Sears, the nation's largest retailer, has for several years been under investigation for job discrimination by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The agency is reportedly planning to file one of the largest complaints ever against Sears.

The EEOC said it has found "patterns of sex, race and national origin discrimination" at all levels at Sears. Edward R. Telling, chairman and chief executive officer of Sears, held that Sears has an "outstanding" affirmative action program.

The judge's ruling upheld arguments of U.S. Justice Department lawyers that the Sears case was "a political essay, not a lawsuit" and didn't meet constitutional requirements for a legal case.



**CONDUCT MARRIAGE LAB.** Lorenzo and Louise Evans help married couples enrich their lives together by conducting Marriage Communication Labs. The weekend experience is available to Disciples congregations through the Office of Family Education, Division of Homeland Ministries.

## Couples Qualify To Conduct Marriage Communication Labs

Making marriages work is the basic aim of one of the programs currently being sponsored by the Christian Church's office of family education.

"Too often emphasis is placed on the wedding and little on the marriage," say Frank and Loraine Pitman, co-directors of the office.

Their answer to the pressures of work, children and maintaining a home, lies in Marriage Communication Labs during which married couples spend a weekend in getting to know each other and re-

establish lines of communication.

Among couples currently trained to lead such labs are Lorenzo and Louise Evans and Ernest and Janice Newborn of Indianapolis; Sandra and Sir Walter Scott, Fort Bragg, NC; James and Josie Williams, Winston-Salem, NC; and Claude and Zola Walker, Big Sandy, TX.

The 48-hour lab sessions help couples improve listening skills, resolve conflict, articulate affectional needs, establish common goals and define expectations of one another. The labs are couple-oriented.

## Jackson To Mississippi Boulevard

Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, TN called Elder Alvin O. Jackson of Indianapolis, IN to be its minister as of June 1, 1979.

Pastor Jackson is an alumnus of Butler University in Indianapolis, IN and the School of Religion at Duke University in Durham, NC. He has had impressive ministries at the Loudon Avenue Church in Roanoke, VA and Second Church in Indianapolis.

Commenting on the leaving of his associate pastor at Second Church, Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr. said, "Over the years we have tried to be consistent in our farewells to our associates, but some-

times when they are as special as Rev. and Mrs. Jackson it becomes hard to be consistent . . . The Jackson's have made their mark and they shall not be forgotten."

An inspiring recognition ritual and farewell reception was held in Second Church - May 6, 1979.

Elder Jackson succeeds Lee Koonce and the late Blair T. Hunt as pastor of Mississippi Boulevard. For more than a half century this congregation influenced the direction and welfare of Black Disciples of Christ on a national scale through the leadership of its pastor, the late Blair T. Hunt and banker and insurance magnate the late, J.E. Walker.

## Notes on Black Disciples History

by W.K. Fox

**OCTAVIOUS SINGLETON** (1869-1951) was born in Edwards, MS as the oldest of three brothers. Following completion of elementary and high schools at Southern Christian College he entered Hiram College in Ohio. Both institutions were supported by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

After graduation from Hiram in 1894 he served the East Main Street Church in Xenia. That same year the Christian Women's Board of Missions asked him to aid in the establishment of the Louisville Christian Bible School in Louisville, KY. He was employed as assistant principal and the chief field recruiting agent.

The Louisville institution graduated such students as the late W.H. and C.H. Dickerson who became creative writers and pastors in Kentucky and West Virginia; the late F.T. Floyd, Minister at Third Church in Louisville for more than 25 years; the late Isaiah Moore, noted Bible teacher and evangelist in Kentucky and Ohio; the late R. Wesley Watson, Pastor of congregations in New York and Virginia and Tri-state evangelist for Missouri; Arkansas and Kansas; and S.S. Myers, Pastor-emeritus of West Paseo Christian in Kansas City, Missouri and leader in the development of the nationally organized life of Black Disciples of Christ.

Octavious Singleton worked approximately 26 years at Louisville Christian Bible School before leaving in 1922 to establish the National Home Finding Society (for orphaned children) in Louisville. Later a grant from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation enabled him to buy a farm in Irvington, KY and start another orphanage.

Passage of a Kentucky State Foster Home law in 1942 prohibited the use of private properties and forced the closing of the Singleton orphanages.

The contribution of Singleton to Church and community continues through three daughters - Anne Louise Newhouse living in Indianapolis; Alzeta M. Davis and Eunice Wilson both residing in Cleveland, OH.

Next issue: ANNE LOUISE NEWHOUSE (1895 to PRESENT)

## Retires After Serving Jarvis Half A Century

Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas, recently honored Mrs. Venita Carney Waddleton for her 50 years of service to the school.

A surprise banquet was held for the college registrar during Founders' and Homecoming Week, with Jarvis alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends, roasting and toasting Mrs. Waddleton as they recalled memories of her 50 years.

A graduate of old Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia, Mrs. Waddleton also studied at Wasburn College, Topeka, Kansas, and at the College of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

Mrs. Waddleton, a native of Topeka, first started at Jarvis in September 1929 as a teacher of commercial subjects. She was the only teacher in the business department at that time.

