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Update on the Black Church, 1980

William K. Fox

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Up-Date



Hunter
1980

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

PIE SLICES SMALLER

Disciples Asked To "Give Best To World"



Patricia A. Russell & John B. McLendon Jr.

A Black woman government official from Washington voiced concern that there now are so many minority categories that blacks again are getting left out.

"The pie is only so big," said Attorney Patricia A. Russell, chief of the complaints branch of the Federal Communications Commission.

She felt that attention to Hispanics, women, native Americans, Asians, gays and other groups is dividing public attention and response to the point where blacks are being pushed into the background again.

Russell and Hall of Fame Black basketball coach John B. McLendon Jr. were featured speakers at the Sixth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church held at Cincinnati, Ohio August 5-10. The convocation is an organization of the some 80,000 Black members of the 1.2 million member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Both speakers, addressing the Disciples on successive days, hurled challenges to some 600 persons in attendance to help members of their race achieve excellence in their lives.

Russell called on Blacks to file a "minority report" challenging society, be-

cause, she said, it is the voice of the minority that keeps the majority honest.

"Give the world the best you've got," she entreated the Black Disciples. "You'll get kicked in the teeth every time. But give the best anyway."

Russell rapped the educational system which she feels is a breeder of mediocrity. Black people must insist on creativity and excellence from their children, she said. "We need to teach the children what it means to complete a task and have it well done."

McLendon, named to the basket ball Hall of Fame last year after winning 523

games as a college coach, shared similar thoughts to Russell's, citing the need for a back-to-basics approach to education, including that in the church schools.

"Bettering oneself" is one of the key ways that people can return to God a portion of the gift that God has given to humans, according to the coach, the first Black college coach to be named to the Hall of Fame.

He called the human condition chaotic and said there is need for an upward flow of ideas from the people as opposed to the constant downward filtering from big people and institutions.

Continued on Page 11



NEW CONVOCATION OFFICERS

Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin Jr., pastor of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, will serve as president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church during the 1980-82 biennium. Other new officers installed during the Sixth Biennial Session are (left to right) Glen Johnson, Hyattsville, Maryland, treasurer; Laverne Dore, Burton So. Carolina, secretary; and Dorothy Witten, Roanoke, Virginia, vice president. Dr. Benjamin is shown on the right in the above picture.

John R. Foulkes Joins Disciples Evangelism Staff



Dr. John R. Foulkes Sr., Disciples minister and a school administrator, assumed duties as director of special congregational services and new congregational establishment, September 2, 1980.

In his staff position with the department of evangelism and membership, Division of Homeland Ministries, Rev. Foulkes will aid congregations in developing programs, conflict management and short and long-range planning.

He will also work with the new congregational establishment committee which is currently involved in implementation of an estimated \$25 million project.

Dr. Foulkes was pastor of Parkway Garden Christian Church, Chicago, Ill. He has served in a number of positions with the Chicago board of education including teaching, assistant for a dropout prevention program, auditing programs and reviewing proposals.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Foulkes has been active in scouting, juvenile justice projects and religious and educational organizations.

Dr. Foulkes, a 1967 graduate of Chicago State College with a bachelor of science degree, also earned a bachelor of theology degree from Clarksville (Tenn.) School of Theology; master of science degree from Chicago State College; and the doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Expressing pleasure in the addition of Dr. Foulkes to his staff, Dr. William W. Hannah, executive secretary of the Disciples department of evangelism and membership, stated "he comes with a good background in planning and consultative skills, having coordinated the work of 650 principals in the Chicago area."

Disciples Sponsor King Essay Contest

"The Current Struggle for Human Rights: What the Church Should Be Doing" will be the theme of a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Essay Contest for high school-aged students of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The contest, open to 15-18 year olds, is being sponsored by the Disciples' departments of church in society and Christian education in honor of the civil rights leader who was killed April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

"The legacy of Dr. King still speaks clearly to the conscience of persons willing to be engaged in the struggle for justice and human rights," said Gerald Cunningham, Indianapolis, chairperson for the contest committee.

"New generations of young people can be encouraged to achieve a deeper regard for the legacy of Dr. King and the purpose to which he devoted his life through the contest," he added.

The purpose of the contest is to

stimulate discussion of the present and future role of the church in the area of civil rights, using the life of Dr. King as a springboard rather than the single focus, according to Cunningham.

The 700-word essays will be judged on excellence of content and originality of thought, with first, second and third place prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 to be awarded.

A December 10 deadline has been set for sending the entries to the department of church in society, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206. Winners will be announced on or about January 15, 1981, the birthday anniversary of Dr. King.

Thank You

The William K. Foxes' of Indianapolis, Indiana want to say "Thank You" to each of the persons who contributed to *the Surprise Share Offering* for our 1979 Africa Trip.

We were not given a list of names of persons sharing or a report on how it was done. But we are using this means to express our appreciation.

We have a lot to share from our Africa experience. Let us know if any group in your congregation would be interested in having a discussion of our trip.

Please make out your personal check (and/or pledge) to the "Preston Taylor National Convocation Endowment Fund" and send it to the:
NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Box 1986, Indpls. IN 46206

If You Missed The Convocation HEAR IT ON TAPE!

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Patricia Russell,
FCC Attorney | _____ Ozark Range Sr.,
Retiring President |
| _____ John McClendon,
Hall of Fame Coach | _____ Clarence L. Johnson,
Disciples Minister |
| _____ Dr. Kenneth Henry,
Bible Lecturer | _____ Dr. Charles A. Berry,
Jarvis CC President |
| _____ Dr. Kenneth Henry,
Bible Lecturer | _____ Convocation
Musical Highlights |

CHECK TAPES DESIRED & MAIL WITH CHECK TO:

National Convocation
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206
\$4 Each - Set of Eight for Only \$28

RANGE CHALLENGE IN KEYNOTE NCCC SPEECH:**'Racism Redefined, Oppressor Now Feels Oppressed'**

A top Black leader in the 1.2 million-member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) told a national meeting of church Blacks that the fight against racism has been subverted by whites who have practically redefined it out of existence.

The issues in racism have been restated in such a way that the oppressor now can feel among the oppressed and

Dr. Benjamin Heads New Convocation Slate

Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin Jr., senior minister of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Ind., the fastest growing congregation in the Christian Church, will serve as president of the National Convocation for the next two years.

Dr. Benjamin succeeds Ozark Range Sr. as head of the Black Disciples organization. Clarence L. Johnson Jr., pastor of United Christian Church, Jackson, Miss., was named as president-elect to serve in the 1982-83 biennium.

Serving with Dr. Benjamin will be Dorothy Witten, Roanoke, Va., retired teacher, vice-president; LaVerne Dore, Burton, S.C., C.E.T.A. supervisor on early childhood education, secretary; and Glen Johnson, Washington, D.C., National Weather Service staff, treasurer.

Chosen to serve from 1982-84 were Cynthia L. Hale, Durham, N.C., chaplain at the federal correctional institution at Butner, N.C., vice-president-elect; L. Joyce Evans, Indianapolis, legal secretary for the Indiana Supreme Court, secretary-elect; and J.O. Williams, Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor of Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, treasurer-elect.

Elected as trustees to serve the 1982-86 term were James A. Lewis, Cincinnati, pastor of United Christian Church; Effie L. Burford, Indianapolis, language teacher; Giley Griffin, Dallas, Texas, librarian for Seagoville High School; and Joseph L. Galloway, Chatham, Va., pastor of Fayette Street Christian Church in Martinsville.

turn his attention inward, according to Ozark Range Sr., former Ohioan now of Indianapolis, Ind.

In the keynote address at the biennial meeting of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, Range cited the struggle against forced busing as an example.

Redefining resistance to desegregating public schools as a busing struggle enables white persons to vent their racism with impunity, declared Range, president of the Convocation and a staff member of the denomination's Division of Homeland Ministries.

"They (whites) cannot say they are against equality, but they can say they are against busing on the grounds the court-ordered busing abridges their God-given and constitutional rights over their children."

"They do not need to say they are for segregated neighborhoods, they need only to say they are for 'neighborhood' schools," he added.

Whites then assume the role of the oppressed, Range, a former Columbus pastor, asserted.

"The rights they charge are being alienated and want restored are actually the privileges that go with being white in a white-ruled nation," the speaker said.

In his address to some 600 persons attending the opening session of the event, Range decried systemic racism that is a "slow, merciless violence" often ignored by people who see street violence. He termed it more destructive than the "overt symptomatic assaults it triggers."

Range noted that the 1980s may involve another dramatic shift in the civil rights struggle — back to the streets and away from the political institutions.

One-third of all Blacks either are underemployed or unemployed, he said.

Range observed that Black institutions, like the Convocation, still are needed since they serve as the base for the self-esteem of an ethnic minority.

He called on Black Christians to develop credibility by careful examination of what they teach, how they live and where they stand.

The Convocation, successor to an earlier Black organization in the Disciples of Christ, for 12 years has been a forum for concerns of the some 80,000 Black members of the church.

NCCC Now A Memory

The 1980 Sixth Biennial Session of the National Convocation is over. The over 600 delegates have packed their clothing and handouts and returned to the various states and cities from whence they came.

Last goodbyes were said and all that remains to sustain until 1982 is memories.

Memories of Charles Clency at the organ and hymn sings; the huge "Giving in Love, Sharing in Service" banner that hung in Netherland Hotel's Hall of Mirrors.

The crystal clear singing of Geneva Griffin and breaking bread together at the final communion service. The inspiring speech of Atty. Patricia Russell and thought provoking lectures by Dr. Kenneth Henry.

Retiring President Ozark Range Sr.'s challenge to continue the fight for civil rights; and incoming President T. Garrett Benjamin's optimistic remarks for the future. The charm of Ruth Hobbs at the podium and a farewell tribute to Effie M. Blair.

Heated business sessions contrasted with inspirational worship periods and with the motivating School of Faith and Life. Choirs and speakers and choirs and speakers and the monotony of chicken at meal functions.

Youth doing their thing and doing it well; and youngsters hemmed in by the hotel, going up and down on the elevators. Smartly attired and efficient ushers and a myriad of preachers away from their pulpits.

Old friends greeting each other, and others busy making new friends. Lobbies pulsing with Black faces paying and buying and sitting and walking and looking.

The Six Biennial Session of the National Convocation. An event with too many intangibles to capture with either pen or camera. The photographer was busy, however. And to fortify your memories, please turn to pages six and seven in this issue.

Vignettes from the FIELD



AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

Knoxville, TN - Bentley Street Christian Church, pastored by Dr. Titus Haynes, sponsored a week of revival services in May with Rev. Fletcher Fountain of New Hope Christian Church, Letohatchie, Alabama as featured minister. Theme for the revival was "Empowered to See the King."

