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Update on the Black Church, Volume 3, 1975

William K. Fox

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Up-Date ON THE BLACK CHURCH

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

138 NEW MEMBERS SINCE JULY

Suppose you received a letter which began like this: "Hillside has had a spiritual awakening... The dead are being raised. The blind are receiving sight and the lame are beginning to walk.

"We have had 138 new members since July 1, 1974...

"The 'underground church' meets every Thursday night at seven-thirty in the church basement...

come dressed as you are. Enjoy refreshments while you listen to a sermon or your favorite hymn. Ask questions. Get into the fellowship and pray together for strength and power. The attendance has been tremendous... Etc."

You would probably say what I said: "Praise the Lord! That is what the Christian Way is all about. It is the renewal of people so they can have a new and powerful spring in their feet and spirit... Yes, in spite of inflation, unemployment and all the rest.

Well, Pastor Mose Laderson, Sr. of the Hillside Christian Church, Indianapolis, is sending out these letters because things are happening at Hillside.

Can you share such a joyous and triumphant note about happenings in your congregation? That may be why Hillside has received 138 new members since July 1, 1974!

God's energizing presence isn't

(continued on pg. 2)



UP-DATE

VOL. III, NO. 2/3

February, March, 1975

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

limited to Hillside. This season of Lent is a good time to make HIS Presence really felt wherever you are.

Pastor Laderson talks about the need for spiritual cleansing - study periods before Sunday morning worship - an individual spiritual preparation for worshipping God in spirit and truth.

It seems like what is happening at Hillside is what Jesus and the Apostles talked about in the Bible. These happenings could occur in your congregation too.



FOR
WHOM
THE
BELLS
TOLL

THOSE WHO HAVE
CROSSED OVER

*Mrs. Mary S. Whitefield - November 11, 1974 - Washington, D.C. Sister Whitefield was the devoted wife of Brother J. F. Whitefield, pastor emeritus of Twelfth Street Christian Church where he served from 1929 for almost two generations. She was born in North Carolina where she received her educational preparation and taught school. Dr. John Eubanks of Howard University delivered the eulogy.

*Mrs. Carla Jeane Cannon Smith - January 11, 1975 - Indianapolis, Indiana. Mrs. Smith was a recent graduate of Jarvis Christian College and member of the Fulton

Street Christian Church in Palestine, Texas and Second Christian in Indianapolis. At Jarvis she was an administrative assistant in communications and member of the Zeta Delta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Survivors include two children, parents, brothers and sisters and many others. Brother Thomas G. Benjamin delivered the eulogy.

*Simon Edwards - January 15, 1975 - Tyler, Texas. Services were held January 19 in Meyer Auditorium of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas. Brother Edwards joined the Jarvis staff in 1963 and though a victim of polio since 1952, organized the public relations program. He was a graduate of Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia. Edwards was active in the economic development efforts among black people, being employed often as a counselor on insurance, income tax and a special lecturer in small and minority business management. He was a member of the Christian Church at Jarvis and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Survivors include his mother, sister and brother.

CORRECTION, PLEASE!

Former pastor, Dr. Enoch Henry of Indianapolis questions the article in the January 1975 issue of UP-DATE called "Californians Fete Washingtons."

The article, which was printed in UP-DATE as it was received, according to Dr. Henry, implies that the church was behind with its building fund payments when Dr. Henry left for employment in the

(continued on pg. 10)

TEXANS STRESS LEADERSHIP

A Leader Development Institute held at Athens, Texas in December 1974 attracted 51 persons from ten congregations. It marked Phase I of a leader development program in the black churches which are dually aligned with the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship and the Christian Church in the Southwest.

Cora Ward, president of the Fellowship's C.W.F.; Texas Fellowship president, Charles Faulkner; James O. Griffin; Melvin C. Dickson and Lenora Rolla are among the key leaders. Alva S. Brown, Associate Minister for the Southwest Region is the principal staff.

Phase II will move into local congregational reorganization, teacher training, and renewal.



HARRIS NOTES

by Mary Harris, Chairwoman for the National Convocation CWF Constituency

On February 5, 1975, I attended a

Black Church Women Leaders meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Those attending were Fran Craddock, Executive Secretary, Department of Church Women, Dr. William K. Fox, Administrative Secretary, Luz Bacerra, Social Involvement, Mary Harris, National Convocation CWF President, Carnella Barnes, International CWF President, Alva Brown, Associate Regional Minister, Fort Worth, Texas, Ruth Hobbs, State President Mississippi, Elizabeth Enix, Associate Regional Minister, Indianapolis, IN.

We heard remarks from Fran Craddock and Dr. Fox. Mrs. Craddock said that the purpose of CWF is to relate to all women in the church and to prepare women for full participation in the total life of the church and community.

Dr. William K. Fox, told us that the National Convocation will be focusing on black women in the total church, and the movement of black women in the total situation.

We also had reviews of what is going on in the areas from which each delegate came, in terms of involvement of black church women in conferences, leadership seminars, etc. We gave suggestions and comments for future events.

We had a very interesting meeting.

Now I am asking that you please send me suggestions on "How we can best serve you and what you want to see happen in the next CWF meeting of the National Convocation in Nashville, Tennessee.

Write Me: Mary Harris
549 Greeley
Kansas City, MO 66101



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT held in early December at Christian Youth Foundation, Athens, attracted approximately 50 leaders in Black congregations from throughout the state. The event was sponsored jointly by Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship, the Christian Church in the Southwest and the Christian Church's Department of Women's Work. Future plans also were discussed.

Courtesy THE CHRISTIAN COURIER
Fort Worth, Texas

VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

ALABAMA, BIRMINGHAM...A recent annual report on 1974 to members of Macedonia Christian Church highlighted the dedication of a new church building at a new site March 24 with Brother Thomas J. Griffin, Director of Promotion of Reconciliation, Indianapolis as the principal speaker. Macedonia also celebrated its 74th anniversary of the church October 20 with a Homecoming observance emphasizing individual testimonials on how God had worked in the life of the congregation over the years. Brother Earl Murray is the pastor.

