

Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Digital Commons @ Disciples History

Update on the Black Church

Stone-Campbell Movement Periodicals

7-1973

Update on the Black Church, Issues from 1973 and 1974

William K. Fox

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

Up-Date



ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

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

MAKE A JOYFULL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

Christians who get as excited about winning others to Jesus Christ as the followers of Hank Aaron when he hits a home run are bound to make the world move over and make room for the Kingdom of God.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." This is a part of effective evangelism. And that is what 38 members of the Centennial Christian Church of St. Louis, Missouri did June 1, 1973 when they surprised their pastor - S. W. Hylton, Jr. - by chartering a bus to Indianapolis for the commencement exercises at Christian Theological Seminary where he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree. This is what the members of Second Washington Chapel Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ in Hyattsville, MD did June 18-24, 1973 when they observed Pastor Alfred F. Ham's ninth anniversary and watched him receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree. Pastor George W. Jones of Washington D.C.'s Twelfth Street Church attended while Brother Donald A. Gibbs brought the degree ceremony message and the Mt. Olivet Church Choirs of Baltimore made "a joyful noise to the Lord."

You and I have to get the world's attention long enough to be able to tell it about the redemptive love of God. Public demonstrations by the Church like the ones in Indianapolis and Hyattsville give Christians an opportunity to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." - A chance to let the world know that we are in the business of loving, healing and empowering for the Lord - and that we are really out doing His business.

"Making a joyful noise unto the Lord" will be the main job for many black Disciples of Christ attending state and regional meetings in July and August. These are opportunities for learning, inspiration and leadership development. But above all for "Making a joyful noise unto the Lord" in Kentucky, Texas, Mississippi and the Piedmont.

Making the "noise" is the first step. Once the world stops to hear our job is to fill their listening ears with the Gospel message. That is the giant step. Both steps are needed if the mission is to be fulfilled.

UP-DATE VOL. I, NO. 3&4 July-August 1973

NATIONAL CONVOCATION
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1986 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

THE MISSING ISSUES IN THIS BOUND VOLUME ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

"HOT" dedication in Greenwood



Despite sweltering mid-ninety degree afternoon heat and humidity approximately 300 persons assembled under a tent in Nashville, Tenn. June 10, 1973 at the site of the new Greenwood Cemetery administration building to witness dedication and corner-stone laying services.

Convocation executive W. K. Fox gave the dedicatory address while Claude Walker, Convocation president and chairman of the Cemetery Committee, was master of ceremonies.

Other highlights of the event included a statement on Greenwood Cemetery history by Emmett J. Dickson; greetings from representatives of civic, church and business interests; worship leadership from the pastors and choirs of Gay-Lea and Alameda; and special recognitions by Cemetery Manager Joe McClure.

Grandmaster Erskine W. Lytle of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons from the Grand Lodge in Tennessee, led chapter members in an impressive corner-stone laying. The Marble Statue of Christ in the Garden of Our Lord was also dedicated.

Greenwood Cemetery was willed to the National Christian Missionary Convention by one time slave boy but later union soldier, businessman, churchman and founder of the Convention - Preston Taylor. A Convention Board of Trustees administers its operation.

An additional feature was a special "fellowship dinner" sponsored by the Gay-Lea and Alameda churches at Gay-Lea for the Board of Trustees and other out-of-town guests.

Cemetery Board of Trustees attending were A. C. Stone, Cincinnati, OH; Daniel W. Heath, Rockford, IL; Patricia Clark, Cleveland, OH; Charles Webb, Jr., Indianapolis, IN; Josie Johnson, Port Gibson, MS; Emmett J. Dickson, Indianapolis, IN; Board Chairman, Claude Walker, Kansas City MO and the Administrative Secretary, W. K. Fox, Indianapolis, IN.

The unique dedication program was developed by Chairperson, Philandria Dickerson Co-Chairperson, Joe McClure, Charlyne McHenry, Ann Dickerson, Jerome I. Wright, John Carroll, William A. Dansby, R. C. Maloy, Walter Roscoe Davis, Robert Mosley Jr. and James Thomas.

NOTES*

FOR CONTEMPORARY BLACK DISCIPLE HISTORY

* Sharon Ingram, organist and choir director for the North Heights Church in Wichita, KS is a good example of a layperson dedicated to serving the Lord through the Church. With a master's degree in music from Wichita State University, Sharon not only works in the Church and teaches school - she teaches piano at home. Electronic equipment enables her to teach three students at a time. Her husband, Nathan, who serves as a home management expert, organized and administers her library of music and tapes and is supportive of her efforts.

Oliver Sharpe Johnson of the Wildewood Church in Oklahoma City, OK is a product of the study-work program once carried on at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, S. This Disciple-sponsored school no longer exists but the knowledge and experience Brother Johnson gained there has helped him establish the "O. J.'s Concrete Constructors and Consultants Company" seventeen years ago which now operates nationally. He is chairman of finance, deacon and an instructor in church organization and spiritual growth in the recently organized Wildewood Church.

Alfred F. Harris is not only the pastor of Second Washington Chapel Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Hyattsville, MD but he is also a good husband and proud father of ten children - three are students at Jarvis Christian College. June 10 he was pleasantly surprised when under the leadership of Mrs. Harris the family presented him with a new 1973 Impala sedan.

Justine A. Sutton, veteran church leader in Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, has written a proposal for a Math Workshop which has been approved by the Federal Government Office of Education under the Urban-Rural Development program. The purpose of the Workshop is to train elementary teachers to use the math-lab approach to teaching.

Cammie Doolin, long-time Disciple church worker in Missouri and member of the Frankfort, MO Second Church, was one of four persons cited by The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri during its May 4, 1973 General Assembly. He was the only black and the only woman.

ignettes from the field

(Among the Congregations)

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS...Forty-three people from the four predominately black Disciple congregations in Greater Cincinnati, Ohio made a special week-end visitation to Christian Theological Seminary, Board of Church Extension and the headquarters building of the Christian Church (i.e. Missions Building) June 15-16, 1973. Pastors Frank Garner, Clifford Ralls, Robert H. Peoples and John R. Compton cooperated in chartering a bus for both youth and adults in the Bond Hill, Maple Street (Lockland), Fifth and United churches. The National Convocation office coordinated the project.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON...Among the 80 men leaders attending the first National Christian Men's Fellowship Conference at Transylvania University June 14-17, 1973 were black lay persons H. G. Dotson (Calif.), Norman S. Ellington (Mo.), Willis Jackson, Rufus Lewis and T. Braxton (Ala.), A. C. Stone (O.), John Redd (Piedmont) and Charles Edmondson (Ky.). Christian testimony was made, inspiration received, and the life and work of the church reviewed.