Jackson, MS - Ms. Bertha L. Marshall, a member of United Christian Church is the author of "Ministry Through Poetry," published by Crescent Publications of Los Angeles. An autograph party for the poet was held at United in May.

Baltimore, MD - Mount Olivet Christian Church observed its 55th annual Women's Day on May 25. "Christian Women - Chosen, Consecrated and Committed to Serve God" was the theme with Janie L. Saulsbury and Edith F. Harris co-chairing the observance. Rev. Patricia Pride, associate minister of Bethel AME Church was guest speaker.

Los Angeles, CA - Dr. C.W. Arnold, retired Disciples minister, was installed as first vice president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Los Angeles during a February banquet sponsored by the group. The Alliance, composed of area ministers, works under the theme "We Minister to Each Other."

Dallas, TX - Rev. Archie L. Warren, pastor of Romine Avenue Christian Church, reports a successful year ending June 30 with 30 additions, four by baptism and increases in church activity and giving. "We enter the new church year," says Pastor Warren, "more determined than ever to do the will of God."

Indianapolis, IN - Second Christian Church pastored by Dr. T. Garratt Benjamin, is not only the fastest growing Disciples congregation - it is rapidly becoming known as the training ground for ministers. A recent Second Christian newsletter lists six members aspiring to the ministry. All credit Dr. Benjamin with fostering and encouraging their aspirations.

Claremont, CA - 1980 School of Theology graduates included the first Black woman and the oldest Black male. La Taunya Bynum received master of divinity

Five Receive National Convocation "Liberation Awards" for Opening Doors

Five members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been cited for their efforts at "opening doors to service and empowerment for Afro-Americans and other oppressed peoples."

The "Liberation Awards" to three individuals and two representatives of Disciples administrative units were presented during a session of the National Convocation held in Cincinnati last August.

Recipients included Dr. William T. Gible, National Benevolent Association president, for developing programs and services for minorities

Dr. Earl W. Rand, retired president of Jarvis Christian College, for improvements to the campus and college curriculum during his presidency

Dr. Kenneth A. Kuntz, president of the Disciples Division of Homeland Ministries, for inclusion of minorities at all levels in the division

Sandra Rucker Gourdet for her dedication and years spent as a fraternal worker and teacher in Zaire, West Africa

Joe McClure, retired manager of the Convocation's Greenwood Cemetery at Nashville, for physical and fiscal improvements to the Preston Taylor bequeathed facility.

ity and doctor of ministry degrees; Foster Craggett received the doctor of ministry degree.

Dallas, TX - New officers for the Dallas Area Association of Christian Churches include Archie Warren of Romine Avenue as chairman of the department of administration and Claude Maples of Denley Drive as vice president of the ministers fellowship.

Brooklyn, NY - George Kearse, a lay leader in the Stuyvesant Heights Church is now moderator of the Northeast Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Miss Loreatha Jones, former president of the Sunday School Department of the Northeastern District of the Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ, was elected assistant secretary to the Northeast Regional Assembly.

Springfield, OH - The Fair Street Church under the direction of Interim Minister, E.J. Dickson, recently completed an eight week seminar study of Ronald Osborn's book - *The Faith We Affirm - Basic Beliefs of Disciples of Christ*. Approximately 30 members completed the course. A dinner fellowship and awarding of certificates climaxed the educational project.



Dr. Gible, NBA, gets award

Dr. William K. Fox, administrative secretary of the National Convocation, and Ozark Range Sr., president of the organization, presented the awards "reflecting priorities of the convocation."

"Blacks have been seen as objects of mission rather than partners in mission," said Dr. Fox as he applauded efforts toward minority inclusion.

Among priorities of the Convocation are church growth, full-time ministers, higher educational standards, increased stewardship, improved social and health care, and mission in communities and abroad.

NBA Produces Slide Show For Minority Groups

A slide tape presentation pointing up the work of the National Benevolent Association with minorities is now available for use by local congregations.

Produced under the direction of Araminta Smith, the NBA documentary also offers advice to congregations on how to institute local programs of work with aged, mentally retarded and children.

Miss Smith, director of minority concerns for the NBA, is a professor of social work at the University of Missouri. She spent a one-year sabbatical working for the NBA in establishing programs in minority congregations.

All Business Is God's Business

(Reprinted from *The Second Thought*, Monthly Newsletter of
Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana)

By Marshall Warren, Jr., Business Manager

The business management of the church is a continuing process. There are always new people to reach, new programs to develop, procedures to perfect and more funds to be raised. Luke 2:49 says, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Whatever the church is, it is also a business—big business. God's business is big business. It is the body of Christ—active and visible doing the Lord's work. Ministry is the business of the church and its business is part of that ministry.

In terms of physical building facilities, the church is among the largest investment in any community. In many communities, the church building is usually the largest auditorium available for public gatherings. The construction of new churches and the remodeling of old churches pour millions of dollars each year into the local economy. These churches sustain a world vision and outreach which account for the handling of millions going to benevolent causes and mission fields.

Congregational members and leaders must keep clear in their mind what they are trying to accomplish—not the personal aims and objectives of the leaders—but the work and the ministry of Jesus Christ. These questions should be asked of every leader, "What are we after? Are we trying to extend our church? Are we trying to deepen our ministry? Are we trying to promote more callings, more committee meetings, more mailings? Are we trying to recognize that the true mission of the church is to evangelize and do the will of our Father as He leads us through spiritual guidance?"

We must continue to ask these questions for the decisions we make now affect the future of our congregation in the years to come. Are we merely trying to have the biggest and the best church in town or are we concerned with the best preaching and the best teaching and the best counseling and the best penetrated way of evangelism as it relates to winning souls for Christ?

The church, then, is made up of all those to whom the Risen Christ has given His spirit. Therefore, their decisions and their leadership should be based on spiritual thoughts as opposed to earthly and carnal thoughts and decisions. It is the fellowship of those who believe in the Resurrection and to whom the Living Christ is real. Where Jesus is, there is a church. Jesus has promised, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

The church is the new people of God made possible by the death and Resurrection of Jesus, created by His Holy Spirit living in their midst. That is why

Continued on Page 11

Pen Tracks
by Joe Saunders

The Devil and Rev. Jones

And the devil having taken Rev. Jones to the top of the Washington Monument, said, "Look down, boy, and tell me what you see."

"I see people," said the newly ordained minister. "All kinds of sinful people in need of salvation."

"You ain't seeing nothing but dried beans and turnip greens and a shiny old dark blue suit," said the devil. "Here! Try my bi-focals! Now what do you see?"

"People tired and worn-out from work," was the new vision. "People stopping in taverns for a bit of fun and recreation before they get home. I see women trying to ease the men's burdens; and I see young boys taking from the rich and old folks who don't need it, so they can give to the poor!"

"Now you is lookin'," said the devil. "Here, let me turn up them glasses a bit so you can see some two-inch steaks and imported wines and solid gold watch chains runnin' clear across the waist."

"Look out West. You see them bright lights over by the mountains? I got Las Vegas out there. And if you turn towards the South and a bit East, you'll see Miami; and I'm just getting a good start on another place on the coast up there in New Jersey.

"You string along with me, boy, and you'll know those places better than Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee. You'll have a big church - might even own it if you play your cards right - and plenty of good looking choir members.

"Ain't no need to wait for milk and honey in the hereafter when you can have it here right now. You ever seen a hundred dollar bill? I can fill your pockets with them! You driving a Ford? I can start you off in a Hawg and let you go from there!

"Is you interested?"

"Well, I don't want to be a small town preacher all my life," replied the young pastor.

"But you know we ministers got some standards to hold up. After all, we are anointed; and you are the devil."

"I understands," said wily old satan. "And things is going to be cool. I been dealing with preachers all my life and some of my best friends is in the pulpit.

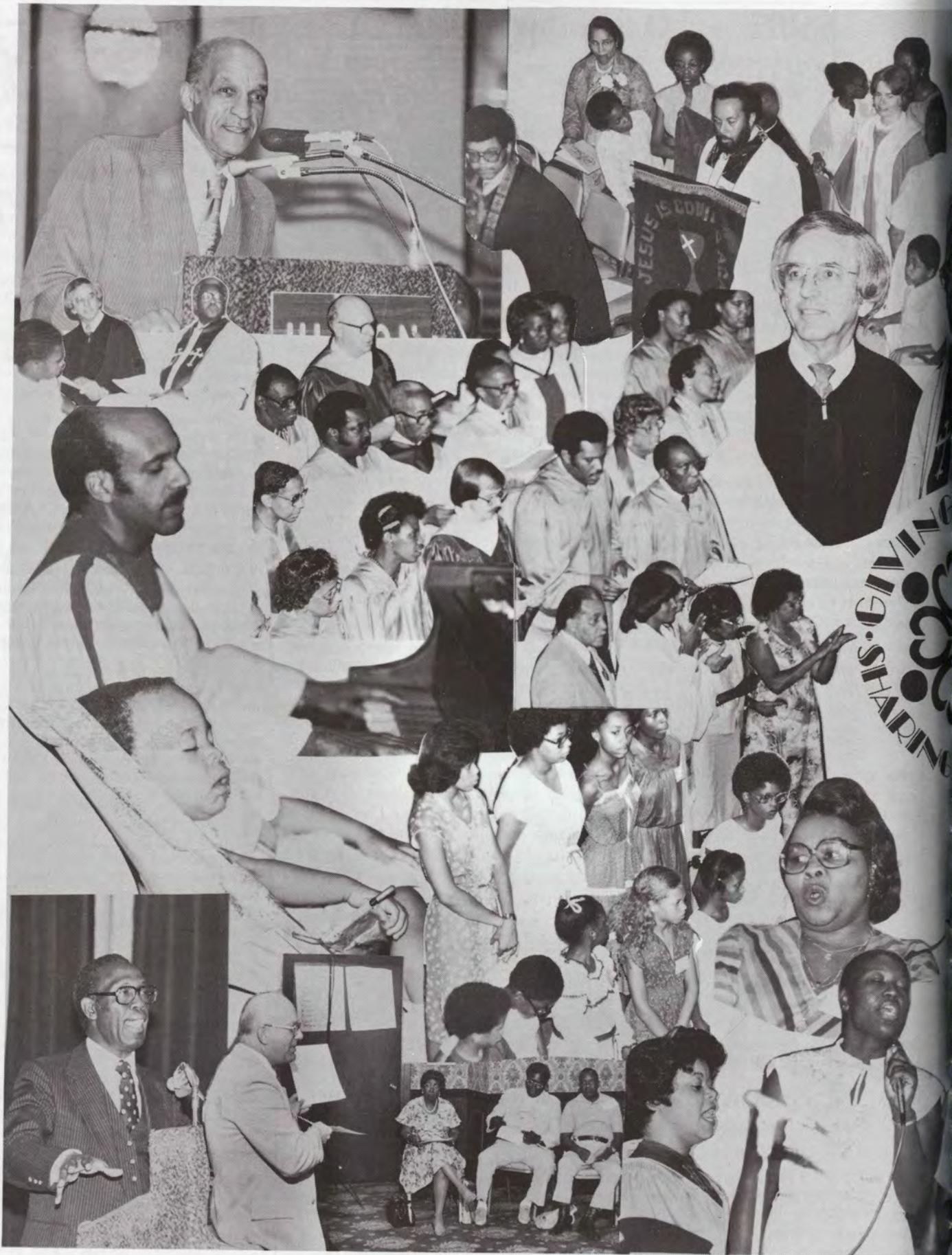
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Up-Date  **ON THE
BLACK
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NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Up-Date personality



Calvin Day is the new president of the International Christian Men's Fellowship. His first step after assuming office in June was to telephone CMF members in several cities to find out "what they were doing for the church."