MISSOURI, HANNIBAL...Douglas Community Center, the means by which the Willow Street Christian Church serves its community, is planning an "Adventures in Learning" feature for its nutrition site program for older persons. Volunteers for instructors in the "Learning" program the Center serves hot lunches to senior citizens weekly. Brother David Meeker is pastor of the congregation.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT...Northwestern Christian Church continues to be the place where many community activities take place. Last month (February) the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and a union service called "Operation Reach Out" involving the Livenia and United congregations met in Northwestern. Pastor Willie Watkins, Jr. of Northwestern was given his first anniversary service as minister October 24, 1974.

NEW JERSEY, EAST ORANGE...A series of planning and evaluation dinner-meetings for interested members of the Park Avenue Christian Church was launched in January. Carlos Ellison, staff specialist on the Ecumenical Institute, New York House, was the leader. Brother Anthony H. Carpenter is pastor.

VIRGINIA, MARTINSVILLE...Fayette Street Christian Church recently observed the 10th anniversary of its pastor, Brother Joseph L. Galloway, as one of the highlights celebrating the congregation's moving into its new church building. Pastor Galloway is a member of the Chatham City Council.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS...Centennial Christian Church has joined with Second Presbyterian, Trinity Episcopal and First Unitarian churches

to provide tutorial services through a "Joint Board After School Program." A major purpose is to teach basic skills "through personally involved hands-on creative activities." Brother S. W. Hylton, Jr. is pastor of Centennial.

MICHIGAN, FLINT...Vermont Street Christian Church is working hard to move from its inadequate facilities in its present location to a newly constructed building on a site a few miles away from the central city. Pastor Thomas Courts organized this congregation 27 years ago with five members.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY...Among the accomplishments in 1974 reported to members of Central Christian Church in a congregational meeting was the addition of 22 new members representing nine families. Brother Claude Walker is pastor.

DOLLARS FOR FREEDOM

United Christian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio voted a grant of \$1000 during its January meeting for the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as it presses for the reformation of policy and functioning of the public school system in Cincinnati. The money is secured over and beyond regular operational and building fund giving.

Pastor John Compton who is supporting the struggle along with other community leaders, had recommended this action to the Official Board of the congregation.

Supporters of the N.A.A.C.P. claim there is racial and economic isolation in the Cincinnati public school system.

MOORE SUCCEEDS LATE NORMAN S. ELLINGTON

A new Director of the Inner City Project of the Disciples Council of Greater St. Louis was called at the regular Board of Directors meeting January 22, 1975. She is Mrs. Earl Moore of St. Louis, MO.

In announcing the name the personnel committee was recommending, Dr. S. W. Hylton, pastor of Centennial Christian Church, indicated that it was the unanimous feeling of the committee that Mrs. Moore was a person who was outstanding in her awareness of the needs of the community, and in her ability to aid church persons to assist in meeting these needs.

Most recently, Mrs. Moore has served as Assistant Director of the New Life Center, 5300 Delmar, St. Louis. The Center is involved in aiding unwed mothers with counseling, classes, and community services.

In addition, Mrs. Moore has been with the St. Louis Public Library and the Adult Basic Education Program in St. Louis. In all these job responsibilities, she has worked closely with community service agencies.

She received the Associate in Arts from Forest Park Community College in 1974.

As Director of the Inner City Project of the Disciples Council she will have responsibility in overseeing the Mother-to-Mother program which seeks to relate three church mothers to one family receiving Aid to Dependent Children. There is also a Family-to-Family program which links a church family with an inner city family to

develop understanding and communication.

There are 24 Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in the metropolitan area that participate in the project.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore are the parents of nine children. She began her duties with the Disciples Council February 1.

BLACK LEADS CHURCHMEN TO FORD

Dr. Sterling Cary, first Black president of the National Council of Churches, led the first delegation of National and World Council of Churches leaders to meet with a United States President January 30, 1975.

Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the Christian Church, was a part of the 30 member delegation which met with President Gerald Ford for a hour.

Sitting around the Cabinet table in a relaxed atmosphere, the President and the church leaders shared concern for world hunger, human rights and current economic conditions.

Dr. Teegarden felt that the meeting was one of a series which the President plans to hold with various groups to underline the Administration's desire to assume a stance of openness.

FROM SUNNY FLORIDA

- * November 7, 1974, Johnny Turner, a student at Luther Seminary, Jacksonville, FL, was called to assist Rev. Eligah Jones at Galilee, Summer Field, FL. Rev. Jones is 80 years young.
- * Eastside observed its Annual Fellowship Service January 19-25, 1975. Various churches of the city were with Eastside that week. The purpose of the Fellowship Service is to publicize the Disciples among Black people and achieve unity among the churches. Not many Blacks in Jacksonville know what the Disciples are, and are doing this as our way of saying to the Baptists and Methodists "We are one."
- * Mt. Zion, St. Petersburg, FL - Eligah Thomas has resigned, a new minister will be called as soon as details can be worked out. This church will have to move by 1976.
- * E. Taft Hector, Summer Field Church, was elected the first Black in Florida to the Regional Board.
- * The Black Convocation of the Christian Church in Florida will be held July 4-7, 1975, Silver Springs, FL. This will be a first for Blacks in Florida.

- Reporter, Archie Warren
Regional (Adjunct)
Minister

CHURCH ACTIONS

*Administrative Committee of the General Board -

+Meeting in Indianapolis February 2-4 approved in principle the substance of a possible resolution from the General Board "To Establish Ten New Black Churches."

+Forwarded a resolution for General Board consideration May 17, 1975 urging "the general units of the church to continue the increased support of Third World Peoples... and give endorsement to the wider use of blacks and other racial minorities in representing the interest of the...Church...in helping Third World Peoples fulfill their destiny."

+Approved the release of an abbreviated form of "Ethical Guidelines for Investment Policies."

+Was alerted by the General Minister and President to a forthcoming REPORT of 1969 RESOLUTION 19 from the General Reconciliation Committee dealing with racism and the empowerment of the poor and powerless.