TEXAS, LONGVIEW...Randy Royal, recent Shaw University graduate and Disciple minister is serving the Eastside Christian Church as an intern associate to Pastor Wesley S. Sims, Jr. in a special summer program. The congregation and District Board are joining the Departments of Ministry and Worship and Evangelism and Membership of the Christian Church in providing Brother Royal support during the two month's experience.

OHIO, CINCINNATI...A tithing emphasis pro-

gram at Fifth Christian Church during the months of May through September 1973 has greatly increased attendance and sharing in church school, worship and small group meetings. The feature is one of the first begun during the interim ministry here of Robert H. Peoples.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT...Pastor R. L. Jordan of the United Church continues to improve from a serious attack of pneumonia. His illness has covered the period from early May to the present.

MISSOURI, VANDALIA...Second Church sent eleven persons to the recent general assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri. Six were lay persons under thirty. W. T. Neal is the pastor.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY...On February 14th the 40th Anniversary of Dr. M. M. Queen as choir director at West Paseo Christian Church was celebrated.

MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON...The first grants aiding the poor of Mississippi will be made by the Mount Beulah Corporation when it meets here October 20.

The newly-organized corporation, established to administer money received from the sale of property at Edwards, Miss. met here recently to set up criteria for funding self-help projects.

Mount Beulah Christian Center, operated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1971, with the proceeds to help the disadvantaged "achieve greater economic, social and cultural advantages."

Additional funds for the program were received from the Disciples' Division of

Homeland Ministries and the Negro Scholarship Fund for training black leaders in community activities.

Among priority projects announced by Bennie G. Thompson, chairman of the corporation, are employment, civil and legal rights, political involvement, quality education and leadership training.

Priority will be given projects which help a number of persons; are operated by organizations or persons with a "success" record; may attract additional funds and may be used in other communities, said Thompson, mayor of Bolton, Miss.

Other officers of the corporation are Thomas N. Walker, Edwards, associate regional minister of the Mississippi Christian Churches, vice-chairman; Ian McCrae, Indianapolis, Indiana, director of human rights, department of church in society, secretary; and Dr. Phoebe T. Harris, State College, home economics teacher at Mississippi State University, treasurer.

Also members of the corporation are T. E. Harris, Port Gibson, Miss., minister of Christian Chapel; and Gerald Cunningham, director of community organization, department of church in society and Dr. William K. Fox, assistant to the general minister and president of the church, both of Indianapolis.

Mount Beulah Christian Center was the site of one of the first higher education institutions for blacks in Mississippi. It was chartered by the State of Mississippi in 1875 as Southern Christian Institute.

In recent years Mount Beulah Center was the site of programs for Mississippi Disciples churches, the National Council of Churches' Delta Ministry and civil rights groups.



FOR WHOM
THE BELLS
TOLL

*Those Who Have Crossed
Over*

Ira Armistead, wife of the late Elder A. Armistead of Houston, Texas who died in May, 1973 while visiting daughters in California. She belonged to the Garden Grove Church of Houston along with a son and daughters Annie McGrimmon and Emma Allen.



Robbie Ezell Maloy, wife of Pastor R. C. Maloy of the Alameda Street Church in Nashville, Tenn. who passed away June 7, 1973 after several years of chronic ailments. Members attending the Convocation Board of Trustees meeting in Nashville at the time joined the church and community mourning.



Francis Lang, 96 years old Disciple pioneer of Greenwood, Miss. who died there June 9, 1973. She was an aunt of national church leader Thomas Griffin, and believed to know more than anybody now living about the history of the black Christian Church in Mississippi.



Enoch W. Henry III, son of Dr. Enoch W. Henry, Jr. was killed in an accident on June 11, 1973 in Nassau. He was serving in the United States Navy. The funeral was June 16 at the United Christian Church in Los Angeles, California.



TOOLS FOR THE JOB...

NEW ROADS TO FAITH - Black Perspectives in Christian Education

This packet of three monographs and a USE GUIDE explores the task of doing education with Black Churches. Published especially for Black Churches, these monographs contain important insights of interest to White Churches.

EACH PACKET CONTAINS ONE COPY EACH OF THE PUBLICATIONS LISTED:

"The Acts of God and the Children of Africa" - The creation of a new Black history presents a faith dilemma for many of the children of Africa. Dr. Vincent Harding, Director of the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta, Georgia, examines this dilemma in this thoughtful monograph.

"Educating Black People for Liberation and Growth" - Dr. James M. Jones, Associate Professor of Social Psychology at Harvard University, writes about the issues, options, and strategies that the Black Churches can employ to meet their educational goals.

"The Education Role of Black Churches in the 70s and 80s" - Dr. Olivia Pearl Stokes, Associate Professor of Education at the City University, The Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx, New York, describes the educational mission and tasks confronting the Black Church.

"Use Guide" - Prepared by Dr. Percel O. Alston, Director of Field Programs for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Division of Christian Education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Use Guide

offers suggestions for use of the New Roads to Faith packet.

Order from: Christian Board of Publication
Box 179
Beaumont and Pine Sts.
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Packet Price: \$1.50 each



Key '73 Evangelistic Program Emphases of the churches, "Calling Our Continent to Christ." moves through Phase 4 - "Calling Our Continent to New Life." Special efforts at celebration, clinics, weekend renewal experiences, revivals, leadership training conferences in evangelism have been held by the director of field program, Dr. Emmett J. Dickson. Some examples are:

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Wildewood Christian Church - W. M. Sims, Minister - week of preaching and evangelistic study.

Topeka, Kansas - Christian Church in Kansas Ronald R. Reed, Regional Minister - District workshops in evangelism at Garden City, Colby, Hutchinson and Smith Center.

Los Angeles, California - United Christian Church - Peter C. Washington, interim minister - Pre-Easter spiritual renewal

Long Beach, California - District Christian Men's Fellowship - H. B. Dotson, leader - evangelistic concert

Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada - Church Development Committee on Ontario - D. Howlett, chairman - Three-day evangelistic clinic, churchmanship, evangelism and inspirational motivation

St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada - Prince Avenue Christian Church - Ronald Dakin minister; Brian Kempster, chairman of New Life Weekend Committee - New Life Weekend study, celebration and workshop in evangelism.

Detroit, Michigan - United Christian Church - R. L. Jordan, minister - Key '73 Evangelistic Emphases - a five church united effort, including United Christian Church, R. L. Jordan, pastor; Central Institutional Missionary Baptist Church - Rev. William J. Bishop, pastor; 14th Street United Methodist Church, Rev. Griffith, pastor; St. Leo's Catholic Church, Rev. Fr. John Morel, pastor; Jerusalem Baptist Church, Rev. R. L. McKelton, pastor.