I don't intend to be a figurehead, said Day and I'm going to do my best to see that regional men's leaders throughout the country aren't figureheads, either.

He plans to keep in touch with CMF leaders throughout the year and to visit as many local groups as possible.

Calvin Day believes in standing up for human rights—his own, his race's and the world's. And although an avowed Christian, he doesn't always believe in turning the other cheek.

He marched with Martin Luther King Jr., but gave up marching when he saw some of the things perpetrated on marchers.

"Arms raised in love to touch another person are sometimes interpreted as being raised in anger," said Day. "I'm for evolution, not revolution."

Calvin Day still works for civil rights. His position as a management executive permits involvement in affirmative action programs, and he is active in community and church work.

Day is a deacon at United Christian Church of Cincinnati. His wife, Althea, is United's current CWF president. Their two daughters, Mary Michelle and Marcia, are both Indiana University graduates.

Day admits to being "crazy about music." He is an avid ping pong player.



Reconciliation To Review First Decade; Approves \$52,935 In Project Grants

The General Reconciliation Steering Committee will meet in Indianapolis in November to review the first decade of the Christian Church's special race and poverty program.

The committee and regional consultants will also discuss goals, function, funding and promotion of Reconciliation in the 1980's.

"The Reconciliation program is engaged in an ongoing process of evaluation in order to be more responsive to the needs and concerns of the poor and hurting among us," said Ernest J. Newborn, administrative director of the program.

Seventeen projects dealing with racism and poverty received a total of \$52,935 from Reconciliation last May.

Among them were the New Hope Adult Day Care Center, Letohatchie,

Ala., for elderly and handicapped persons; Delta Ministry, Greenville, Miss., for a community education program among Blacks and the poor.

Project Equality, Kansas City, Mo., to provide equal employment opportunities for minorities and women; Affirmative Action Coordinating Center, New York City, for coordinating efforts and educating the public about the need.

Southern Action League, Durham, N.C., for community organization in poor neighborhoods; and Diamond Society, Detroit, Mich., for a program seeking to make streets safe for senior citizens.

The Reconciliation committee also expressed its concern to the Disciples General Board asking support of its feeling "that our government must direct more - not less - of its resources toward meeting the needs of the disadvantaged."

Growth For Witness Good News Festivals

Dr. William W. Hannah, executive secretary of the department of evangelism and membership, recently announced approval of a special evangelism program for Black Disciples congregations.

Designed in conjunction with National Convocation officials, "Good News Festivals" will be held in six areas of the country to make the Disciples presence more visible.

Three-day festivals will seek to "lift up the evangelical witness through training, preaching and inspirational singing,"

Dr. Hannah stated.

Goals and objectives will be to affirm the heritage and contribution of Black Disciples congregations; to create an improved network of communications between levels of the church; and to provide an opportunity for Black Disciples to be heard in their areas.

Plans are to involve all congregations, ministers and board personnel in each of the six festival areas together with regional representatives.

Ten Churches Cited For Stewardship

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Ten Black congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were recognized for outstanding achievement in Christian stewardship for 1978 and 1979.

The awards were presented during the sixth National Convocation of the church by the Disciples' Church Finance Council.

Ernest J. Newborn, Indianapolis, Ind., a council executive, lauded the significant growth in stewardship and added that that included participation in regional church events, stewardship education and leadership in their communities.

Top 10 contributors to the mission of the church beyond the congregation through basic mission finance were:

Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, which gave \$32,407; Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, \$18,611; United Christian Church, Detroit, \$17,000; United Christian Church, Cincinnati, \$8,585; Little Bethlehem of Eden, N.Y., \$7,246.

Also Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, \$5,146; Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, D.C., \$4,940; Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio, \$4,202; Third Christian Church, Louisville, \$4,158; and Willow Street Christian Church, Hannibal, Mo., \$3,653.

Newborn noted that one congrega-

tion, Wildewood Christian Church of Oklahoma City, Okla., which received an honorable mention, nearly doubled in size in the last five years.

Newborn also cited the community ministries of other honorable mention congregations of Mills Grove Christian Church, Oakland, Calif.; New Hope Christian Church, Letohatchee, Ala.; and McCarty Memorial Christian Church, Los Angeles.

Others receiving special mention were Liberty Christian Church, Miami, Fla.; Welcome Hope Christian Church, Barney, Ga.; United Christian Church, Dublin, Ga.; United Christian Church, Jackson, Miss.; Christian Chapel, Port Gibson, Miss.; Antioch Christian Church, Los Angeles; Clark Street Christian Church, Greenville, Texas; Romine Avenue Christian Church, Dallas, Texas; Fayette Street Christian Church and Mount Olive Christian Church, both of Martinsville, Va.

"Although there is noticeable increase in interest in stewardship performance and outreach giving, there is much to be done," said Newborn.

"The awards are the first effort to recognize and encourage increased outreach giving on the part of National Convocation-related congregations," said Newborn. The awards will be given every two years during the convocation.

Second Christian Pastor Prays Before U.S. Senate

Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin Jr., senior minister, Second Christian Church of Indianapolis, offered the following prayer before the U.S. Senate on January 3, 1980.

"Eternal God, our Father, as we open up this day of decision, we also open our lives before Thee knowing that under Thy leadership, all things are possible.

"We pray for the work of this body as a whole and for each legislator individually that they might truly apprehend their calling as servants of God and their selection as servants of man.

"We thank Thee for the bounty of Thy providence, for gifts and goods beyond our comprehension - for minds to think and hearts to reach out.

"We confess our shortsightedness and shortcomings realizing that we are not perfect but we can be positive. We confess that so often we are our own worst enemy and that we cannot have victory or peace anywhere in the world until men have peace in their hearts and minds.

"Help us to remember that 'the earth is thine' and that our job as trustees is to give a daily account of our stewardship. O Divine Helper, help us to rise above the narrow confines of our individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of humanity.

"And help us to know that because Thou art our Father that makes every man our brother and with this simple understanding assist us, O Divine Architect, in building a new order where faith, hope, and love abound - where men look for character rather than color and where the Prince of Peace has a permanent seat at the conference table.

"These and many other blessings, we ask in the name of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

The prayer was printed in the Congressional Record of March 12, 1980, accompanied by remarks from Senator Bayh of Indiana who cited Dr. Benjamin for his outstanding record as an Indianapolis minister and church builder.

"Quotes From Convocation Speakers"

Dr. Kenneth Henry, Bible Lecturer -

"The sole determining factor as to whether a person is a faithful steward, is whether that person is doing what God requires."

Betty Mohny, ICWF President -

"CWF does tremendous mission work through service and giving because CWF has educated us like no other organization in the church has done."

John B. McLendon Jr., Basketball Hall of Fame -

"For those of us who are blessed, God expects a lot in return. He really expects to get back what He has given us."

Dr. William K. Fox, NC Administrative Secretary -

"For too long church policy and practice regarded Blacks at home or abroad as objects of mission, and seldom - if ever - partners in mission."

For Whom the Bells Toll

● **RICHARD LEE SAUNDERS**, minister of Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church in Brooklyn, NY, for twenty-six years, died June 17, 1980. Elder Saunders had been a recording secretary of the former National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. for thirteen years before becoming its president in 1966. Pastor Saunders served congregations in Kentucky and Kansas before coming to Brooklyn for the long and successful pastorate. Highlights of his ministry in the Northeast include restoration of the educational plant at Stuyvesant, following a major fire. The old plant was replaced with a modernized version. Elder Saunders was deeply involved with interdenominational and ecumenical church organizations in metropolitan Brooklyn as well as in the regional church life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He left to mourn his loss his wife, Emma; son Robert; and other relatives and many friends.

● **THOMAS M. LILEY** - minister of music and executive office secretary at Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church in Brooklyn, NY, for thirty years, died September 23, 1980. Mr. Liley directed the music events for the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during its first five biennial sessions. He was both a private teacher of music as well as instructor of music in the public school system of New York. He left to mourn his loss three sisters, two brothers, and many friends in both church and community.

● **JOHNNIE E. JAMES** - wife of Elder Eugene James, Sr. of Oakland, CA., died in July, 1980. She was the dutiful helpmate of Pastor James and loving mother of four sons and two daughters. Three of the sons are ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She left to mourn her loss a husband, Eugene and many relatives and friends. The family made a special memorial gift to the Star Supporter Fund in her memory.

74-YEAR MEMBER

Fellowship Christian Honors Pioneer

Fellowship Christian Church, Philadelphia, Pa., held a testimonial banquet for Mrs. Calla Dean Joseph in May, 1980.

Mrs. Joseph, an elder and co-founder of Fellowship Christian, was being honored for 74 years of Disciples membership and 34 years of dedicated service to the Philadelphia congregation.

The Disciples pioneer first joined the Center Point Christian Church, Greenville, Texas, under the leadership of Elder George W. Crawford and was baptized August 12, 1905.

She moved to Philadelphia from Oklahoma upon the recommendation of Rev. Eugene W. James Sr., to aid in the establishment of a Black Disciples church in the city.

In addition to her church work, Mrs. Joseph has written poetry, plays, pageants, stories and songs. Some of her work has been published.

Her senior-citizen years have not slowed her efforts. She still travels widely to attend Christian Church functions. During the banquet she was cited for "a lifetime pursuing the Christian way of life" and was termed "a living inspiration to those of us who are trying to grow and serve."

Church Dedicates Black History Room

Bond Hill Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, has established a Black history library for use of "browsers and serious readers" on the subject.

The Isola Washington Memorial Room was officially dedicated at the church earlier this year with national and local publications, history books, photos, biographies and graphics by Dale Riley, former Cincinnati artist now living in New York.

"The library is a positive step in strengthening Black pride during these troubled times," said Rev. Frank T. Garner, pastor of Bond Hill. "We hope the entire community will benefit from what it has to offer," he added.