+Received a progress report from the Division of Overseas Ministries on the membership of the Disciples of Christ Church in the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society - a Society of world church bodies organized "to promote economic growth together with social justice and self-reliance, in poor communities of the world, in a manner consistent with the moral and social principals of the World Council of Churches."

COMING TO SAN ANTONIO ?

It's called the city of missions, the cradle of Texas liberty, the birthplace of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and the home of the HemisFair.

It's San Antonio, where some 8000 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members will meet this summer to debate issues, study and worship together during the biennial General Assembly of the Church.

The Disciples will meet here August 15-20.

San Antonio offers unique opportunities for Disciples from the U.S. and Canada to experience first-hand the heritage of several cultures represented by modern Texans.

The Institute of Texan Cultures, located on the HemisFair grounds near the civic center where the assembly will be held, traces the contributions of 25 ethnic groups to the total culture of the state through exhibits and an audio-visual show.

Nearby, the Lone Star Hall of Texas History presents significant events in Texas history through dioramas and wax figures and the Mexican American Cultural Institute displays Mexican arts and crafts.

A few blocks away from the assembly site is the most famous of the city's five missions, the Alamo. Officially named the Mission San Antonio de Valero by the Franciscan Fathers who built it in 1744, the Alamo served as a house of worship, a school for Indian converts and a haven for early settlers. - Christian Church News

LISTEN LADIES



by - Marion Sands Henry

In August, 1974 at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, the Minister's Wives Organization of the National Convocation of the Christian Church climaxed a very successful biennium (1972-74) under the very capable and inspiring leadership of Mrs. Beverly Benjamin of Indianapolis, IN.

Now we are at the beginning of another two years effort to secure support for the training of men and women for the ministry.

Having met quite a few of you in Atlanta, I look forward to meeting more of you as we combine our interest in fellowship and commitment. Since it is not possible for me to visit with each of you personally I hope that we shall be able to become better acquainted through these monthly notes in UP-DATE, culminating in our face-to-face involvements at the Biennial Business Session and Coronation at Nashville, Tennessee, August, 1976.

This initial letter is primarily to say "hello" and to alert you to this column which will be carrying news of what ministers' wives are doing across the nation during this biennium. Please send me news concerning your ministers' wives

organization which you think might be of interest.

The address is:

Mrs. Marion Sands Henry
c/o UP-DATE
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206

The next issue of UP-DATE will carry names of all of the new officers and their addresses for your information.

MINISTERS TO HEAR THOMPSON-RAY

Mayor Bennie Thompson of Bolton, Mississippi, will be a speaker when about 60 black ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) hold a first spring retreat here April 15-17, 1975.

The retreat, scheduled at the Airport Rodeway Inn, is aimed at spiritual reflection, a sharing of hopes, and strategizing about the role of the black minister.

Thompson will speak at 3 p.m. April 15 in a session that will deal with political and economic problems facing black church people.

Dr. Sandy Ray, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., will speak three times, first at a public celebration at Hillside Christian Church at 7:30 p.m. April 15.

After Mayor Thompson's political analysis, James Shaw, vice-president of Midwest National Bank of

(continued on pg. 11)

BLACK WOMEN PLAN

Black women in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) want more involvement in the church, particularly in the predominantly-black fellowship group where they feel there is token recognition only.

They want more women serving on committees which plan the biennial National Convocation of the church as well as speakers and other participants who are women.

Selected black leaders, meeting here recently with the Department of Church Women, pointed out that none of the major speakers for the third biennial convocation, held in August in Atlanta, were women.

Training events in Mississippi and Texas were cited as examples of preparing women for leadership. Training men and women at the same time results in greater acceptance of women, according to Miss Luz Bacerra, Indianapolis, Director of Social Involvement for the Department.

Dr. William K. Fox, assistant to the general minister and president, of the church and administrative secretary for the Convocation, told the participants that "black women have the potential to be catalysts for renewal in the church."

Attending the meeting were: Mrs. Carnella Barnes, Los Angeles, CA, president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship; Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS, coordinator of the school of faith and life of the National Convocation; Mrs. Mary Harris, Kansas City, MO,

president of the Christian Women's Fellowship of the Convocation; Mrs. Alva Brown, Fort Worth, TX, associate minister of the Christian Church in the Southwest; and Elizabeth Ennix, Indianapolis, IN, associate regional minister of the Christian Church in Indiana.

Also participating was Mrs. Fran Craddock, Executive Secretary of the Department.

- Christian Church News



INSTITUTE LEADERS were, left to right, Ernest J. Newborn, associate minister of the Christian Church in Missouri; James O. Griffin of Dallas, chairman of Christian education for Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship; Mrs. Marilyn Calhoun, lay leader of Warren Avenue Christian Church of Dallas; and Emmett J. Dickson, minister of Jarvis Christian College Church.

Courtesy THE CHRISTIAN COURIER
Fort Worth, Texas

(from pg. 2)

national church.

Dr. Henry says "This is not true. In fact at my departure all obligations were current, including Board of Church Extension at \$700 plus per month. The church fell behind later and Dr. Washington labored with them on retirement income which helped them through the transitional period."



JOHNSON TO SUMMIT

The Reverend J. Thomas Johnson was installed as the pastor of Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio, Sunday, March 2, 1975.

During the past five years, Rev. Johnson was an associate minister on the regional staff of the Christian Church in Kentucky. Rev. Johnson, his wife, Wanda, and children, Joseph Thomas and Jeanne Tomeka previously made their home in Lexington, Kentucky.

Rev. Johnson's undergraduate work was done at Jarvis Christian College which granted him the B.A. degree. Having attended the University of Missouri School of Religion

for two years, he completed his graduate work and received the M. Div. Degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Dr. Herald B. Monroe, the Ohio state Executive Secretary of Christian Churches officiated at the installation ceremonies. A reception followed.

40 MEATLESS DAYS

Leaders of the Disciples Peace Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will observe 40 meatless days in 1975 as a world hunger gesture leading up to the church's General Assembly August 15-20 in San Antonio, Texas.