Summerville, South Carolina - State Missionary Convention - Jacob Jamerson president, J. C. Fowler, state evangelist - Evangelism Crusade - eight meetings in the two South Carolina Districts which included the Disciples, Methodists, Baptists, Fire Baptised Holiness, Pentecostal Holiness, Church of God and Catholics

Nashville, Tennessee - Alameda Christian Church - R. C. Maloy, minister; Robert Drummond, chairman of evangelism - New Life Revival and Evangelistic Seminar

WHAT'S AHEAD

CHECK YOUR DATE BOOK

- *July 20-28* -
Bethany, W. Va. - "Week on Campus" at Bethany College for persons in the Northeast Leadership Development Project
- *July 25-27* -
Goldsboro, N.C. - Black Women Ministers Conference
- *July 26-31* -
Columbia, Mo. - National Workshop for church musicians
- *August 8-12* -
Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention
- *August 8-12* -
Martinsville, Va. - Piedmont District Tri-State Convention
- *August 11* -
Atlanta, Ga. - Reflections from African Religions Research-Lecture Series at the Interdenominational Technological Center - "Racism in Western Approaches to African History" - lecturer - Dr. A. K. Quarcoo, W. Africa (Ghana) - contact: George B. Thomas, I. T. C.
- *September 8* -
Jefferson City, Mo. - "Black-White Dialogue" - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri
- *September 22* -
St. Louis, Mo. - "Black-White Dialogue" - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri
- *October 6* -
Kansas City, Mo. - "Black-White Dialogue" - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri
- *October 26-31* -
Cincinnati, Ohio - General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Youth-Listen!

The ST. MARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH will host the Alabama State Youth Institute, August 1 through the 4th, 1973 at Mobile, Alabama. The Theme of the Institute is "Youth Communicating the Gospel."

There will be approximately fifty (50) youth from all over the State who will participate in three days of intensive study concerning the many ways that the youths of today can communicate the Gospel in their various communities.

Films will be shown and it is anticipated that Brothers Lorenzo Evans and Enoch Henry will join us and many other Elders from all over the State to help instruct the youths.

Sister Benita Russell of St. Mark Christian Church was elected as leader of the State Youth Study Institute at the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention which was held in Greenville, Alabama, June 21-22, 1973.

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

Mr. Marvin D. Williams
1101 Nineteenth Ave., South
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

SEND ME
YOUR

- DATES
- ARTICLES
- QUESTIONS



W. K. Fox
Box 1986
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46206

BY THE 1ST
OF THE
MONTH

Please share UP-DATE with other people. We would be glad to have a list of names and addresses of other interested church workers.

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Indianapolis, Ind.
Permit No. 413

Up-Date

ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

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

EVERY DAY COULD BE "BARGAIN DAY"

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DAY IN THE WEEK WHICH WASN'T "BARGAIN DAY" IN THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT STORE? That really is the way it could be with the Church. Every moment is filled with opportunities for new and meaningful life. If we took Jesus Christ at his word every day could be "BARGAIN DAY."

AUGUST 14-18, 1974 at SPELMAN COLLEGE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA a \$39.75 registration fee will provide sleeping and eating accommodations for four and one half days within a fabulous black university community.

Every morning Pentecostal preaching will give challenge and inspiration. Friday night will have a stepped-up spiritual emphasis. Every day choirs from southeastern U.S.A. Disciples congregations will share in periods of hymnspiration.

An unprecedented theological dialogue will continue throughout featuring Dr. James Cone of Union Seminary, New York City and Dr. Kofi Asare Opoku of the University of Ghana, Legon-Ghana, Africa as principals.

Thursday through Saturday there will be study seminars with related field visitations in exciting ultra-modern Atlanta neighborhood settings. Every day will be "BARGAIN DAY!"

All of these events and more will converge in an emphasis upon ----

THE LEGACY AND TASK
OF THE
BLACK CHURCH

Attendants will take a serious look

at Ephesians 1:11-14 with special emphasis on verse 11. Biblical meditations will be daily.

These days - August 14-18, 1974 - will be real "bargain days" for every person who sends a check or money order to the National Convocation of the Christian Church, Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. This covers complete registration for the THIRD BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY. In these times of inflation where could this be beaten?

The pre-enrollment dollar provides additional support for the operation of the Assembly.

I HOPE YOU DO NOT MISS THESE "BARGAIN DAYS."

UP-DATE

VOL. I, NO. 10

February 1974

NATIONAL CONVOCATION
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206



Dr. Emmett J. Dickson, director of Evangelism for the Christian Church, works with the Committee on the Operation of Greenwood Cemetery, Nashville, TN. For more than 35 years Brother Dickson has garnered a vast knowledge of legal and administrative procedure as it relates to black Disciple church work. His very unique ministries to National Convocation churches and many other Disciple congregations will be irreplaceable when he retires in June of this year.

PEOPLE ONLY:

EXPERIENCES DURING AN EASTERN CHRISTIANITY TOUR*

by Ann Dickerson, Nashville, TN

In the midst of Old Jerusalem, there stands a sign which reads "People Only." It is meant to prohibit the goats, donkeys, sheep, and other animals, which are commonly present within the city walls, from entering that particular street. I asked our 12-year-old self-appointed guide for a tour of the old city to stand in front of the sign so that I might take his picture. The next thing I knew there was a black boy, seemingly about the same age, standing about three feet away, on the other side. I didn't see him approach or

know where he came from; all I know is there they stood in Old Jerusalem - people only - and I have snapshot to document this memorable experience if by any chance I forget. This is perhaps the greatest experience of such an experience as the Seminar on Eastern Culture and Christianity - to realize that first of all and foremost, we are people only. Imagine the surprise when an Arab waiter asks you, the first night you dine in Jerusalem, "Are you finished?" as you take the last bite from your plate. You look up and reply "yes" and then he says, "No - you're not Finnish - you're American; you are not from Finland! Joking with an Arab in Jerusalem! It can happen because after all, we are only people - all made in the same image of God, our Father.

Another experience that I will never forget brought the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man into sharp focus. It was the visit to Nazareth. Maybe it's not true of all visitors to the Holy Land but for me there was a confrontation. Is this visit a "pilgrimage" or another tourist attraction? After all, they're only people over there. Because they live in places with more or less sanctified names to us does not mean they have lost any of their human weaknesses or other qualities. For example, did you know there was a "Nazareth Bar & Grill?" Yes, that set me back a moment too, but they're people only.

However, the greatest thing about Nazareth was that the pilgrimage came alive. Our visit to the city of Nazareth occurred on a Saturday morning. The town was bustling as I remember small Ohio and Kentucky towns to be on a Saturday morning. However, you could see faces of many nationalities in the crowd - all

there for the same purpose - all brothers - all people - all there to see the place where God, our Father, announced that he was sending a savior to the world - for all people everywhere.