The room is named for Mrs. Isola Washington, described as "an outstanding Christian woman, dedicated leader and civic worker." Mrs. Don Ellis Cunningham will serve as curator.



NATIONAL CONVOCATION SUPPORTERS — Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius W. Arnold, Los Angeles, Calif., are staunch believers in supporting the National Convocation of the Christian Church. The retired Disciples minister and his wife were charter donors to the Preston Taylor-National Convocation Trust Fund with a gift of \$1,000. The Arnolds have also made a similar gift to insure the continuance of Up-Date.

DISCIPLES ASKED *from Page 1*

A resident of Downer's Grove, Ill., McLendon noted the importance of parental integrity, though he said he believed in discipline by reason rather than force. He called his own coaching style low key and said he never had been given a technical foul in 33 years of coaching.

The Convocation installed Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin, pastor of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Ind., fastest growing of the church's congregations Black or White, as president for the coming two years.

They elected Clarence L. Johnson Jr., pastor of United Christian Church, Jackson, Miss., president-elect; and Cynthia L. Hale, Durham, N.C., a prison chaplain, as vice-president.

GOD'S BUSINESS *from Page 5*

Peter could say to the church, "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, holy nation, God's only people. Once you were no people but now you are God's people." The church is the community of the Resurrection, the fellowship of men in whom God's spirits dwell.

If this be the church, then certain characteristics follow as the night then the day. The church is Divine—not human. We do not make the church by our efforts—we receive it as a gift from God. The church is a fellowship of faith, not a corporate institution. The church does not consist of buildings or programs but of spiritual people. The church is corporate, not individualistic. The church is brought together by mutual agreement. The church is an organism by which every member draws its life. The church is universal, not local. The church is not merely the particular congregation to which I belong nor the denomination to which we adhere. When one unites with the church, it is his mission to try to unite with the entire world and Christ in his Holy Spirit and the whole fullness of God.

The church exists not for its own sake, but solely for the glory of God and doing the will of our Father. Consequently, many leaders and churches feel that the outlook of the church is towards their self-preservation but they have missed the point entirely. The purpose of the church is the salvation of the world. So this I charge you as ministers of Christ: be about the spiritual business of discerning the will of our Father to save souls for Christ.



DELEGATES TO THE FIRST National Christian Missionary Convention, held in Nashville, Tennessee, are shown in the photo above. The NCMC, predecessor to the National Convocation of the Christian Church, was founded by Preston Taylor who served as the first president. Copies of this important historical photo can be secured from the Convocation office at Indianapolis, Indiana for \$3.75.

Gloria Waller - Taylor Fund First

During the Summer of 1980 STEEM intern, Gloria Ann Waller of Wilson, North Carolina, a sophomore at Atlantic Christian College, became the first leader training project supported by earnings from the "Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund."

Ms. Waller was authorized by the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church to work under the direction of the Administrative Secretary, William K. Fox, as a "Short Term Employment Experiences in Ministry" intern from June 9 through August 16, 1980.

She won the admiration and affection of the General Office staff as she augmented the secretarial services of the Convocation office, handled the Convocation biennial session registration process, received orientation to the Divisions of Overseas and Homeland Ministries, and assisted staff in the regional Church office of North Carolina. She also had a work camp experience at Hazel Green Academy.

The Division of Higher Education initiates and administers the STEEM Program for the Church.

Gloria Ann Waller was an excellent first recipient of investment earnings from the "Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund".



FROM PAGE 5

"You looks like the business type, so I'm going to start you off in slum housing. Give you a chance to get the feel of things in our organization and it's a good front.

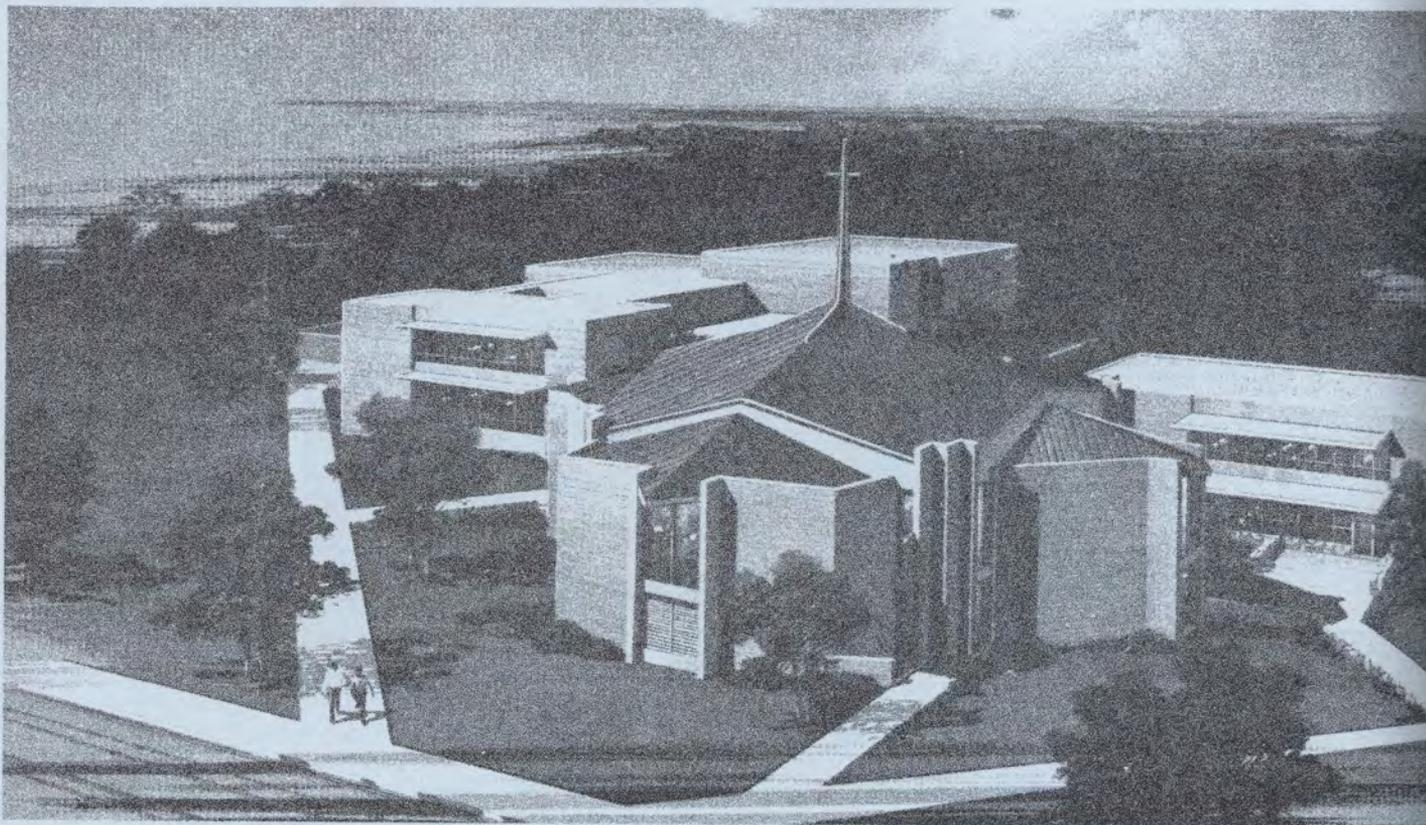
"You will be serving the housing needs of your people and making a little bread for yourself at the same time. I got a slew of ADCers and we're folks I can throw your way. A couple of buckets of paint and a mess of D-Con and you can be in business.

"Eventually I can put you into TV or at least radio where the big money is, but you got to wait your turn and work your way up. But if you is as smart as I think you is, you'll make it.

"And I can always get you into politics. You'd be surprised at what the right word said on Sunday can bring to the pocket on Monday.

"And another thing! I stands behind my boys! Anybody get to messing with you, I tells you how to handle them. They don't call me the devil for nothing!"

Rev. Jones became rich, famous and powerful as the devil had promised. His followers were many, his suits were imported, and he wore the largest and most expensive crosses attainable.



BREAK GROUND FOR JARVIS CHAPEL

Ground breaking ceremonies for a \$1 million-plus Chapel and Religion Center at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, took place on August 31, with college, church and civic officials taking part. The chapel, first such structure in the 69-year history of Jarvis, was designed by Benson and Associates, who served as architects for the recently completed \$3.9 million E.W. Rand Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center.

The chapel will occupy a central and dominant position on the Jarvis campus and is designed to serve nearby community residents as well as students, faculty and staff. In addition to a 650 seat sanctuary, there will be multiple use classrooms, semi-

nar and conference rooms, nursery area and work room space, church parlor and a fellowship hall with banquet seating for 300.

Guest participants in the ground breaking included four members of the Jarvis board of trustees; K.J. Frost, son of one of the founders of the college; Dr. E.W. Rand, college president emeritus; Dr. Emmett J. Dickson, former instructor of religion; Rev. Melvin C. Dickson, president of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship; Dr. Sidney Spain, minister of the Northeast Area of Christian Churches; Dr. Richard Griffin, superintendent of the Hawkins independent school district; and Mrs. Arzelia Jones Edwards, a pioneer of the Jarvis/Hawkins community.

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Spring
1980

Up-Date ON THE BLACK CHURCH

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

Find Ministry Challenging Career

By Gail Green
Lexington - Herald Leader

"I had heard talk about places where there are virtually no blacks, but I never envisioned the Lord would send me there", said the gregarious, vivacious minister.

"There" is Morehead State University. Its campus minister is 30-year-old Brenda Cardwell, a second-year student at Lexington Theological Seminary.

"I was really skeptical about accepting the position as campus minister at Morehead. But I figured if the Lord didn't want me there, I wouldn't be there long. I knew the Lord would look out for me.

"This is my second year in Morehead. More than ever before, I know the Lord works in mysterious ways, because I have learned and grown quite a bit through my ministry," said Ms. Cardwell, a native of Reidsville, N.C.

After Deloris Turner graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1971, she worked at various jobs, from construction site go-fer to remedial reading teacher.