For one year, 1931, she was assigned to a fourth year high school class in elements of agriculture. Earl W. Rand, now president of Jarvis Christian College, was one of ten students enrolled in the class.

Mrs. Waddleton has served during the tenure of all seven presidents of Jarvis Christian College - J.N. Ervin, P.C. Washington, C.W. Blackburn, J.B. Eubanks, J.O. Perpener, J.P. Jones and E.W. Rand.

The lives of many students at Jarvis have been touched by Venita Carney Waddleton. Most will remember the two signs on her desk that exemplify her life and work.

One sign reads: "Every job is a self portrait of the person who did it. Auto-graph your work with excellence."

The other sign says "What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."

Mrs. Waddleton who retired at the end of the 1979 school year, was presented a silver tea service by the college.

**Copies of UP-DATE  
Are Limited!**

**Share This One  
With a Friend!**



## Haynes Presents Stewardship Trophy to Jamaican Churches

Oscar Haynes, past president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, presented Disciples of Christ churches in Jamaica a stewardship trophy.

Haynes, moderator of the Christian Church in the Capital Area, termed the trophy an "expression of love" and a means of "keeping the flames of friendship burning between the Jamaican and

American Disciples of Christ."

In a letter to Stotrell Lowe, executive director of the church in Jamaica, Haynes asked that the trophy be awarded to the congregation judged having "the best performance in Christian stewardship during the past year."

The trophy is to be presented on a similar basis for a five-year period, the 1983 recipient retaining it permanently.

## Arson Creates \$325,000 Damage at West Paseo

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - West Paseo Christian Church, pastored by K. David Cole, suffered \$325,000 in damages on August 15, in what fire officials termed "a case of arson."

Cushions from church pews, fire-fighters said, were used to start two fires in the three-story church sanctuary. Damage to the church was set at \$250,000 with an additional \$75,000 damage to contents.

A recently purchased new piano, organ, pews and books were destroyed in the blaze. A fire door confined the flames to the newer part of the building.

Officers of the 550-member congregation said classes and church functions other than worship would not be disrupted. Another place for Sunday worship will have to be found.

*Pen Tracks  
by Joe Saunders*

from Page 5

knew that the dream would "require a greater income than can be realized from my estate."

Black Disciples desperately need the "education and training of both men and women for Christian leadership" that Preston Taylor envisioned helping make possible. It takes money to make his dream, which is also our dream, come true.

Don't wait until you die. Taxes and inflation may have eaten up your estate by then. Don't wait to be asked. Don't plan on doing it tomorrow or next week.

Send your gift today. Make it as large as you can afford. The National Convocation needs it now in its efforts to help you.

## Vignettes FROM PAGE 3

had continuous operation - even after the tragic fires of 1978. C.W. and A.P. Arnold are co-pastors of 92nd.

**Indianapolis, Indiana** - Dr. John R. Compton was installed as the regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana, March 19, in the Southport Christian Church. A sizeable delegation from United Church in Cincinnati, formerly served by Dr. Compton, attended the ceremonies. Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden delivered the sermon. Other participants were Claudia E. Grant, William K. Fox, William W. Mc Dermet, Marilyn Moffett and Marion Smith.

**Detroit, Michigan** - Elder William W. Simms, minister of the Wildwood Christian Church of Oklahoma City, led a "Week of Preaching" at United Church, April 29-May 4. Theme for the services was "Is your all on the altar?" The United congregation will sponsor its fourth summer camp program at Crystal Lake, July 8-14. "Communiversity," an educational feature program is also underway at United with members of the congregation serving as instructors. Dr. LaMar Clark is United's pastor.

**New York, New York** - Elder Gregory Brown, an MDiv. student at Union Seminary, was delegation leader and co-chairperson for the Youth March for Jobs on April 4. Approximately 5,000 youths marched in Washington, D.C., urging more employment. Goals for the rally included lifting up the need to restore 250,000 jobs which have been deleted from the 1980 summer's budget and commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The sponsoring youth council is an auxiliary of the National Coalition for Economic Justice in New York.

**Dayton, Ohio** - District Eight CMF Rally was held at Summit Christian Church in March, with 126 present. The district trophy given for the highest percentage of attendance, was won by First United Christian of Xenia. The rally netted \$126 for men's work in the Ohio region.

**Jackson, Mississippi** - Jackson Powell, 104 year old father of Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, vice president of the National Convocation, died here May 1, 1979. Mr. Powell was an outstanding farmer, church and community worker in Claiborne County.

**Knoxville, Tennessee** - Anniversary ser-

# For Whom the Bells Toll



**JOHN FLANDERS WHITFIELD**, veteran Disciples of Christ leader in North Carolina and the Capital Area, died in Washington, D.C., March 31, 1979. He was born in Kinston, N.C., March 12, 1895, and began preaching at the age of 14.

Following study at Kingston College, Virginia Union Theological Seminary and Howard University, Whitfield taught in public schools of North Carolina and became principal of Goldsboro Christian Institute, Goldsboro, N.C.