And there stands the Church of the Annunciation - the most beautiful specimen of modern religious architecture inside that I have ever seen. The upper sanctuary is covered with murals of "Mother and Child" from countries around the world. Can you picture "Mary and the Baby Jesus" as they may appear in a painting from Japan? I assure you they are quite different from "Mary and the Baby Jesus" from Spain or from an African country. There is no mural from the United States. At first, my pride was hurt - then I realized why it was absent. It would take a special, inspired artist to do a mural representative of U.S. Christians in the same way that other murals represent the people.

As I left Nazareth I wondered what kind of "mural" of Christ I was painting on the canvass of life. I had seen "People Only" but I had also gained a new vision of Christ.

*Ms Dickerson was a member of a Seminar Group traveling to Europe last Spring to study Eastern Christianity. She is a member of Gay-Lea Church.

CROW SUCCEEDS BEAZLEY

Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr. of Princeton, N.J., has accepted the presidency of the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will resign as general secretary of the nine denomination Consultation on Church Union (COCU).

The new post will mean broader responsibilities in the world ecumenical movement for the 42-year-old theologian and church union leader, plus a seat on the general cabinet of his own denomination and a shift from staff to the policy-making executive committee of COCU.

Dr. Crow will succeed the late Dr. George G. Beazley in the position.

General secretary since 1968 when COCU formally opened offices in Princeton, Dr. Crow will leave the COCU staff about April 30. Disciples offices are in Indianapolis.

BLACK DISCIPLE
THOUGHT
of the MONTH

"Can we provide training for black ministers that will make them effective leaders in the black community and, at the same time, effective witnesses in the white church. Can lay leaders be provided with the training experiences that will relate them to being servants of the church in the black community and leaders of the whole church?

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THIS TRAINING TAKE PLACE ?"

*-from Claude Walker in "Black and White Working Together" -
WORLD CALL, September 1973 -*

ANN DICKERSON APPOINTED

A black woman psychologist will head a task force of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) aimed at determining the effect on units of the church of a guideline urging their boards be one-third laymen, one-third laywomen and one-third clergy.

Miss Ann Dickerson of Nashville, TN, will be chairman of the 10-person team appointed in Indianapolis by Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the church.

The General Board of the church adopted the guideline in 1972 by subsequently heard objections from units that legal requirement and charter provisions made rigid compliance difficult if not impossible.

The General Board called for a study of the units affected. The Disciples have 11 divisions and councils at the United States and Canada level, and 37 regions, each administered by elected boards.

WOMEN LOOK TO PURDUE

"God Is! Rejoice..." will be the theme of the 1974 Quadrennial Assembly of the women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dates of the meeting, sponsored by the International Christian Women's Fellowship, are June 24-28 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Bible study, lectures and small group discussions will tie into the theme of the fifth quadrennial assembly.

"The 'God Is!' portion of the theme recognizes that we live in a time when we need the affirmation of God's existence," said Miss Jane Heaton of Indianapolis, staff working with general services and promotion.

"There are so many things happening that we may not see God in and we may feel that He is not here any more. As we recognize the fact that He is here, we 'Rejoice...' in life, work and hope," she said.

"It's an open-ended 'Rejoice...' so people can rejoice in whatever place they are and know that 'God Is!'," she added.

The theme is an extension of the 1970 theme, "We Act in Faith and Miracles Occur," according to Miss Heaton. "As we continue to 'act in faith' we continue to acknowledge the fact that 'God Is!'"

CHALLENGE FROM JAMAICA

by Allan J. Hunter*

The Disciples of Christ in Jamaica have faced serious difficulties this past year. The primary cause is the economic situation. Jamaica, as in all other countries, is caught in the spiralling world wide inflation and with few resources to meet the situation.

According to recent government reports actual unemployment now stands at 23% of the total work force and if one adds to that three persons is either unemployed or underemployed. This is reflected in the per capita

income which is just over \$500 a year but drops to \$100 in the rural areas. A very small percentage of the total population make fortunes but the vast majority live in dire need.

The effect of this upon our churches is obvious. With 46 churches on the island with an estimated membership of 4000, only 5 of these are city or suburban churches: 41 are rural mission stations where the highest rate of unemployment exists and the lowest rate of income prevails. The churches cannot support the ministry it now has nor provide for the increase in ministers that the churches need. With only 9 national ministers and two missionary families to give leadership to 46 churches as well as involvement in the Theological College and the High School, the churches can only receive part time leadership which in turn affects the growth of the Church. Consequently little growth has been experienced this past year and the future is not optimistic.

*Professor of Homiletics at Theological College, Kingston, Jamaica - Excerpts from JAMAICAN NEWS LETTER.

Note: The Board of Trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church recently voted to join the Division of Overseas Ministries in exploring ways for helping the Jamaican congregations.

BLACK CHURCH WORK COMMITTEE

Training of ministers and support of struggling congregations surfaced as

two major issues for the black church work committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in a meeting December 13-14 in Indianapolis.

The Committee, approximately half black and half white, heard reports relating to "The Evangelistic Witness of the Christian Church Among Black People."

Richard B. Jones, St. Louis, MO, director of ministerial enlistment and nurture for the Board of Higher Education, suggested a summer internship, a year of special on-job training or an extended orientation to the ministry as substitutes for concurrent field experience for black seminary students.

Noting an apparent lack of Disciples-related field experience for black seminarians, the Committee suggested the seminaries and regions of the church explore additional possibilities.

Nearly \$8,000 for scholarships for black students has been received by the Department of Men's Work, announced Elby A. Boosinger, executive secretary.

Currently, there are eight black Disciples enrolled in seminary and 45 known black Disciples in colleges, according to Jones. Of the 45 college students, 15 are considered ministerial candidates, he added.

The Committee also heard a report that the Board of Church Extension has \$2.8 million in interest-free loans and another \$500,000 committed. This is approximately \$1.3 million

more than originally set aside, according to Raymond E. Brown, Indianapolis, vice-president and assistant secretary of the Board.

The percentage of delinquent loans to black congregations is lower than the percentage to white congregations, he added.

The Committee also heard reports on black Disciples serving the church overseas, new church establishment, a proposed educational seminar in Africa, new study materials on the history of black Disciples, a series of Festivals of Faith scheduled in 1974.



FOR WHOM
THE BELLS
TOLL

*Those Who Have Crossed
Over*

*Mother C. V. Lorange of Wichita, Kansas in December 1973, one of the founders of the North Heights Church in that city. Memorial services were held January 4, 1974 with Pastor G. Ellison Lakes officiating. A feature in the service was the reading of a poem entitled "My Prayer" composed in the summer of 1973 by the deceased.