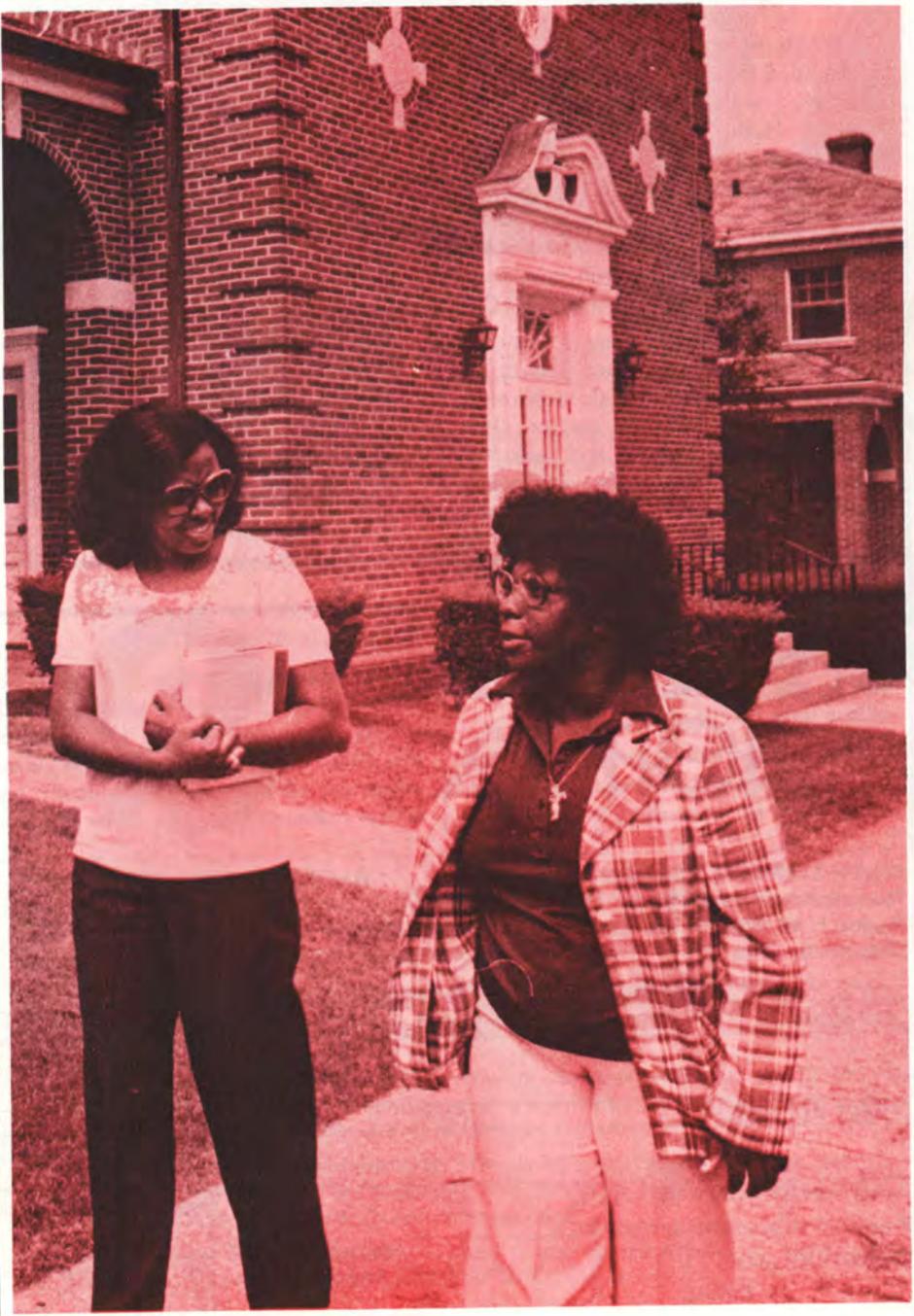
None of her work really excited the young woman from the Blue Ridge Mountains near Martinsville, Va., until she took a summer church camp counseling job with handicapped children.

Later that year, the youth group of Ms. Turner's church asked her to speak before the congregation.

"I worked on that sermon five weeks or more. The topic was 'We just don't have time,' which had been my excuse for not serving my Lord.

"Something happened to me that first time I stood behind a pulpit. I could feel excitement going all through me; everything made sense, finally," said the 29-year-old.

She filled out the applications to attend the Lexington Theological Seminary "without much seriousness, because



Deloris Turner, Brenda Cardwell study at LTS (picture by Lexington-Herald Leader)

(Continued on Page 12)

All Eyes Right To Cincinnati

Reports are coming in from everywhere of bus and carloads of Disciples of Christ preparing to come to the Sixth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 4-9, 1980.

Many events are being sponsored. Star Supporter Fund collections are being promoted. Ministers' wives are soliciting special scholarship gifts for worthy students. People are planning their vacations to include being in Cincinnati, August 4-9.

Youth head the list of those planning to attend. Everything - housing, eating and activities - will all be in the Netherland Hilton Hotel. It's air-conditioned throughout. You can walk out of your room right into Cincinnati's great shopping center, or the Riverfront Stadium, or Riverboat rides, or the zoo. Persons who attend the sessions will have never had it so good.

William Thomas Chaney II, chairman of the Youth Constituency Group, is a resident of Cincinnati. Before enrolling in Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, Chaney's all-city baseball and basketball feats, plus excellence in scholarship, placed him in the "American Distinguished High School Students" annual for 1979. Chaney is strong on urging young and old to come to Cincinnati, August 4-9, 1980, for the Convocation.

Children are free of room cost if they stay in the same room of the Netherland Hilton with their parents.

Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, program chairperson, says the 1980 Convocation promises to be every bit as exciting as Little Rock,



Ruth Hobbs
Program Chairperson



William Chaney II
Youth Chairman

Ark., was in August 1978.

Outstanding speakers, School of Faith and Life, Bible lectures and a wide variety of musical groups will all be on the 1980 program. The ministers' wives reception, all-Convocation banquet and officer installation will be other features.

Mysterious Fire Destroys Summit Christian Church

DAYTON, OHIO - Fire of mysterious origin completely gutted Summit Christian Church, 238 Mercer Avenue, on Saturday, March 22.

Fire officials although indicating no cause for the blaze, strongly suspected arson. They found a can of charcoal lighter fluid in the basement and stated that two other churches in the area had been vandalized the previous night.

Several fire extinguishers in the church had been thrown in the baptismal pool.

Fortunately there were no occupants in the building when the blaze was noticed shortly before noon. The fire was believed to have started in the east end of the structure that housed an office, classroom, kitchen and small auditorium.

Flames rapidly reached the roof which was entirely destroyed. The original slate roof had been replaced in 1978.

Church officials estimated damage to the building and its contents would be well over a quarter-million dollars. Smoke from the 68-year old structure could be seen for several miles as the fire burned out of control in spite of the efforts of some 40 Dayton firefighters.

J. Thomas Johnson, pastor of Summit Christian and many from the 250-member congregation watched helplessly as the flames fed on church records, choir robes, hymnals and all of the hundreds of other items that make up church furnishings and supplies.

During sorrowful Sunday services held at nearby McFarland Elementary School, Rev. Johnson told of offers of the use of their building facilities coming from all Dayton Disciples churches.

SIXTH BIENNIAL SESSION
Netherland Hilton Hotel
August 5-10, 1980
Cincinnati, Ohio

REGISTRATION FORM

Return to: NATIONAL CONVOCATION of the
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Please use a separate form for each person including children.

LAST NAME:	FIRST NAME & MIDDLE INITIAL:	SEX	(CHECK FEE & PROPER AGE BRACKET)				
		M	F	8-12 yrs. \$1.50	13-21 yrs. \$10	22-61 yrs. \$16	62 + \$12.50
STREET ADDRESS:		CITY:		STATE:		ZIP:	

REGISTRATION MONEY ATTACHED:

Program Fee (according to age)	\$ _____	No refund after July 15, 1980
"Support Donation":	\$ _____	
TOTAL	\$ _____	

Name of Church Membership:

NOTE* The "Support Donation" of \$19.80 is a voluntary gift to help the Session operation. ALL ACTIVITY and HOUSING WILL BE IN THE NETHERLAND HILTON HOTEL. Special room rates are being given. Make room reservations on forms provided by the hotel. Children and youth free if in room with parents.

HOTEL RESERVATION CARD IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CONVOCATION OFFICE

Blacks, Hispanics Express Concerns

Placement of minority ministers in other than their own ethnic congregations was a major concern expressed to Christian Church officials and executives last December.

The Committee on Black and Hispanic Concerns also questioned the suitability of currently produced Christian Education literature.

Hispanic members of the committee asked for development of more congregations to service what they termed "the fastest growing minority in the country." They also expressed desire for an eventual National Convocation-type organization for Hispanic Juntas.

Black members of the committee were basically concerned with implementation of recommendations outlined in the 1978 Convocation Study. The feeling was also expressed that Black and Hispanic concerns were mostly identical.

Church Leaders Tour Holy Land

Otis T. Nixon of Roper, N.C., Bishop of the Washington and Norfolk District Assembly, Disciples of Christ, made a ten-day visit to the Holy Land in December.

The trip involving a group of 43 persons, began in Norfolk, Virginia, with the first overseas stop in Amsterdam. After a stop at Tel Aviv, they traveled to Jerusalem by bus.

Bishop Nixon described the scenery in the Holy Land as beautiful and the trip inspiring. Sites visited included the River of Jordan where many in the group were baptized, the Tomb of Jesus, Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, Jericho Road, the Wailing Wall, Calvary and many other Biblical places.

Other Roper area persons making the trip were Bishops Booker T. Boozer and James Moore; Hazel Harrell, Mariah Wills, Cleo Hines and Claristeen Copeland.



Feted At Farewell Luncheon

Joseph S. Saunders, director of information services in the Disciples office of communication, was guest of honor at a farewell luncheon staged by his colleagues last October.

Saunders, whose stories appeared frequently in *The Disciple* magazine, retired November 1, 1979 after serving three years on the communication staff. Others shown in the photo are (left to right) Ernest and Janice Newborn and Ozark Range Sr.



Affirmative ACTION

The new Affirmative Action symbol designed by Thelma Pyatt of the Christian Church Art and Design Studio, pictures the need for black and white to work together if the program is to do more than make waves of talk.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is committed to a policy of "non-discrimination" on the basis of sex, age, race, color, national origin, ancestry and physical or mental handicaps.

Ernest Newborn, administrative director of Reconciliation for the Christian Church, is responsible for implementation of the Affirmative Action program, designed to assure equal treatment and opportunity.

"Affirmative Action commitments," Newborn says, "apply in access, participation and employment in all programs and activities involving congregations, regions, institutions and general church organizations.

Newborn asks Disciples to address their concerns, questions and suggestions relative to Affirmative Action to the Reconciliation office.

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Vignettes from the FIELD



AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

Kansas City, Kansas - Quindaro Community Christian Church celebrated its 116th anniversary, October 21, 1979. One of the oldest Black Disciples churches, it was founded in 1863 as Eighth Street Christian. Dr. Rosa Page Welch, Denver, Colo., was anniversary guest speaker with music furnished by several area churches. Booker T. Dickason Jr. is Community's pastor.

Columbus, Ohio - The CWF was the winner in the annual King and Queen contest sponsored by Woodland Christian Church. Mrs. Shirley Miller, the CWF entry, was crowned "Queen Shirley" and will reign throughout the year. The contest was closed with a musical program on February 21. Thelma Thomas heads the CWF; Rolford Lester the CMF; and Arthur T. Miller is Woodland's pastor.