The executive committee of the peace group agreed to give money saved to Bread for the World, a New York-based hunger and poverty movement, or Week of Compassion, the Disciples' annual relief offering.

The group, headed by Lisa Baird of Fort Worth, Texas, peace fellowship president, also vowed support of political efforts to increase world food supplies, to develop more equitable food distribution systems, and to reduce military spending.

"Famine shadows the earth," the executive committee said in a statement. "Our ability to respond is diminished by our massive military spending. American meat consumption contributes to the dearth of grain supplies."

- Christian Church News

(from pg. 8)

Indianapolis, and Leonard G. Smalls, executive director of the Business Development Organization, Memphis, Tennessee, will discuss the economic situation.

On April 16, columnist Reginald Bishop of the Indianapolis News and Ms. Phyllis Carr of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Indianapolis, will analyze the social and moral climate.

The April 16 evening session will be held in Second Christian Church and the black ministers will tour general offices of the Disciples of Christ in eastern Indianapolis April 17.

T. Garrett Benjamin Jr., pastor of Second Christian Church, and K. David Cole, pastor of West Paseo Christian Church, Kansas City, MO, also will make major presentations.

Workshops will be held April 16 on sermon preparation, the role of education in the church, problems faced by new ministers, fundamental beliefs of the Disciples of Christ, church administration, and the improvement of understanding between ministers.

Sponsor of the retreat is the Department of Ministry and Worship of the church's Division of Homeland Ministries, in cooperation with the National Convocation, the black fellowship group of the Disciples.

There are some 275 black ministers in the Disciples of Christ scattered from coast to coast, with the largest number being in North Carolina.

- Christian Church News

TOOLS FOR THE JOB...

RESOURCE IN BLACK CHURCH EDUCATION

(Recommended by the National Joint
Education Development Team*)

Can Blacks Be Christian? student book by Gilbert H. Caldwell, 40¢; leaders guide by George H. Daniels, 30¢ (Graded, 1973). For young teens. A unit of study to help Black youth understand and affirm the Christian faith, appreciate Black history and culture, and become aware of the success and failure of the church in helping Black persons come to grips with the liberating power of the gospel.

Black Pilgrimage in America Kit (Graded Press, 1970). \$3.50. A packet of materials on Negro life and history for use by Black and white groups who want to study the contributions of Black people to our national development. Includes: study book, The Negro Pilgrimage in America by C. Eric Lincoln; leader's guide; historical chart; banner posters; dramatic readings from Letters to a Black Boy by Hobert Teague; and teaching photographs.

*United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.; Christian Church (Disciples); United Church of Christ; Episcopal Church; Moravian Church; Presbyterian Church, U.S.; Reformed Church in America

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Your church didn't come through very loud and clear in the recent six month's report of giving to outreach through the Church Finance Council (Unified Promotion)!

Is the money in the bank drawing interest? Did the church treasurer forget? Can we expect to hear from you in tomorrow's mail?

UP-DATE "BUNDLES"

Purchasing the bundle service for UP-DATE from the Office of the National Convocation helps to meet the rapidly rising costs for printing UP-DATE as well as assures an ever widening number of people who have a chance to read information in UP-DATE. The following is an annual pay schedule for receiving the bundle service.

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COPIES MAILED TO INDIVIDUALS ARE FREE BUT recipients are urged to send an annual donation.

SEND ME YOUR • DATES

• ARTICLES • QUESTIONS



W. K. Fox
Box 1986
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46206

BY
1st
OF
MONTH

We would be glad to have a list of names/addresses of other interested church workers.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
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Up-Date ON THE BLACK CHURCH

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

MANDATE FOR BLACK CHRISTIANS

Black Christians have received blessings from God which need to be shared with other Christians so that the Church might more completely become God's Church engaged in HIS mission. This is the belief which gives meaning and purpose to my work as the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church. If you are Black, it is the power which should motivate you to make an effective witness for Christ whether your situation be all-Black, predominantly white or reasonably racially integrated.

Our heritage is a Black experience which has cultural and religious substance dating back to Africa and persisting until now.

This experience has brought an understanding of suffering which can give us an unique and authentic view of the Cross.

Out of our suffering has come a projection of hope - a theology of expectation - which makes possible a compensatory existence - an ability to live in the present no matter how terrible - yet looking forward in hope.

Out of this leaning forward in hope has come outlines of the plan for redemption. Redemption is based on suffering, sharing and servanthood under Jesus Christ - the Christ whose very life was a picture of the Black experience.

Therefore, central to every Black Christian and to every predominantly Black congregation should be the ministry of reconciliation. This is the essence of the Christian Gospel. (continue page 2)



UP-DATE

VOL. III, NO. 4/5
April-May, 1975

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

You and I must be about the business of breaking down barriers which separate people from people and people from God.

We must oppose the forces of evil in all arenas of life which dehumanize, enslave and diminish the dignity and value of people.

The corporate worship experiences in which we find ourselves - especially if we Blacks are able to influence its character - should include the musical and dramatic expressions of the human spirit which have come to us through Africa and the Black slave experience in America.

The concern for justice and human dignity should be woven into the thought and action fabric of the congregation wherever Black Christians are involved.

The ministry must be ecumenical and world-wide in dimensions without regard for denomination, race or color or any other primitive or tribal consideration.

This, in my judgment, is what is meant in being a responsible Black Christian individual or predominantly Black congregation. - W. K. Fox

MORTGAGE BURNING SUNDAY

Garden Grove Church of Houston, TX celebrated with a dramatic mortgage burning February 9 featuring a candle-light ritual.

Pastor R. H. Page led the congregation in the candle-burning ceremony. When the last candle was lighted,

the word "TITHES" was brought to the front and center of the sanctuary by six members. The participants were Mesdames M. B. Harrison, O. Logan, W. Tucker and Brothers E. W. Rand, L. C. Nix and S. Trahan.

Congregation Chairman John Ridgely and Vernita Trahan, youngest member in the church, presented the pastor with a "mock mortgage" which was burned.