*Victor R. Cooper of Kansas City, Missouri was memorialized January 21, 1974. Burial was at Fort Leavenworth. Victor was a member of Central Church and active in church school and youth groups. Among those left to mourn his loss are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Cooper of Kansas City, Missouri.

Vignettes from the field

(Among the Congregations)

FLORIDA, JACKSONVILLE...Brother Archie Warren, pastor of East Side Church and liaison staff for the Regional Office with predominately black churches reports increased church activity as the churches plan for a Florida Convocation of the Christian Church at Silver Springs in 1975.

Plans for a new church building at Summerfield near Ocala and a search for a pastor - A. J. Calhoun leading Edwards Point Church in a new building program - Florida Convocation President-Elect Archie Jackson spearheading a renovation program at Blunt Street Church in Pensacola - High spiritual worship services continue at Mt. Zion in St. Petersburg and Liberty in Miami.

MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON...United Church held a "Month of Thanksgiving" in November featuring a sermon entitled "The Family and the Joy of Living" by Brother D. W. Heath, pastor of First Church in Rockford, IL and former minister at the Jackson Church. The Tougaloo Concert Choir sang and \$3,009 was contributed for new pews and a front door. Mrs. Heath was given a beautifully engraved silver plate. Brother Heath stimulated the unification process at United Church in 1944 by leading joint worship services between the old College Addition and Fortification Avenue congregations.

The Christian Women's Fellowship under the leadership of President

Verona H. Ratten recently provided \$4,045 for a new organ.

Brothers J. D. Watkins and W. B. Easterling are presently ministers at United Church.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO...Among the recent events enriching spiritual life at Parkway Gardens Church was an official board consultation and review of retreat findings led by William K. Fox of the General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a churchwide worship and seminar Sunday featuring Spencer and Kathleen Austin of Unified Promotion and The United Christian Missionary Society.

Parkway Gardens Church provides housing for a Parkway Gardens tenants organization, boy and girl scouts and a Senior Citizens group. Brother John R. Foulkes is pastor.

NORTH CAROLINA, GOLDSBORO...Walter S. Blackburn, Special Architectural Consultant for the Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ is helping the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly of Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ develop remodeling plans for the Institute building. The building provides facilities for the in-service training program and general meetings of the Assembly. Brother James L. Melvin is Vice-Bishop of the District and also acts as Director of Goldsboro Institute.

ILLINOIS, ROCKFORD...First Church sponsored an all-day Sunday emphasis on the theme "Opening Closed Doors" January 6 with the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation speaking and a variety of talent from the congregation sharing in the worship leadership. The afternoon

observance highlighted The Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Turner and other community leaders. Elder William D. Campbell, retired Disciple minister and founder of the Washington Park Church, was among the visitors at the morning service. Brother Daniel W. Heath is the founder and pastor of First Church.



Dynamic program in the congregations of the Piedmont Tri-State District (Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia) is motivated by leaders like these. Left to right: Moses Lambert (Reidsville, NC), S.W. Hylton, Sr. (Roanoke, VA), George Hart (Reidsville, NC), Joseph Galloway (Chatham, VA), Fred Peeler (Concord, NC).



Behind as well as in front of all good programs in the Christian Church (D of C) are devoted women. These sisters in Christ are serving food for a Piedmont Area meeting.

NORTH CAROLINA, REIDSVILLE...Piedmont Tri-State District President George Hart reports extensive activity among the member congregations during the last quarter.

*Brother Alvin Jackson was installed as pastor at the Louden Avenue Church in Roanoke, VA by Brother T. Garrett Benjamin, Jr. of Second Church, Indianapolis, IN -

*For the first time four Youth Revivals were held in December led by Brothers R. L. Brown, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Junior Winbush; G. W. Roland, Winston-Salem, NC; and Clarence Johnson, Director of Black Ministry, Indianapolis, IN. Approximately 1,300 persons attended.

*G. W. Roland was the principal leader of an evangelistic workshop at the District's camp grounds - Christian View. Ten churches were represented.

*Appreciation Day Services for pastors were held at the following churches Meadow Church, Martinsville, VA and New Bethel Church, Fieldale, VA - S. H. Hairston, pastor; Mount Olive East Church, Martinsville, VA - George Hart, pastor; First Church,

Reidsville, NC - M. L. Lambert, pastor; First Church, Concord, NC - F. A. Peeler, pastor; and Corinth Church, Chatham, VA - Gary Paige, pastor.

SEND ME YOUR

- DATES
- ARTICLES
- QUESTIONS

W. K. Fox
Box 1986
Indianapolis,
Ind. 46206

by the 1st
of
the
month

Please share UP-DATE with other people. We would be glad to have a list of names and addresses of other interested church workers.

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

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Indianapolis, Ind.
Permit No. 413

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

Up-Date

ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

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



Christ Child 1974

UNEMPLOYMENT



The Christ Child lies starving in some nameless African hamlet. The cattle are not lowing for they have long since been eaten. The earth does not rejoice. It is dry and hard and without nourishment. The waters have ceased to flow and the grasses have withered. The land is littered with the carcasses of people dying from the lack of food.

Mary and Joseph are without hope. Disillusioned over their vain wait for help, they also await death. The twigs and clay they have been able to scrounge will not sustain life for them or their Child.

The Wise Men have followed the Star in the East, but the Christ Child is not their concern. They are seeking oil and peddling grain and forming treaties to strengthen their position in a world crumbling beneath their feet.

The Christ Child stalks the streets of the big city ghettos. He is seeking an unguarded door that might yield a stereo or television; or an unwary traveller with a loosely hung purse; or a deserted and lonely shop that can be robbed. His parents are so busy seeking the necessities or pleasures of life that they have no time to watch over Him.

He is bitter at a world He no longer understands and His language is ungodly as He sees on all sides affluence still feeding on abject poverty; as He passes glittering shops with shelves laden with goods that He knows are not for Him.

Mary and Joseph can find no work and the inn is a tenement house. They have exhausted their supply of food stamps and there was no money in the welfare check to provide Christmas for the Christ Child. There was scarcely enough to buy the bottle of

UP-DATE

VOL. II, NO. 7
December, 1974

NATIONAL CONVOCATION
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

cheap wine for drowning their sorrows.

The Wise Men are here also, but they have invested the gold, frankincense and myrrh in the stock market. They are too busy creating shortages, launching advertising campaigns, reading the Wall Street Journal, and computing profits and interest to bother with the Christ Child.

The people still say they long to see Him who was born in the lonely manger, but their eyes and minds are so clouded that they do not know that He is here amongst us. They are lost in a world of highways, time clocks and push buttons; a world of television fantasy, football and soap operas; a world of inflation, medicare and pornography.