Dayton, Ohio - Dr. Raymond E. Brown, vice president of the Board of Church Extension, will serve as Men's Day speaker at Summit Christian Church, Sunday, May 4. Theme for the day is "A Year to Bear Fruit" and the observance will include a panel discussion on problems Blacks will face in the 1980 decade.

New Orleans, La. - Dr. Titus Haynes, pastor of Bentley Street Christian Church, Knoxville, Tenn., served as chapel speaker at Dillard University, November 18. Dr. Haynes' sermon topic was "He has empowered us to become good Samaritans in a crumbling culture."

East Orange, N.J. - Park Avenue Christian Church held its "Annual Rally," Sunday, October 14, with a goal of \$5,000. Rev. Theodore N. Friedy, church pastor, said money raised would be used to clear up fuel, utility and insurance bills.

Dallas, Texas - Mrs. Giley Griffin, a member of Romine Avenue Christian Church, served on the planning committee for the Dallas Area Association of Christian Churches held on March 2. Theme for the assembly was "Our Heritage As Disciples."

Rockford, Ill. - First Christian Church pastored by Dr. Daniel W. Heath, sponsored a "Martin Luther King Sacrificial Banquet" on January 19, with Dr. William K. Fox of Indianapolis as guest speaker.

Detroit, Mich. - United Christian Church observed its 43rd anniversary, March 8-9. Program included a March 8 banquet and special March 9 services with Congressmen Charles Diggs and John Conyers among the guest speakers. Dr. LaMar Clark, United's pastor, delivered the Founder's Day banquet address at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, on March 29.



Prayer For Reconciliation

(Ed. Note: The following prayer was given by Dr. John R. Compton, regional minister, Christian Church in Indiana, during the Reconciliation Breakfast held at the St. Louis General Assembly last October)

* * * * *

"God, Giver of all Reconciling ministries, we pause to thank Thee for the gift of the Reconciliation Program in the United States and Canada. For the past ten years the Reconciliation Program has lifted the sights and given hope to thousands of Black, Hispanic, Indian, Oriental and white persons, alienated, deprived, ostracized because of inhumane, un-Christian pattern of thought, unbending structures and unyielding organizations.

"Thank You, for the measure of hope this program has given to the poor, powerless and voiceless. Grant that we will always work to change systems that thwart rather than enhance life. Permit us to move from fear to faith, from tears and pain to joys and fulfilled hopes.

"Thank You for all who share their gifts of life and love to build bridges of friendship and understanding between persons of different races, cultures, economic and social standings.

"Bless the food as we share in fellowship with Thee and each other. We pray in the name of our Reconciling Lord. Amen."

Up-Date personality



Eli W. Wilbert is one of the many Black Disciples who devoted their lives to the ministry and are now all but forgotten. His long years of service took place during a time of meager salaries when insurance and pensions were beyond the means or comprehension of struggling Black congregations; and when it was felt the Lord, rather than people, provided for pastors.

Rev. Wilbert, a graduate of Southern Christian Institute, taught school at Mound Bayou, Miss., while preaching part-time at Clarksdale. His first full time pastorate was at Fulton, Mo.

One of the ministers in the vanguard of the Black Disciples movement from rural to urban areas, Rev. Wilbert pastored Summit Christian Church at Dayton, Ohio for nearly 35 years. During this period, his church served twice as host to the National Christian Missionary Convention and Eli W. Wilbert and his wife, Dorothy, became national figures.

Following Dayton, he pastored congregations at Austin, Texas and again at Fulton where a crippling stroke ended his ministry in 1974.

The retired Black Disciples minister, now 74, resides at 3008 Princeton Drive, Dayton, Ohio, confined to his home there with his wife and memories. His trail-blazing efforts have received little of the recognition they merit.



"Will All Blacks Please Leave the Church"

(Reprinted from The Christian Science Monitor)
By Humphrey Tyler

CAPE TOWN — A white South African family has just had first-hand experience of how bitterly hurtful and offensive hardline apartheid (enforced social segregation) can be.

A large congregation had gathered for the funeral service for Christian Smith in a suburb of Germiston in Transvaal Province.

But when the minister, the Rev. J.J. duToit, saw that there were blacks among the people in the normally exclusively white church, he announced he would not take the service unless the blacks left.

Some of these people - they included Africans, Asians, and people of mixed descent - had worked with the late Mr. Smith, who had been assistant manager in a plastics factory, for as long as 15 years.

The distressed widow, Mrs. Robina Smith, stood up as soon as she got over the shock of the announcement and led the whole congregation, white and black, out of the church. Later, the undertaker led an informal service at the graveside.

Mrs. Smith said she had never been so "humiliated" before, and a nephew of the deceased man said: "I am shaken to the bone. Never before have I been made to feel ashamed of being white. And just to think that we have the nerve to call ourselves Christians."

The incident caused wide comment in South African newspapers, which in turn only served to emphasize what a sensitive question racial mixing still is among all three main Afrikaans-speaking churches.

The funeral service was to have been held at a church belonging to the most conservative of the three, the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk. After the incident, not one church official made any apology for what had happened.

Instead, officials confirmed that it was firm church policy that blacks should not be allowed to attend any of its services.

A spokesman said the church believed there should be separate churches for the different racial groups and ruled that it would be only in "exceptional circumstances" that people of "different colors" would be allowed at the same service.

The policies of the two other Afrikaans reformed churches, the Gereformeerde Kerk and the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk - all three are regarded by themselves and outsiders as sister churches - are less inflexible.

Pen Tracks
by Joe Saunders

The pastor is more dependent on me than all of his elders and deacons put together. He knows that I come in direct contact with more people, touch more hands on Sunday than he does throughout the entire week.

I don't like to boast, but without my help, his budget would never be reached. In fact, I'm responsible for his salary. Through my efforts, we have heat and light in the building. I pay the musician and the custodian. I purchase church school supplies; flowers for the altar.

I've been around many years. I was one of the first in the building back when the church was started. I've seen many come and go and I'm still here. I know all the members from the cradle set to the golden-agers.

And I could tell stories that would blow your mind. Stories about the members. I can tell you about those who sit in the front pews and that old lady back there who seems so apologetic every time she comes to church.

She's my kind of people. She never overlooks me on Sunday while many of those folks considered "pillars of the church," hurriedly pass me on.

I couldn't begin to count the money I've collected for this church. Way up there in the thousands.

I remember when a dollar donation was a big event. I'm sorry so many still think it is. Yes, we used to count our money in nickels and dimes plus an occasional half dollar or quarter.

I didn't mind all of those noisy coins back in my early years. People couldn't do any better. But, like I told you, I've been here a long time and I've grown old in the service. I prefer rustle to jingle nowadays, although there are still a lot of jinglers in our church.

Fortunately, I've learned to take it in stride. I never complain, I never accuse. Even when I know some of the members are holding back, I just pass steadily down the pews. Down this one and up the next, week after week after week, doing my thing.

Most times I am treated callously, tolerated rather than welcomed. But I keep coming back. Keep hanging in there. I know our church grows or dwindles, that it thrives or wilts if I falter.

My name? I don't have a name. I'm the collection plate!

Up-Date  **ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH**
NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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"LEST WE FORGET"

Name Funds Pay Tribute To Black Disciple Pioneers

By Lorenzo J. Evans

Luke in his gospel (17:14-19) shares the experience of Jesus entering a certain village. Ten men, who were lepers stood afar off, lifting up their voices, crying out, saying, "Jesus, Master have mercy on us."

They did not come near Jesus because lepers were looked upon as outcasts and had no dealings with the public. But Jesus was moved and having compassion on them said, "Go and show yourselves to the priest", and, as they were on their way, they were healed. One of the ten came back to give thanks. He was a Samaritan and since Samaritans and Jews had no dealings with each other it would appear that he would be the last to give thanks, but out of a grateful heart he returned. Jesus hearing him asked, "Were there not ten; where are the other nine?"

Are we the other nine and the sins of our times forgetfulness and ingratitude? With our busy schedules and the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we seldom stop to remember and give thanks. As Black Disciples we need to remember; lest we forget those early pioneers who made it possible for us to be where we are today.

These pioneers include such men and women as: Rosa Brown Bracy; Preston Taylor; P.H. Moss; H.L. Herod; Ara Garrett; M.R. Epps; C.E. Craggett; T.W. Pratt; J.N. Ervin; B.L. Jacobs; Geneva Towns; W.H. Thomas; D.C. Brayboy; L.L. Dickerson; I.H. Husser; I.C. Franklin; A.J. Jeffries; W.M. Alphin; D.T. Williams; and the list goes on.

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society has made it possible for individuals, groups and congregations to establish a name fund for those persons they want remembered. A gift of \$500 establishes the name fund. What better way to say 'thank you' than honoring our pioneers and giving them their rightful place in history. The fund will always remain in the name of the honoree; only the interest will be used for ongoing programs. A name fund in memory of a couple can be established for \$1000.00.

At this writing, only two name funds have been established for Black Disciples. Mr. A.C. Stone and his relatives have established a fund in honor of his mother, Mrs. Callis Davis Stone Wintersmith, who was a member of Central Christian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, for sixty-nine years. She and her husband mortgaged their home to help pay the indebtedness of the Church.

The other name fund, for a Black Disciple was established by Mrs. Marjorie Parker of Indianapolis and her sisters, in honor of their mother, Mrs. Viola Grubb, who was one of the pioneer leaders in the East Hight Street Christian Church of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

Dr. E.W. Henry, Jr. and his brothers and sisters are establishing a fund in honor of their father, who served some fifty years in the Churches of Texas. It is my hope that other families will follow these examples.

Why don't some Churches establish a name fund in the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in memory of persons who have served the congregation through the years? I think of Dr. S.S. Myers, of Kansas City, serving the West Paseo Church for over forty years; Dr. Blair T. Hunt, the first and only minister of the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee until Rev. Alvin Jackson, who is now minister; and Rev. R.H. Peoples, of Second Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rev. Peoples served the congregation nearly twenty-eight years, beginning with a membership of 250 on Ninth and Camp Streets and moving to the present location where membership reached more than 900. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin now serves as minister at Second Christian.

Other pioneers are Rev. R.L. Jordan, the organizer of United Christian Church, Detroit, Michigan where Dr. LaMar Clark currently serves as minister and Rev. R.L. Saunders, Stuyvesant Heights-Brooklyn, New York.

Remember, it is easy to establish a name fund. Send a resume of the honoree's contributions to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) accompanied by a check for \$500 to the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Roland K. Huff, President - 1101-19th Avenue, South - Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

Second Christian Appoints Clency Music Minister



Indianapolis, Ind. - Charles Clency, well known Chicago musician, assumed duties as full time Minister of Music at Second Christian Church, September 1, 1979.