The Sunday morning and afternoon worship services were highlighted by sermons from Elder M. C. Dickson of Dallas and Elder Charles Faulkner of Greenville. Brothers Dickson and Faulkner are the vice-president and president - respectively - of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship.

A mass choir constituted by the cooperating congregations sang "All Hail the Power" and "God Is Rejoice."

Mrs. J. W. Smith was general program chairperson for the "Mortgage Burning Day of Celebration."

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- 75-99 copies- - - - - 30.00 per year
- 100-150copies- - - - - 35.00 per year

G.A. EVANSES HONORED

Walker Memorial Church of Memphis, Tennessee honored Pastor and Mrs. G. A. Evans February 9 for 20 consecutive years of ministry to the congregation. Theme for the day was "Enduring Love in Times Like These."

Morris Dale, member of the Young Adult Choir, brought the morning worship message. Brother Dale was baptized by the pastor and is a candidate for the preaching ministry.

The afternoon service featured a message by The Rev. Roger Pruitt, Jr. of the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Elder Evans was "heralded as a man of honesty, courage ... his outstanding work as coordinator for Black church religious services on television every Sunday."

Due honor was given to Mrs. Evans who is a retired school teacher in the Memphis public school system. She has served as church organist for the past 20 years.

The congregation and community friends gave the Evanses flowers and gifts. The day was climaxed with a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

BEALE AT GROUND BREAKING

Second Church, Montgomery, AL held Ground Breaking Ceremonies Saturday March 8, at 1:00 p.m. The services began with a hymn - "The Solid Rock" - followed by a reading from Elder J. J. Fountain, pastor of Harrison Street Church, Greenville, AL. Invocation was given by Elder Marshall Farley, pastor of Cloverdale Church, Montgomery, AL.

Scripture reading was given by Elder H. B. Bowser, pastor of Ross Street Church with the responsive reading led by Elder C. J. Hinson, pastor of Snow Hill and Second Church from Psalm 24.

The address was given by Brother J. T. Beale, Executive Secretary and Regional Minister. Checks were received from James Bailey, finance chairman of Christian Churches of Southwest Florida - \$500.00; J. T. Beale - \$100.00 from Jefferies Memorial of Birmingham; Elder Ennis Knight - \$25.00; and, Sister Ona Evans - \$10.00.

Second Christian Church decided to go on with building a new sanctuary even though resources they had hoped to receive were not secured.

UNITY WEEK OBSERVED

The Christian Women's Fellowship of Second Christian Church in Jefferson City, MO sponsored a Christian Unity Week service Wednesday evening, January 22, 1975. Program participants who spoke on the general subject of "Prayer" included:

The Rev. Mark Smith, pastor of Dunivant Chapel A.M.E. church of Jefferson City.

The Rev. Harvey Vaughn, pastor of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. church of Jefferson City.

Choirs from the cooperating churches along with the Senior Choir of the host church provided special music.

The Rev. Ernest J. Newborn presided and extended the "Altar Prayer" invitation. Following the service slides were shown taken during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the C.W.F.

VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD

AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS...Samuel Wilbur Hylton, Jr., pastor of the Centennial Church and president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, was recently elected president of the newly formed Metropolitan Ministers Alliance of Greater St. Louis.

MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON...The United Church was led in a "Preaching Mission" April 8 to April 13 by Brother Charles H. Webb, Sr., minister of the Park Manor Church in Chicago. Reports indicate a revitalized congregation. Dr. R. H. Peoples is the interim pastor of United.

SOUTH CAROLINA, DENMARK...Mrs. Charles Black recently became the first woman elected to chair Union District II in the all-Black South Carolina Missionary Convention. She is a member of the Cherry Grove Church in Brunson. Sister Black also serves as president of the State Missionary Department.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY...A "Soul Celebration" service was held at the 11 o'clock hour Sunday, February 23 at the First Church. The service used spirituals and their history to illustrate the contributions Black people have made to Christianity. Don Albright is the minister.

OHIO, CINCINNATI...The Bond Hill and United congregations entered into a "Covenantal Agreement" April 6 in a special service of liturgy in the

United Church. Dr. Herald B. Monroe, Regional Pastor and Executive, with offices in Cleveland, led the ritual. Brother Frank Garner is the minister at Bond Hill and Dr. John Compton at United.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS...The Social Concerns Committee of Second Church reported that among its activities in 1974 were: \$2,629.35 given to needy persons in the neighborhood; sponsorship of a Senior Citizen Lunch Program; and a "Church Pantry." The congregation has also purchased the first of several buses to be used to meet various church and community needs. Brother T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr. is the pastor.

VIRGINIA, MARTINSVILLE...Approximately sixty persons from eight congregations in the Piedmont Tri-State District Convention area convened in the Fayette Street Church February 26 for a "Town House Meeting" on the present state of life and work in the Church. Brother William K. Fox from the General Office of the Church in Indianapolis was the chief resource. The meeting was initiated by Pastors George Hart of Reidsville, N.C. and Joseph Galloway of Chatham, VA. Brother Galloway was host to the meeting.

MISSOURI, JEFFERSON CITY...Laity Sunday was observed in Second Christian January 26. Emphasis was on the need of the greater involvement of laity in the work of the congregation. Sister Hazel Kirkpatrick is president of the Christian Women's Fellowship. Sister Ivy Bledsoe was program chairperson.

TEXAS, SAN ANTONIO...Dr. Enoch W. Henry, director of special services to congregations in the Department of Evangelism and Membership in the Division of Homeland Ministries, will

deliver one of the major addresses Friday, August 15 during the biennial meeting of the National Evangelistic Association. His subject will be "A Look into Opportunities." The meeting preceeds the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

PROGRESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Cherry Grove Church in Brunson has become the second predominantly Black congregation in the Region to begin full-time ministerial services.

Elder Charles Wright of Holly Hill has been recently called as pastor. The new minister has pursued preparatory studies in Summerville to better equip him for his services.

Pastor Wright has a wife, Mary A., two daughters - Sonya and Vickie; and one son - Charles Jr.