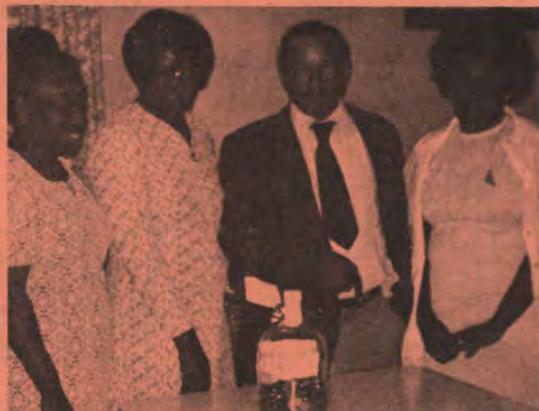
The people still sing the songs of Christmas and a Saviour born to men but their voices are cultured and shallow. Their decorations of synthetics and plastic are purchased wholesale and their gifts are to each other. Their Christian smiles are but carefully applied lipstick and their greetings are trite and ritualistic.

They have forsaken the Star in the East and try to find Him in a painted and padded Santa of many sizes and shapes - a Christ Child of their own creation who can be worshipped without conscience.

Christ Child, 1974! Has the cock already crowed thrice?

by Joe Saunders
Deacon in Summit Christian Church
Dayton, Ohio

A Little Giving---- A Little Love



Left to right: Mrs. Louise Bryant, Mrs. Vernell and Mr. Quintine Bryant, Mrs. Edna Risher all of Ashton Branch Christian Church, Lodge, South Carolina view "Least Coin" offering FOR OTHERS in cider jug.

At Bethlehem God gave His best to all who would accept His Love. But even a little giving done consistently can do a heap of good. That is the message which came clearly to me when I saw the cider jug full of coins and labeled "FOR OTHERS."

About a year and a half ago Itoko Maeda, first Japanese national in the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church to be sent out as a missionary, came to rural South Carolina and challenged the black Disciples of Christ women with the "Least Coin" plan of mission giving.

One woman -Mrs. Louise Bryant- took the idea seriously. Every day following until the black Convention Assembly in September 1974, she led the

members of her family to drop the coin of least value (in their pockets) into the cider jug labeled "FOR OTHERS."

One day during the 1974 Assembly she proudly presented the cider jug containing money to visiting resource leader Mabel Metzke. Her only instruction being, "My family wants this to go for overseas missions."

One woman bringing a love offering to the altar for God's work in the world will not solve the world's hunger crisis. But it will join with gifts to make a real difference in the lives of many who are in need.

Since God continues to give you so much, is it unfair to ask that you begin to return His love by giving a little more (consistently) to advance His purposes in the world? A little giving plus love can produce an avalanche of good.

God deposited a little bundle of love in a crude Bethlehem manger almost 2000 years ago. The good produced has grown until today its influence has created and redeemed life all over the world.

A little giving done consistently can do a heap of good. How willing are you to give a little - to get your family to give a little - to help your group give a little - to get your congregation to give a little - in order to join God in expanding His purposes throughout the world?



Miracles do happen



Compassion - one great hour of sharing

FEBRUARY 16-23

The Week of Compassion goal is \$1,125,000. You are urged to help your congregation give its "fair share." Look over the materials received in December. Get what you need to promote the Offering. There is no charge for the materials.

FRAN CRADDOCK CHOSEN

Mrs. Fran Craddock, Centralia, Ill., will become permanent executive of women's work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) January 1.

Mrs. Craddock has been serving as interim executive on a part-time basis since the August 15 retirement of Dr. Helen F. Spaulding, Indianapolis.

As executive secretary of the department of church women, Mrs. Craddock will work with thousands of organized Disciples women who contribute some \$2 million annually to the world work of the church.

She will coordinate the planning and implementation of program for women of the church and will be in communication between the department and congregations, regions and individual women.

Mrs. Craddock has been a member of the Division of Homeland Ministries board of directors, the Administrative Committee of the General Board of the church and past president of the state convention of the Illinois Disciples of Christ and the Illinois Christian Women's Fellowship.

She was vice-president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship from 1970-74. Christian Church News

W. L. JENKINS RESUMES RADIO PROGRAM

When Elder W. L. Jenkins went to Fulton, Missouri a year ago he gave up his twelve state radio program for a greatly needed vacation from the strenuous writing and hectic travel schedule. But after fifteen months Rev. Jenkins is back on radio. He can be heard all over central Missouri.

The name of the show is: "Rev. Jenkins Speaks." It can be heard on radio stations: KKCA in Fulton, KFMZ in Columbia, KLUM in Jefferson City, and will soon be on in Kansas City

and St. Louis, Missouri, and in other states across Mid-America.

Elder Jenkins' commentaries can also be heard daily on many of these same stations.

Pastor Jenkins is also back on the speaking tours. He was in Mississippi for ten days of speeches from Nov. 19-29th.

W. L. Jenkins is a native Mississippian and the pastor of the Second Christian Churches at Fulton and Columbia, Missouri.

ONE MAN PLUS GOD

It was only a small gesture, but William Wheatley, Jr., a layman from Sandy Springs Christian Church, Atlanta, GA touched some hearts other than his own.

He told others among the 245 persons attending a Disciples' "Festival of Faith" at the airport Ramada Inn that he intended to do without lunch and give the money he would have spent to world hunger relief.

Others picked up on the idea and a short time later they turned over \$231 to Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden of Indianapolis, Ind., General Minister and President of the Church, who also was attending the event.

Dr. Teegarden said he was presenting the money to the church's Week of Compassion fund and that it would be earmarked for hunger relief in Bangladesh. Christian Church News



LEADERS "SET APART"

Black Disciples of Christ
representatives participating in the
 Pittsburg, PA "Festival of Faith"
 November 21-23, 1974 included:
 (left to right) Oscar Haynes,
 Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Geneva Griffin,
 Pella Griffin - daughter - and Thomas
 Griffin all of Indianapolis, Indiana
 who provided special music; Magdalena
 Shelton of Brooklyn, N.Y. who gave a
 lay witness and husband, Mr. Shelton.
 Elby Boosinger, Executive Secretary
 for Men's Work is in the center and
 Robert Kelsey, chairman for Local
 Arrangements, is at the end.

Ordination services were held at the
 Ross Street Christian Church Sunday,
 December 1, 1974 at 11:00 a.m.
 Seven of the most outstanding women
 of this congregation were set apart
 for the positions of deaconess and
 deaconess emeritus, respectively.