Mr. Clency is an accomplished pianist, organist, composer-arranger and choral director. He founded and for the past 17 years directed The Voices of Melody, a mixed choir of 50 voices whose repertoire includes early European sacred literature, present-day contemporary styles and music of the Black religious experience.

He also served as organist and arranger for the late gospel singer, Mahalia Jackson for a number of years until her death in 1972; and for three years as director of music for Rev. Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH.

Mr. Clency has taught music in Chicago public schools and served as a workshop clinician and lecturer on choral technique and performance at church and music conventions.

While heading the music department at Second Christian Church, Mr. Clency will be enrolled in the graduate school at Indiana University, Bloomington, pursuing the master of music degree in conducting.

Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin Jr. is the minister at Second Christian.

Ministers See Hope in Faith, Bible, Young Seminarians

NASHVILLE, TN—Black ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) experienced a blending of the past and the future in their sixth annual retreat here March 4-6.

The past was highlighted in one of a series of "soul sessions"—sermons—by Dr. Raymond E. Brown, Indianapolis, Ind., who traced the history of black Disciples.

The future was paraded before the 110 participants as six college and 13 seminary students shared their hopes for the church as ministers-to-be.

They represent the largest group of black students to be working for ministerial degrees in Disciples history, according to Ozark Range Sr., Indianapolis, director of black ministry.

The retreat was a time for sermons, prayers and work groups on the special needs of the ministers who came from 19 states.

Dr. Brown, in his sermons on history, mission and the future and their relationship to hope, told the ministers "the weakest spot in our Christian armor is our failure to live the life about which we preach."

The church must be sensitive to "points of separation in the world", if it is to be "the servant of God's mission," he said, citing separation between "blacks and whites, Americans and Iranians, Russians and Afghans, haves and have nots."

Dr. Brown, vice-president and assistant secretary for the Disciples' Board of Church Extension, told the group "the church is rapidly moving to accept the task of living in the world, participating in its share of responsibility for changing that which is inhumane, unethical or destructive to persons or societies."

But, he noted, it cannot "change the world from ways of war to ways of peace without the influence, guidance and inspiration of a vital religion."

"For all our efforts, our young people are still out of work, drugs still run rampant in our communities, we still murder and maim one another. Our churches are on the decline. We are still trying to desegregate the schools, there is a lack of trained preachers and blacks still earn a lot less than whites for the same work," he observed.

Another speaker, Alvin Jackson, Memphis, Tenn., told the group it needs to "find the book" if the church "is to be any hope for our people, our church."

The world has never outgrown the book—the Bible—although "biblical illit-



MINISTERS DISCUSS CONCERNS. Small group discussions were part of the Black Ministers' Retreat held at Nashville in March. Ministers such as the group in the photo, shared their successes and failures in an effort to build stronger congregations.

eracy is at an all-time high," said the minister of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.

In a second sermon, Jackson urged the ministers, "don't run from your responsibilities. One responsibility we all share is for our brothers, for each other."

"The young need the old, the old need the young, the black needs the white, the white needs the black," said Jackson.

A third speaker, Fred Peeler Jr., Concord, N.C., told the ministers that "the world is toppling on the brink of destruction, but this is still God's world."

"God makes new people out of 'no people'. God took our people out of the dirt and made them 'the people', said the minister of First Christian Church.

He urged them to cultivate meekness which "allows them to get down to the level of the other person, to understand his situation and to know whether you can help him."

A panel of speakers on finances challenged the group to look beyond their congregations—many of which are struggling to maintain themselves—to share in the wider ministry.

Norman S. Fiddmont, minister of

Central Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo., said "black congregations want to share significantly, but there is an element of not being able to share as we would wish. We need to break that attitude with education."

Earl Murray, minister of Macedonia Christian Church, Birmingham, Ala., responded, stressing that ministerial leadership is critical to good stewardship.

William Shelton, a student at Lexington (Ky.) Theological Seminary, drew applause and laughter when he said "I couldn't be in seminary if it weren't for mission. I urge you as a student to give to mission."

Dr. William W. Hannah, Indianapolis, executive secretary for evangelism and membership of the denomination, said "we are plagued by anemic congregations. People are hurting, crying and dying. We've got to stop 'hallelujahing' long enough to get out into the community and help them."

He challenged the ministers to "go out and build churches. You've got the stuff, go out and use it."

The ministers will hold their next retreat March 3-5, 1981, in South Carolina at a site to be determined.



Aiding Disciples In Child Ministry

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — A half-time consultant in children's ministry has been obtained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve in regions and congregations, beginning February 1.

She is Dr. Louise Bates Evans of Indianapolis, who has 25 years' experience in Christian education in churches as a volunteer and as a consultant. She holds a doctoral degree in education and has served on university faculties. The term is for one year.

"The position was made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor," said Robert F. Glover, executive secretary of the department of Christian education of the Division of Homeland Ministries.

"In 1981 the department hopes to make it a full-time position funded through the regular budget," Glover said.

Dr. Evans will work in children's program in the church school, Sunday evening fellowships and parent and teacher training.

From 1974 to 1979 she was assistant professor in family development of the department of management, housing and family development of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Va. From 1971 to 1974, she was assistant professor of home management and family economics at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

In 1975 she was visiting professor of Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C.

She received the doctor of education degree in 1978 at Indiana University, Bloomington, and the M.S. and B.S. degrees in child development and family life at Purdue in 1971 and 1970.

Dr. Evans has two children. In 1979

African Countries Need Church Help

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — "The church and other benevolent groups must help keep the lights of hope burning in Africa," said Dr. William K. Fox of Indianapolis, assistant to the general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on his return from a three-week tour of that continent.

Dr. Fox and three other Disciples church members spent the major part of their time in Zambia, Kenya and Ghana. They also had an unscheduled short stay in the Cameroons, where they were diverted from Zaire when its borders were closed.

Accompanying Dr. Fox on the trip were his wife, Reubena, Lenora Rolla of Community Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Mildred L. Webb of Harvey, Ill. Mrs. Webb is a retired social worker.

"The countries we visited are still in the process of nation building and a long way from fully realizing their dreams," Dr. Fox said.

He added that the slack in economic conditions throughout the world is also true in Africa with much inflation and energy shortage.

"We saw evidence of the armed struggle going on over the border of Rhodesia and Zambia, the last bridge on the border being bombed on a rail line that gives Zambia its only access to the sea," the church leader said.

Dr. Fox was impressed by the leadership development work being done at the Mindolo Ecumenical Center at Kitwe, Zambia.

The church leader, who had visited Mindolo in 1975, found that as a result of struggles in Rhodesia and resultant refugees, it is now necessary to secure the grounds at the training center to prevent looting.

"They have a locked gate and 15 or 16 security people around the clock," Dr. Fox said. "They have had to disband some of the vocational training classes for school leaders.

Dr. Fox said that Mindolo is going to provide all of its leadership training in a traditional tribal (Kalambo) village about 15 miles from Kitwe. There they will have for three years a demonstration center in developing women, school and community leaders.

"The YMCA is conducting a program



New Emphasis On Ethnic Relations

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Dr. Enoch W. Henry Jr., Indianapolis, became director of ethnic relations and leader training for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), effective December 3, 1979.

Dr. Henry had served for the past nine years as director of special congregational services, department of evangelism and membership. His move within the Division of Homeland Ministries jointly was announced by the two department executives.

"We are happy for this addition to our staff," said Elby Boosinger, executive secretary of the department of church men. "The job Dr. Henry fills is a new one within our department," Boosinger added.

"The position serves a dual purpose," said the Disciples men's executive. "It permits more direct work with minority constituencies and also increases lay leadership emphasis throughout the Christian Church."

Dr. Henry, in addition to building closer relationships with ethnic groups, serves as a resource person for men's retreats, district and area gatherings.

Dr. William W. Hannah, executive secretary of the department of evangelism and membership, expressed regret over the loss of Dr. Henry, terming his work "dedicated and exceptional in every manner."

"Dr. Henry's work in the development of Christian Church congregations will be difficult to duplicate. His years of service have given him expertise in many areas of our church," Dr. Hannah added.

Dr. Henry served 14 years as pastor of United Christian Church, Los Angeles, Calif., prior to accepting the position at

Church Sponsors Program To Rebuild Neighborhood

DETROIT, MI — When LaMar Clark, pastor of United Christian Church here, talks about IOUs these days, he is not thinking of money owed him but about what he and others "owe" their community.

Clark and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation will begin a program of neighborhood renovation March 15, with the help of a \$115,000 grant from the city of Detroit.

The IOU program—Inner-City Outreach in Urban Ministries—is the first step in an overall strategy to upgrade a 15-block area in Detroit's ghetto where the church is located.

"Urban renewal is no longer a high priority in the city," said Clark who believes that "neighborhoods will have to do it themselves."

Acting on the belief that "a good sound community requires good sound active churches," United Christian Church changed its plans to move from the neighborhood, choosing instead to rebuild the community.

The grant from the city will be used to:

Renovate the congregation's old parsonage, vacant for two years because of water damage, for use as a community center.

Provide burglar protection for 100 homes of senior citizens on minimal incomes.

Expand a vacant lot play area into a full-scale playground with equipment and a basketball court.

Establish a "tool bank" for loan of drills, saws and other equipment for household repairs that the neighborhood residents cannot afford to buy.

"City officials are enthusiastic about the project," said Clark who receives "phone calls daily about various aspects of the program."

The pilot program is the first of its kind in Detroit, according to Clark who said "city officials first checked to see if our proposal overlapped with other programs. They found none."

The congregation, long active in "people-oriented ministries," has been instrumental in setting up a neighborhood patrol to prevent crimes and a community clean-up with 100 bags of trash col-



Plan To Rebuild Youth Center

The Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, Tenn., will rebuild its youth center, destroyed by fire October 10, 1979.

Alvin O. Jackson, pastor of the 500-member congregation, disclosed that plans are being made for an expanded educational facility at the same location. Church members also voted to purchase as much adjacent property as possible for parking and future expansion.

The building, constructed in 1888, was used for Sunday school classes and meetings during the week. The fire, caused by a malfunction in the heating system, according to inspectors, also caused smoke and water to the main church building.

Although insurance will cover much of the loss to the building, Jackson's office including theological books, tapes and manuscripts were destroyed.

"People have offered money to help restore a library," Jackson said, "but there were a lot of personal things that just can't be replaced."

Noting church and community response to the misfortune, the 29-year old minister commented "people have a tendency to rally 'round when there's this kind of crisis."

lected in a four-block area.