NEWBORN OUTREACH VISITOR

Ernest J. Newborn, an associate minister on the staff of the Christian Church in Missouri, with offices in Jefferson City, was the 1975 "Outreach Visitor" to cooperating congregations in District Ten of the Region February 23-March 9.

Brother Newborn joined the District Minister in visiting congregations to cover the outreach goals for 1975-76 and sought to bring news of some accomplishments through past outreach gifts.

Elder Newborn has been on the Missouri Regional staff since 1971. His staff responsibilities include Christian Education, Youth Work, and Leader Development.

SELF-HELP IN MISSISSIPPI

A ten member Task Force organized in teams representing the fellow groups (CYF, CWF, CMF) and Christian education continue to make church cultivation visitations to Black congregations in Mississippi.

Task Force Team Coordinator Ruth P. Hobbs recently made a progress report on visits to King David Church, Hermanville; St. Luke Church, Pattison; First Church, Mound Bayou; Tillman Chapel Church, Pattison; and New Hope Church, Camden.

Among the positive results has been the reactivation of members and leaders; discovery of new workers and materials; and requests for return visits.

The project was initiated by the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention with consultation given by Brother Lorenzo Evans of Indianapolis. Brother Thomas N. Walker from the Regional Church Office serves as Director.

Elder Aaron Johnson of Greenwood is president of the Mississippi Convention.

TOOLS FOR THE JOB...

INTERRACIAL BOOKS for CHILDREN is usually a 12 page bulletin published eight times a year by the Council on Interracial Books for Children at 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. It carries a variety of book reviews, articles, news reports and an international exchange. A single subscription costs \$8.00.



LEADERS ATTENDING the Institute for Disciples of Christ Ministers at the Goldsboro-Raleigh Institute Goldsboro, N.C. March 4-6. Elder Clarence Johnson, Director of Black Ministries, Indianapolis, Indiana was a resource leader and brought the closing message.

CRESCENT TOURISTS WANTED

October 16 you can have dinner in New York City and breakfast in Rome the next day as you begin a nineteen day Holy Crescent Tour through Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, Cairo, Jeddah, Teheran, Budapest and back home.

Wade D. Rubick, general counsel for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Mrs. Kathleen Bailey Austin are the tour leaders. Rosa Page Welch will be the "Spiritual Leader." The Sam Dixon's of Knoxville, Tennessee are among the tour members.

PERSONS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE HOLY CRESCENT TOUR SHOULD WRITE TO WADE RUBICK, P.O. BOX 1986, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

"HARRIS SPEAKS AGAIN"

In the article written last month, I asked that you send me suggestions on "How We Can Best Serve You and What You Want to See Happen at the CWF Meeting of the National Convocation in Nashville, Tennessee?"

The response has just been great. Keep those letters coming. I wish I knew each of you personally, but since I don't, let me get to know you through your letters.

CWF presidents let me know what you are doing in your local groups and some of your plans for the future.

I shall be looking forward to hearing from you soon.

WRITE TO: Mary Harris, 549 Greeley, Kansas City, KS 66101

CHURCHES OPPOSE RACIST POLICIES

The filing of a stockholders' resolution against International Business Machines for sales of computers to South Africa is an indication that the church sides with the oppressed.

The action, taken by some 14 religious bodies including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), "shows sensitivity to be involved in a very delicate issue and shows feeling on the side of the oppressed," according to Dr. Robert G. Nelson, Indianapolis, Africa executive for the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries.

The resolution asks IBM to limit its South African sales to "soft goods" -- typewriters, dictation machines, etc. -- rather than computers which we believe are being used to support that country's policies of racial discrimination, Dr. Nelson said.

"IBM is probably among the more enlightened companies operating in South Africa. We have no quarrel with the sale of soft goods, but more than 30 per cent of their sales are computers with no indication of their use.

"If IBM sells soft goods for domestic (non-government) use, we believe the company should continue to improve benefits and develop programs for black employees in South Africa," Dr. Nelson said.

The percentage of black IBM em-

ployees in South Africa is low, but because it is a "highly technical field, it is surprising to have as many as IBM has." Dr. Nelson noted that IBM is "training black South Africans as rapidly as possible."

The resolution was filed January 13 in New York City. The Disciples stock is owned by The United Christian Missionary Society.

- Christian Church News

RUSSIAN CHRISTIANS JOYOUS

A leader of the Russian Orthodox Church visiting Indianapolis, March 4, declared that it is a joy to be a Christian in the Soviet Union and that atheistic propaganda in his country actually may be working in favor of the church.

Bishop Makary of Uman, hosted in Indianapolis by the chief executive of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), said he believes the church in Russia is more alive now than it was 50 years ago.

People are flocking to the churches, he said, many curious because of atheistic propaganda, some of the curious being converted by the Holy Spirit as they see how Christians love.

The bishop said one diocese alone has 900 active congregations, that there are three to five times as many young people seeking admission to theological schools as can be handled, and that Christians number more than 30,000,000.

"There is no lack of young people who give themselves to Jesus Christ," he noted.

ANN DICKERSON NOMINATED

A regional church executive, a minister and a child psychologist will be nominated to the top elective offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. James A. Moak, Lexington, general secretary of the Disciples in Kentucky, will be nominated as moderator of the 1.3 million member church during its General Assembly August 15-20 in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. James K. Hempstead, Detroit, MI, senior minister of Central Woodward Christian Church, will be nominated as first vice-moderator.

Miss Ann E. Dickerson, Nashville, TN, assistant director and assistant professor of the Child Development Clinic, department of pediatrics at Meharry Medical College, will be nominated as second vice-moderator. She is the daughter of the late L. L. Dickerson, pioneer Black Disciple minister and civil rights leader.

Their names will be presented to the General Board of the church when it meets May 17-20 in St. Louis, MO, for report. Election of the moderators is scheduled during the August 19 business session of the General Assembly.

Although there is a possibility of nominations from the floor of the assembly, nomination by the General Board has been tantamount to election by the assembly.