Mrs. Fletcher Fountain, president of
 the Christian Women's Fellowship for
 the state of Alabama, was the pre-
 siding officer for this occasion.
 Mrs. Haywood Bence, executive sec-
 retary of the Women's Work in the
 Christian Church in Alabama, officiated.
 Dr. K. E. Henry, professor of
 History at Interdenominational
 Theological Seminary brought the
 ordination message.

Elder H. B. Bowser is pastor.

CLEVELAND AVENUE MOVES FORWARD!

The Cleveland Avenue Christian Church of Winston-Salem, North Carolina was located in an Urban Renewal Area and therefore had to build a new church building. The adjoining land was purchased and a new building erected. Construction began in October 1973 and the first service held in the new building July 7, 1974 so that the old building could be demolished for the parking lot and the landscaping started. The Dedication Service was held on September 29, 1974 with Raymond E. Brown, Vice President of the Board of Church Extension, the speaker.

The building is a one-floor plan consisting of Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Pastor's Study, Office, Nursery, Kitchen, Robing Rooms, Storage Room, Utility Room and eight Class Rooms. The total cost of land and construction was \$210,312.

There have been twelve additions to the church since the first of September.

A Service of Appreciation was held on November 10, 1974 for Robert L. Brown on his Fifth Pastoral Anniversary. During that time there have been eighty two additions to the church, thirty four by baptism. The congregation now has a total membership of two hundred and the church budget for this year is \$30,000.

CHURCH-to-CHURCH VISITATION

Task Force Team Coordinator Ruth P. Hobbs has reported initial success from a church-to-church visitation being sponsored by the Mississippi

Christian Missionary Convention.

The Task Force represents leadership for the Christian Youth Fellowship, Christian Education, Christian Women's Fellowship and Christian Men's Fellowship.

In-depth consultations on problem-solving have been held by the Team in Christian Chapel, Port Gibson; United, Jackson; Central, Vicksburg; Rose Hill, Port Gibson and Frogmore in Farriday, Louisiana.

Age-level groups have been organized or revitalized; new leadership discovered; current program materials shared; and the spirit of cooperation with the respective pastors improved.

The Task Force Team consists of the following Bertha Marshall, Bernice Green, Annie L. Thomas, Bessie Buck, C. C. Mosley, Sr., E. Conwell, Josie Johnson and Alphonso Wells.

Cooperative pastors were D. C. Griffin, Central Church, Vicksburg; Thomas Harris, Christian Chapel, Port Gibson; R. H. Peoples, United, Jackson; A. M. Gordon, Rose Hill, Port Gibson; Thomas N. Walker, Frogmore, Farriday, Louisiana.

Brother Walker also administers the project as part-time Associate Regional Minister for the Mississippi Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

WHY A MINISTER'S RETREAT?

April 15-17, 1975 black Disciples of Christ ministers will assemble in Indianapolis, Indiana for a first national minister's retreat.

Director of Black Ministries Clarence Johnson, staff leader for the Retreat recently asked church workers to give a rationale for or against having such a gathering for ministers.

Mrs. I. J. Baskin, musician for the Ross Street Church in Montgomery, Ala., gave the following reply:

"There are my reasons as to why a Retreat (encampment for spiritual meditation and fellowship, my definition) is needed for preachers:

"Sociologically, it was summed up by a youthful participant on the CBS Morning Show, 'that most of our troubles stem from people being afraid of each other.' A vertical view of Tillich's Estrangement Theory in the societal milieu.

"Psychologically, the unique powers and initiative of each individual must be rediscovered and used, rather than melted down to take on a new life style, apart from traditions and morés, not rooted in their own powers.

"Physiologically, a quiet time to permit the body to re-coup, to heal itself where the external pressures and accelerated pace of everyday living have eroded the equilibrium of this delicate, complex and still unknown machinery.

"Then Spiritually, the early Christians met to talk about the exciting encounter with a man named Jesus, who walked with them, laughed and cried with them and whose openness and compassion for people was a central historical example of the transactional rapport needed among the Brotherhood or they will find it difficult to have efficacy with the laity and their parishioners."

"THE SIXTH PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS MEETING IN TANZANIA,"

(Excerpts from a Report)

By - Thomas J. Griffin

"June 19 through June 27, 1974 it was my privilege to be in attendance at the Sixth Pan African Congress meeting at the University of Dar Es Salaam in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa. I was invited as a special guest along with many other guests from various parts of the world.

"The total number attending the Congress from the United States was over 200 -- eighty of whom were certified as delegates and the rest were special guests, visitors and consultants...

Historical Glimpses of the Congress

"The first Pan African Congress was held in 1900. An appeal went out from this first Congress, written by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois calling on the leaders of the world not to ignore the sufferings of Black people wherever they are found in the world.

"Following World War I and continuing into the 1920's, Dr. DuBois convened a series of conferences which were known as Pan African Congresses. In 1945 Dr. DuBois was invited to pre- side over what was to become the Fifth Congress which was held in Manchester, England because there was no place on African soil where

it could be held and it was not welcome in the United States...

The Meaning of Pan Africanism

"Pan Africanism means many things to many people. The general concept as experienced in the Congress points to the meaning that black people have need to acknowledge that we as a people have been scattered to the ends of the earth primarily by white slave traders of the western world, and that it matters not where we are found, we must never forget that we had and have a common beginning, a common heritage and many common problems...



Thomas Griffin and Vice President Talbert of Liberia at Pan African Conference in Tanzania

Participants

"The Congress participants came from 50 nations, primarily from the continent of Africa and the Caribbean, plus Liberation Movement groups from Canada, Britain and the United States. The total attendance was over 500 of which 160 were delegates

and the rest special guests, visitors, observers and consultants. Eighty of the one hundred sixty were certified as delegates from U.S. ...

The Opening Session

"To a thunderous ovation, the chairman of the Congress and President of Tanzania, Dr. Julius Nyerere took the podium to bring the opening address. Subsequently, the chairmanship was turned over to the First Vice-President of Tanzania, Mr. Aboud Jumbe, for the duration of the Congress.

"Nyerere's message was low-keyed in delivery, yet extremely forceful in content. He pointed out that 'From the very beginning of this movement until now, men and women of Africa and of African descent have had one thing in common -- an experience of discrimination and humiliation imposed upon them because of their Africa origins.'

"The President called for cooperation of the whole of Africa whether black or brown -below or beyond the Sahara- the people of the Caribbean including Cuba, and the black people of the diaspora. He tied liberation with his call for cooperation by saying, 'Let us make it quite clear. We oppose racial thinking. But as long as black people anywhere continue to be oppressed on the grounds of their color, black people everywhere will stand together in opposition to that oppression, in the future as in the past.' ...