The next steps of the long-term program call for involving youth in the community revitalization, establishing a formal clean-up effort and organizing youth and senior citizens centers. The congregation hopes to get a foundation grant of \$350,000 to launch phase two.

A third phase, called "Fill in the Blank" program, calls for moving good houses from blocks containing few homes into vacant lots on streets with more good homes, renovating those moved and

selling at low interest to former owners or others.

The blocks vacated would be leveled, with the ground used for a senior citizens center or possibly light industry, Clark said.

"Some members of the other churches in the neighborhood felt one congregation could not succeed in revitalization programs. We hope to inspire them. Our contribution is showing what can be done with a little ingenuity and a lot of patience," added Clark.

For Whom the Bells Toll

● **FANNIE WILLIAMS NIX**, a member of Ross Street Christian Church, Montgomery, Ala., died August 16, 1979. An ordained deaconess, she served many years as Bible school superintendent and as CWF president.

● **BESSIE L. BUCK**, a member of Rose Hill Christian Church and a prominent and dedicated worker in the Mississippi State Missionary Convention, died in October 1979. Funeral services were at Rose Hill, Port Gibson, Miss.

● **DORA WEAVER JONES**, a member of Mt. Olivet Christian Church, Baltimore, Md., died December 19, 1979. Mrs. Jones served her church for many years

as a deaconess and as Sunday school superintendent.

● **LUVERN HULTZ**, a member of Second Christian Church, Lawrence, Kans., died February 13, 1980.

● **WARRICK ELLIOTT GRAVES**, pastor emeritus of North Heights Christian Church, Wichita, Kans., died in February, 1980. He served as pastor of the Indiana Avenue Christian Church for nearly 25 years seeing the congregation move from a basement to a full edifice during his pastorate. A pioneer federal meat inspector, Rev. Graves was instrumental in securing jobs for Wichita Blacks.



GREENWOOD CEMETERY (AND THE CHURCH) - SERVING FROM THE CRADLE TO ETERNITY. Sitting above in the Office of the Greenwood Cemetery Company of Nashville, TN left to right, Manager-Elect, James Dennis, Sr. and retiring Manager, Joe McClure discuss future development plans with William K. Fox, the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Greenwood Cemetery recently made a \$5000.00 grant to the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. to aid in establishing the "Preston Taylor-National Convocation Trust Fund." The cemetery is committed to making annual donations to the Trust Fund.

During the nine year administration of Joe McClure Greenwood Cemetery became a top-flight business operation. Landscaping and perpetual care services were markedly improved. Manager McClure became highly respected by cemeterians throughout Tennessee and the nation. James Dennis, Sr. the new manager, is a resident of Nashville, with experience in death services as a funeral director. For several years he was an educational administrator at the secondary education and college level. He is also a practicing minister in the Church of Christ.

Greenwood Cemetery, which was founded by the late Preston Taylor in 1888, was willed by him to the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc.

Day To Become CMF President

Calvin Day, a member of United Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, will become president of the International Conference of Christian Men's Fellowship following elections in June.

Day, a product technologist with Kroger Company, has been an active participant in regional CMF affairs.

He will succeed William Jewsbury in the office of president.

Jarvis Inaugurates New President

Dr. Charles Albert Berry Jr. was inaugurated as the eighth president of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, on March 29, 1980.

Dr. Berry, himself a Jarvis graduate, succeeded Dr. Earl W. Rand as president on January 1, 1980. Jarvis began its 68th academic year with an enrollment of 622 students, third highest in the school's history.

Carpenter Leaves Regional Post

Rev. Anthony Carpenter, associate regional minister for the Northeastern Association of Christian Churches, resigned in September 1979 to accept a position on the national staff of the United Church of Christ.

Carpenter, who held dual ministerial standing with Disciples and UCC, will serve on the staff of UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership.

MD Candidate Interns At National

Freddie L. Hall Jr., is currently fulfilling internship requirements for his Master of Divinity degree at National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C.

Hall, a native of Richmond, Va., is a student at the Howard University School of Religion. He is preparing himself for ordination to the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Maintaining The "Taylor Commitment"

You can't make it through life on daddy's coat tails forever! One third of the National Convocation's operational needs are provided by one man's commitment and love of Jesus Christ and His Church. Before Black preacher-businessman, Preston Taylor died in 1931, he provided for all that he owned to go to the National Christian Missionary Convention.

Earnings from operations and investments were to be used to advance "religious education and missions" of the Church.

If one dedicated Disciple of Christ can do this much for the Church, how much more could be done if others gave a little more of their blessings back to God and His Church?

This is why the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation has established the "Preston Taylor-National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Trust Fund." The money you give to this fund will produce earnings which can support Christian education and missions programs which are in accordance with National Convocation interests and the intentions of Preston Taylor. (Both Convocation "interests" and Taylor "intentions" are to be in harmony with the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ).

The "Taylor Commitment" is the decision we make that Jesus Christ become Lord of our lives. That commitment becomes flesh and blood when we give liberally of whatever we have to advance His purposes through His Church.

Giving of money and/or possessions to the Preston Taylor-National Convocation Trust Fund is a way in which you can make your commitment to be a Disciple of Christ live on forever.

Earnings from money in the past six months given by only a few people has already provided enough dollars to assure a leadership development project this summer. But your contribution is needed today if much more is to be done. **Our goal is \$100,000.00 in 1980!** Money given is turned over to the Christian Church Foundation, Inc. for responsible and creative investment management.

So far the "Charter Donor" listing

consists of the following names:

Dr. & Mrs. Cornelius W. Arnold of Los Angeles, CA

Dr. & Mrs. William K. Fox of Indianapolis, IN

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Saunders of Dayton, OH

Mary G. Harris of Washington, D.C.

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AFRICAN COUNTRIES NEED CHURCH HELP *from pg. 8*

in a squatter village, which is also being helped by the government," Dr. Fox said. "They are holding vocational training and a gardening program."

The group was met at the Nairobi airport by a leader of the All-Africa Conference of Churches. They took side trips to the Nairobi national park and the Amboseli safari land in southern Kenya on Christmas Day.

"A few leaders are holding on at the AACC and the various national councils of churches in Kenya and Ghana—holding out against great odds," Dr. Fox said.

He described the energy crunch as terrific. He said there are very few big cars, some very, very small cars, but most people were walking or riding bicycles or mopeds.

The group, looking for cultural roots, located church institutions in several places and found an old prison where slaves were held before being taken to America.

They found that many people live in poverty and that the middle-class people do not have many of the things materially that Americans take for granted, he said.

AIDING DISCIPLES IN CHILD MINISTRY *from pg. 8*

she was married to Lorenzo Evans, retired member of the Christian education staff of the Disciples of Christ.

She has had experience in conducting workshops in sexuality education and research, participation training—the Indiana Plan—values clarification, human relations, parent's effectiveness, and women in development.

Dr. Evans is the author of numerous articles in professional and church publications. She has taught not only at the university level, but also in local church, community and regional settings.

She has done research in the role of the community family life educator, development of continuing education courses, adult perceptions of life crises and life change and the Christian journey.

Dr. Evans also designed educational structures for primary children in an ecumenical institute workshop.

NEW EMPHASIS ON ETHNIC RELATIONS *from pg. 8*

Indianapolis. A native Texan and son of a minister, he is a graduate of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, and Butler University, Indianapolis. In 1968 he was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree by Jarvis.

He also has pastored Disciples churches in Texas, Kentucky and Oklahoma and formerly directed the Christian education and evangelism program for Piedmont Tri-State area churches of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Dr. Henry is married and the father of five children. He and his wife, Marion, reside in Indianapolis.



**Use the Registration Form on Page 2 to assure your attendance at
the Sixth Biennial Session, August 5-10, 1980 in Cincinnati, Ohio**

Find Ministry Challenging — Continued from Page 1

I thought I couldn't make it and because I had a \$1,500 hospital bill staring me in the face. Finally, somebody explained to me that no one in seminary has any money.

"Whether I finish (seminary) or not, it has been more than worth while. Preaching has inspired me to live for my Lord. I've already improved my personal relationship with God, and to me that's most important," said the first-year seminary student.

Administrators at the Lexington Theological Seminary use words like "courageous" and "brave souls" to describe these two black women who are studying for their masters of divinity degrees.

The history of women in organized religion is largely a history of volunteer work, mostly concerning children, music, Sunday school classes and food preparation. A few churches are now allowing women to preach behind the pulpit and to hold administrative positions.

"Women have played a vital role in the church, although they have been kept out of administrative positions. If women left the church, it wouldn't be much of a church," said Ms. Turner.

Black women in the ministry have to cope with both sets of prejudices, a task so overwhelming that not many are willing to challenge the system.

"Our time's coming, though. Women have been ostracized and criticized for so long that many are afraid to go into inter-disciplinary ministry. Maybe this is the right time frame for women to use all their talents to do God's work," said Ms. Cardwell.

Although both women deny being "women libbers," they attribute the movement with making people conscious of women's role in the church.

"But there's a lot of prejudice out there against women, and a good deal of it comes from other women. Some just aren't capable of accepting change. They just would rather see a man behind the pulpit than a woman," explained Ms. Cardwell.

"But, through my work at Morehead, I've learned something about preaching. When I preach, I'm talking to Brenda, more than I'm talking to the people in front of me. People are constantly watching you to see if you have a real commitment; you have to practice what you preach," said Ms. Cardwell.

Without opportunities for higher education and the chance to expand their world through travel, both women say they wouldn't be students at Lexington Theological Seminary today.

"The times and opportunities have certainly made my life different than my mother's. If she hadn't been raising eight children, Mother and I would be here together," said Ms. Turner, who is majoring in the New Testament and pastoral counseling.

In addition to her studies in Lexington, Ms. Turner is religious education coordinator at the Christian Church Children's Campus in Danville.

Someday, she hopes to see herself behind a pulpit and counseling a congregation as a full-time minister. If her wildest dreams come true, that congregation will wear prison garb.

The Pastor's Friend

"The church is dead," said Bro. Frown.

"It's true, said Gossip. "It's sure going down."

"His sermons are long - just cut and dried; he needs too much money," Bro. Stingy cried.

"I'm going to quit," Bro. Gadabout howled; and go where they have a much bigger crowd."

Sis. Selfish, too, was sure she could see, "not a soul in church 'preciates me."

Said Bro. Grumble, "I don't see why the Sunday School's dead and the meetings dry."

But good Bro. Faithful sat in his place, the sunshine of heaven a-beaming on his face. The good saint worshipped in prayer and song. And to him, "there wasn't a single thing wrong."

Ms. Cardwell majors in church history and the practice of ministry. She preaches almost every Sunday with the United Campus Ministry, which includes the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) faiths.

Because of her enjoyable experiences leading workshops, Ms. Cardwell would like to be a regional minister, preaching to different congregations and working with other administrators in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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