Terms of office are for two years.

-CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

SCHALLER WITH BLACK PASTORS

The Board of Church Extension has provided the financing for an invitational Schaller Regional Seminar/Workshop with Black Pastors at the West Paseo Church in Kansas City, MO April 28-May 2.

Twenty-three Black Disciple pastors were invited to do intensive study of the sociological, demographic and administrative principles involved in strengthening the life and work of the congregation.

GOLDSBORO FEATURE GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday sermons on "The Seven Last Words" highlighted the annual mid-year session of the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly of the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ, Inc.) March 28 at the Goldsboro Institute in Goldsboro, N.C.

The service presided over by Bishop C. E. Williams featured presentations by Elders Virgie Coley, Johnny Givians, Farris Slade, W. W. Moore, F. R. Hargrove, Thurman Sanders, and Ned Richardson.

The Session began March 26 with the Annual Deacon's Night and the Annual Usher's Night with a dinner, workshops and a sermon took place on Thursday.

Assembly business was presided over by Bishop J. L. Melvin. The Assembly is supported financially by 88 congregations. The theme was "The Little Ones" and theme song "Bring Them In."



COMING TO SAN ANTONIO?

It's called the city of missions, the cradle of Texas liberty, the birthplace of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and the home of the HemisFair.

It's San Antonio, where some 8000 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members will meet this summer to debate issues, study and worship together during the biennial General Assembly of the Church.

The Disciples will meet here August 15-20.

San Antonio offers unique opportunities for Disciples from the U.S. and Canada to experience first-hand the heritage of several cultures represented by modern Texans.

The Institute of Texan Cultures, located on the HemisFair grounds near the civic center where the assembly will be held, traces the contributions of 25 ethnic groups to the total culture of the state through exhibits and an audio-visual show.

Nearby, the Lone Star Hall of Texas History presents significant events in Texas history through dioramas and wax figures and the Mexican American Cultural Institute displays Mexican arts and crafts.

A few blocks away from the assembly site is the most famous of the city's five missions, the Alamo. Officially named the Mission San Antonio de Valero by the Franciscan Fathers who built it in 1744, the Alamo served as a house of worship, a school for Indian converts and a haven for early settlers.

-CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

ENLISTING MORE BLACKS PROPOSED

Resolutions urging establishment of ministerial education as "a first priority" and enlistment of minority students for the ministry will be presented to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) when it meets August 15-20 in San Antonio.

The resolutions were approved by the Disciples' Board of Higher Education in its March 12-13 board of directors meeting in St. Louis, MO.

It also urges Disciples-related institutions to seek "new and creative ways" of developing church leadership during the 1975-79 quadrennium.

The enlistment resolution asks the the church to affirm its commitment to leadership development "particularly from among its black and Hispanic membership."

It suggests the church find ways to finance continuation of the Short-Term Experiences in Ministry program of the board. The program offers black and Hispanic college students an opportunity to explore the ministry as a career during summer employment with congregations.

-CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

ALABAMIANS FETE MISS JACKSON

Maldonia Jackson, short-term educational missionary to Hakodate, Japan, spoke during a recent Sunday morning service at Macedonia Christian Church in Birmingham, and was treated royally as she prepared to return to Japan.

Church leaders attending the special service and participating with Miss Jackson were Hattie Bell Lester, secretary for the Christian Churches in Alabama and J. T. Beale, Regional Minister.

Following the service a Fellowship Dinner was held at the church. Miss Jackson shared pictures centered around some of her experiences in Japan. The young missionary said, "During my stay in Japan, God has been a counselor to me. He has guided me through the storms and he has protected me. I lean and depend on Jesus every day of my life."

NEW UP-DATE PRINTING SCHEDULE

Rapidly rising printing costs for UP-DATE require us to publish every other month rather than monthly. This practice began with the February/March issue and will continue until costs go down or ample funds are received from the churches which make possible more frequent publication. Your co-operation is appreciated.

SEND ME YOUR ● DATES

● ARTICLES ● QUESTIONS

W. K. Fox
Box 1986
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46206

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1st
of
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Up-Date

ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

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

A NEW DAY AMONG BLACK DISCIPLES

by Clarence L. Johnson, Jr.
Director of Black Ministry

They came from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and California. They came one hundred strong: ministers, associates, seminary students and college students preparing for the ministry. They came - men and women, old and young, to share and discuss common needs and aspirations. They came to improve communication with peers, to develop an awareness of the community of support available to the Disciple minister. They came to receive inspiration for re-dedication to return to the fields of service with a clearer vision and renewed hope. They came to fellowship -- and fellowship they did -- OHH-What A Fellowship!!! They came to the First National Retreat for Black Disciple Ministers held in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 15-17, 1975 at the Airport Rodeway Inn.

Using as a theme "Dimension of a Complete Life" from Revelations 21:16, the program was constructed to deal with the Inward Dimension (concern for one's own welfare), the Outward Dimension (concern for the welfare of others), and the Upward Dimension (concern for reaching upward to God). These dimensions were also parallel to the concerns of Black people in America for social, political and economic realities of day to day living. The retreat provided an ideal time for reflection and prayer as ministers looked at themselves, their congregation and God. In this vein they shared their successes, failures and dreams as they compared (continued - page 2)

UP-DATE

VOL. III, NO. 6/7
June-July, 1975

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

(continued from page 1)
notes, ideas and techniques in efforts to strategize for future plans of action that will strengthen congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The spirit of this retreat together with the impact of the Atlanta Convocation indicate that a new day has dawned among Black Disciples. This new day demands that Black ministers take their rightful place in our church and in the community. Black ministers are leaders and as such need to realize and recognize that we already have the reigns of leadership in our hands. Like Moses, we ought to stop talking about all we don't possess and instead use what we have in our hands... We have in our hands the keys to the Kingdom -- keys that will open up doors of hope -- keys that will unlock closed minds and un-receptive hearts. Like Moses again, we must stop crying and S-P-E-A-K. We must teach love. We must teach self-respect and respect for others. We must discipline ourselves and our flock. We must preach the gospel.