"Following President Nyerere's address, a tape recorded message was heard from President Sekou Toure of Guinea who was in basic agreement with Nyerere. 'Pan Africanism', said Sekou, 'is not based on the strong will of a few states...it is es-

sentially based on an Africa of People,--people who cover the entire expanse of the geographical limits of our continent and beyond toward the Americas...

"Sekou Toure went on to say that 'The color of the skin, whether black, white, yellow or brown is no indication of the social class, ideology, code of conduct, qualities and abilities of a People...Negritude is fatal to Pan Africanism and should therefore be destroyed and its offshoots made to parch in the burning sun of Africa.' ...

"In spite of the ringing call to arms by these two very articulate leaders of nations, ideologists clashed and debate was spirited for the next eight days. There were those who held that class struggle was the most important while others felt that black unity was the most important. These two positions were felt throughout the conference....

The Religious Element

"Even though the Congress was political in nature, the religious element was present and found its way into various aspects of the proceedings plenary wise, behind the scene activities, special visitations and constant communication with participants....



"Ms. Mary Jane Patterson, National staff of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Charles Cobbs, National Staff of the United Church of Christ and Bishop H.H. Brookins, of the A.M.E. Church had many contacts in Africa and were instrumental in relating the U.S. religious community to many people, places and things. Examples:

"- A meeting with Mr. Fred Brooks, Executive Director of PAN-AFRICAN SKILLS PROJECT and his staff. Pan-African Skills is a recruitment agency that seeks out Afro-American of ability, technical skills and commitment to serve in Africa in the cause of development and liberation. This program was brought into being under the auspices of the National Committee of Black Churchmen but the original relationship no longer exists.

"- A conference with the Executive Director and Project Director of the Lushoto Integrated Rural Development Project. The Presbyterian Church has been involved in the program through funds and personnel.

"- Special introductions and conversations with Tanzania's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Paul Bomani and U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr. Carter who hosted a small group of us at the Embassy House one evening....

"Five religious leaders were invited by President Nyerere for a conference. Those requested to attend by the President were: Bishop H.H. Brookins, Dr. Charles Cobbs, the Rev. Thomas J. Griffin, the Rev. Ms. Mary Jane

Native dancer group performing during liesure hours of Conference - Led by leading dancer in Tanzania, Africa.

Patterson, and the Rev. Gil Lloyd. The purpose of the conference was to exchange ideas on how best the church might bring its influence to bear in helping Tanzania in her development projections....

Deliberations and Findings

"As the Congress neared its end, a nine-point general declaration was issued to serve as a sense of direction for nations, groups and individuals represented:

"1 Put an end to foreign domination in Africa by destroying the last colonial and racist regimes.

"2 Get rid of neo-colonialism in independent Africa.

"3 Liquidate foreign military bases in African states.

"4 Consolidate the unity between the people of Africa and of African descent and all peoples.

"5 Thoroughly fight for the democratisation of all African states and injustices and build truly just societies.

"6 Correctly analyse the situation at every turn and employ correct strategy and tactics in dealing with each situation in the struggle against exploitation and oppression.

"7 Fight to completely restore the dignity of African people through the building of socialism.

"8 Fight all forms of racial, tribal, ethnic, religious and national chauvinism so as to be a true instrument of the oppressed peoples against reactionary forces throughout the world.

"9 Appeal to all progressive forces in Africa and in the world to give political and material aid to the liberation movements in Africa and outside of Africa....

"It was extremely good to have been a part of the Sixth PAC 1974 at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa."

GRANTS FOR YOUTH

Local church youth groups are being encouraged to develop new forms of ministry by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Youth Empowerment Fund administrative committee.

The Committee expects to fund with small grants a number of projects in the spring, according to Dan Bryant, Indianapolis, coordinator of the fund.

"We hope the grants will encourage local Christian Youth Fellowship groups to initiate new programs on a continuing basis," Bryant said.

An April 1 deadline has been set for receiving the proposals for funding. Christian Church News



Among the Congregations

ALABAMA, MONTGOMERY...Ross Street Church held its annual revival services December 2-8. Elder Robert L. Brown, pastor of the Cleveland Avenue Church of Winston-Salem, N.C., was the guest evangelist. Brother H. B. Bowser is pastor.

OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA CITY...Willie Minor was installed as pastor of the East Sixth Street Church December 15. Brother Minor is a former member of the Baptist Church and is being oriented to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Region's Commission on the Ministry.

MISSOURI, FULTON...A banquet dinner, November 13 in the fellowship hall of Second Church marked the celebration of Pastor W. L. Jenkins' 31st birthday. It was a gala affair with guests and friends from greater Fulton and nearby cities. The young pastor was overwhelmed with many gifts and the good wishes of the congregation.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO...December 8 Park Manor Church was host to bus loads of members from Second Church of Indianapolis, Indiana and Pastor T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr. Pastor Benjamin delivered the dedicatory sermon for the remodeled Park Manor building and choral groups from Second Church provided the music. Dr. Charles Webb is pastor of Park Manor Christian Church.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS...The Second Coming Mass Choir has made a "live" recording of a recent concert. The record will be released in January 1975 and can be purchased for \$5.00. The Second Coming Mass Choir received wide acclaim following its appearance during the 1973 General Assembly in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Choir belongs to Second Christian Church. These wanting records should make checks payable to that church and send to: 130 West 29th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208.

OHIO, OXFORD...Elm Street Church celebrated Pastor Columbus Jones' 8th anniversary on November 24, 1974. Pastor Jones commutes from his residence in Cincinnati, Ohio to serve this oldest black congregation in the region.

Herbert Bradley, an associate elder in the Elm Street Church, continues to minister to the spiritual needs of residents in two local nursing homes. He holds regular services in one and offers as many as 20 individual prayers per visitation in the other. He also makes regular visits in the Oxford Hospital.





Greetings from Up-Date Staff

It is refreshment time for every person. Take a little time out to hear the singing of the angels. After eleven months of living in a tired old, used up world, refreshment time has come.

May the spirit of renewal in Christmas and New Years dwell deeply in you as you move out into the unknown way.

A contemporary Christian has observed "The common place is shot through with new glory - old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their hurting. A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear... despite all of the harsh discords of life, life is saved by the singing of angels."

May the twelve months that lie ahead provide you with increased strength to grow tall enough to wear the crown God has placed upon your head. The crown which points to the best self God wants you to be.

The song the angels sing is the song of hope - a hope based on the faith in a God who has always done in history what humans could never do. Go act this faith and hope out in the world.

- William K. Fox

- Levene Graham -

- Thelma Pyatt

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

*Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed*

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Indianapolis, Indiana
PERMIT NO. 413

853 079163 44
ROLAND K HUFF
1101 NINETEENTH AVE, S
NASHVILLE, TN 37212