He served as pastor of the Ninth Ave. Christian Church, Roanoke, Va., and for 32 years of the 12th Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C. He retired from the ministry in 1962 and from the U.S. Postal Service in 1965.

Services were held for Dr. Titus Haynes by members of Bentley Street Christian Church on April 22, 1979. In addition to pastoring at Bentley Street, Dr. Haynes is an associate professor of social work at the University of Tennessee.

**Dallas, Texas** - Within two months following installation of Elder Archie J. Warren Jr. as pastor of Romine Street Christian Church, weekly offerings increased 25 percent and \$3,500 plus special day offerings was voted to go to the Church Finance Council.

**Durham, North Carolina** - Cynthia L. Hale of Roanoke, Va., graduated from the School of Religion at Duke University with an MDiv degree. Ms. Hale is now employed as a chaplain within the federal prison system.

**Los Angeles, California** - Carnella Barnes, former ICWF president and a member of United Christian Church, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Jarvis Christian College.

Read UP-DATE  
To Keep Informed  
On Black Church  
Activities.

**J. WILLIAM KEMP**, former regional staff member for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky and minister of Second Christian Church congregations in Winchester and Midway, Ky., died in Lexington, Ky., March 26, 1979 at the age of 69.

Kemp earned degrees from Allen University, Columbia, S.C., and Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas. He received graduate degrees in both divinity and social work from Howard University.

He pastored congregations in Texas, Arkansas, Maryland and Washington, D. C., as well as in Kentucky.

## Catch The Spirit At St. Louis Assembly

Catch the spirit at the St. Louis General Assembly, October 26-31, 1979. It will be an exciting event.

Jean Young, wife of Andrew Young and USA's Year of the Child chairperson, will be a principal speaker. Dr. William Hannah will speak on evangelism, and Dr. Joseph Johnson lectures for the NEA.

Many other program events will be of special interest - Jarvis Christian College Choir, a mini jazz worship, forums, meal events.

Dr. Samuel Hylton is first vice moderator and Oscar Haynes will be seated as second vice moderator.

## Women Ordained

Three women were ordained deacons during special services at Jerusalem Christian Church, Martinsville, Va., May 27, 1979. Mrs. Rosa Lee Hairston, Mrs. Lizzie H. Stockton and Mrs. Thalia R. Watkins were the first women to become deacons in the church.

Rev. Gary N. Paig, Piedmont Tri-State District Convention president, gave the ordination message. Program participants included Rev. Joseph Galloway and Rev. James A. Nowlin. Rev. Eugene Reynolds is pastor at Jerusalem Christian.

## Says Need For Content, Not Black Pictures

HAWKINS, Texas - "Relevant Christian education literature is not a question of more black pictures, but of content," Dr. Gayraud S. Wilmore told a group of black church educators meeting here at Jarvis Christian College.

"Too often we think that by putting a little black child here and a little white child there, we have solved the problem," he added.

Dr. Wilmore, Martin Luther King Memorial professor of Black Church Studies, served as Bible lecturer for a Black Church Educator's Event sponsored by the Christian Church.

A total of 72 church educators from 15 states attended the June 1979 event which included seminars and workshops on various phases of church education.

Dr. Wilmore, a United Presbyterian minister, based his lectures on the 61st chapter of Isaiah and the fourth chapter of Luke. He centered his remarks on blacks in predominantly white denominations.

Identifying Jesus with the poor and the gospel with liberation, "Dr. Wilmore said, "God has used the Black Church to show there is good news in a bad situation."

"The gospel is not only words but loving service and action," he claimed, adding, "saving souls cannot be separated from saving bodies."

Blacks were urged to "break out of their apathy and pacifism," to see the



*GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY - Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Peoples, Indianapolis, Ind., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Easter Sunday, April 15. Dr. Peoples and his wife, the former Zellie M. Simpson, were married at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, on Easter Sunday, 1929. A retired Disciples minister, Dr. Peoples served as professor of religion at Jarvis, as national secretary of Negro work for the United Christian Missionary Society, and for 26 years as pastor of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis. Some of the participants in the "Service of Thanksgiving for a Happy Marriage," are shown in the photo above. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin Jr., officiated. Dr. Mae Yoho Ward, a longtime friend and associate, gave the invocation. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, are also shown.*

world more clearly and to "start rocking the boat."

"Blacks in white denominations are too often sacrificed on the altar of white church peace," stated Dr. Wilmore.

"The gospel will not tolerate untruth, injustice and oppression," he added. "If the boat needs rocking - rock it!"

The lecturer termed whites who pretend there is no real difference between black and white as "color blind." "They are saying we want you to act

like white people - accept our music, style of preaching and ideas of Christian education."

Dr. Wilmore chided those blacks "so happy to be accepted that they are willing to give up their blackness and their religious identity in order not to offend middle-class whites."

He also urged black church educators to set their Christian education "in a contemporary context with political action and counselling" as part of it.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis  
Indiana 46206

*Address Correction Requested  
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed*

**Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**Indianapolis, Ind.  
Permit No. 413**

760 079163 44  
ROLAND K HUFF  
1101 NINETEENTH AVE, S  
NASHVILLE, TN 37212