This is a new day among Black Disciples and 20% of the ministers between the ages of 21-25 present at the Retreat bore witness to this newness. As "Salt & Light with Power" we have a better preception of our ability to produce. With this new inspiration and information we must pick up handles for implementation - day care centers, lunch programs, crisis pantries, clothing cooperatives, summer work programs for the youth, scholarship programs for those needing to complete and continue their education, drug abuse programs, police/community relations programs, medical clinics, housing projects, programs for youth

over 65 years of age. These handles for implementation must be grounded in the worship experiences of our church as well as become an integral part of our sermons. We are on our way, we must let nothing stop us. We must stand our ground for On Christ The Solid Rock We Stand!!

JACKSON
IN JOY
"EXPLOSION"

Frances H. Hancock, correspondent from the Loudon Avenue Church, Roanoke, Virginia reports that Pastor Alvin O. Jackson "Is creating a joy explosion at Loudon Avenue where the centrality of God has not been looked over" while at the same time the congregation is striving "to be innovative, modern and socially relevant."

Lenten season was climaxed with fourteen decisions for Christ at Easter. Eight were primary confessions and six membership transfers. Forty-two persons attended the new members study class led by Pastor Jackson.

Though the minister is a regular graduate student in the seminary at Duke University, he is guiding the operation of a full-time ministry at Loudon Avenue.

The congregation has an assistant minister, a student minister and a young layman who aspires to be a minister. Four choirs alternate and/or combine services monthly.

A full-time office secretary is employed by the Church.

VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD

AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

MARYLAND, HAGERSTOWN...Second Church has completely remodeled its facilities within the past twenty-four months with the help of a \$11,000 loan from the Board of Church Extension.

Easter Sunday six young people and one adult were baptized in a service conducted by Brother Frank Bradley, a former pastor.

The minister of the congregation, Brother Vernon Johnson, is also a student in the School of Religion at Howard University

.....

NEW YORK, HEMPSTEAD...Brother Titus Haynes, founder and pastor of the Salem Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Inc. is an accredited psychiatric social worker leading this congregation in its third year of exciting growth in the challenging area of metropolitan New York City. Elder Titus is currently engaged in special religious research into the life and work of storefront congregations in New York in partial fulfillment of requirements for a Ph.D. from New York University School of Education.

.....

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES...Elder and Mrs. Cornelius Wesley Arnold climaxed thirty years of service to the 92nd Street Church May 17 with a banquet which highlighted a week's anniversary observance. Dr. Henry Mitchell, Director of the Ecumenical Center for Black Studies at the School of Theology at Claremont, was

the speaker. The Arnolds will retire to Washington, D.C. in June.

.....

KANSAS, WICHITA...The North Heights congregation has joined with the Brotherhood Presbyterian Church located in the same general area in an "inter-church crusade." North Heights pastor G. Ellison Lakes says this joint effort is a part of our congregation's "compelling mission to make the church grow."

.....

ATLANTA ASSEMBLY CONTRIBUTES

Dr. Geiko Muller-Fahrenheit in the Faith and Order Secretariat of the World Council of Church, Geneva, Switzerland has used the 1974 Convocation Assembly Dialogue Tapes as a resource as he prepared a paper on "Racism in Theology."

The paper has been sent to about 65 theologians around the world for their comments. Results of this interchange will become background data for a consultation on "Racism in Theology" next September.

Dr. Robert Welsh, a Disciples of Christ fellow currently associated with the Faith and Order Secretariat, suggested the tapes be used as a resource.

The Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) helped the National Convocation of the Christian Church underwrite the participation of Dr. James Cone and Dr. Kofi Asare Opoku in the 1974 Atlanta Assembly.

BLACK PASTORS RETREAT INSPIRES



BROTHER CLARENCE JOHNSON, Director of Black Ministries and coordinator for the Black clergy retreat, converses with Brother Bennie Thompson, conference keynoter and mayor of Bolton, MS and Moses Lambert, pastor of First Christian Church, Reidsville, NC.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT of the Piedmont Tri-State District Convention George Hart of Reidsville, NC renews fellowship with Brother Phillip Rushing, student at Lexington (KY) Theological Seminary and pastor of the Hill Street Church, Louisville, KY.



NERVE CENTER for SOUL-SEARCHING SONGS at the Retreat was Mozell Chaney, also of Fifth Church in Cleveland, OH. A high atmosphere of spirituality was maintained by her leadership as an instrumentalist. Brother G. A. Evans, pastor of the Walker Memorial Church, Memphis, TN functioned as song leader. He found directing enthusiastic preachers in Gospel songs to be a joy.

RETREAT BIBLE LECTURER DR. SANDY RAY (center), minister for more than 30 years at Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY poses with Director Johnson, Hillside (IN) pastor Moses Ladderson, and members of the Hillside actor's guild, Raymond Dyer, Jr. and Rencile Williams.



RETREAT STIRS PASTORS

Soul-stirring sermons, roof-raising Gospel songs, and pointed challenges to meet the needs of the outcast were key ingredients of the first national retreat for Black ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), held in Indianapolis, IN April 15-17.

Stressing the value of sharing common problems and worship, more than 100 Black ministers, seminary students and pre-ministerial students participating voted to make the retreat an annual event.

The group named Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., pastor of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, convenor and Booker T. Dickason, student at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, chairman of the planning committee.

Among problems identified for continuing work were acceptance of the outcast and empowerment of the weak; empowerment of the young; encouragement of unmarried and women ministers; nurture and development of membership; and certification and standards of ministers. (continued page 6)



PROMISE OF CONTINUING CREATIVE Black Church leadership was evident at the minister's retreat in the several young seminarians and pastors attending like the above. Left to right: Timothy James from Berkeley, CA and student at Christian Theological Seminary, IN; Martin Williams, assistant at Fifth Church, Cleveland, OH; and Lillian Graddy, member of Fifth Church, Cleveland, with plans to attend the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA. (William Hannah is the minister at Fifth Church.)

(Photos by Robert L. Schafer, Jr.)

(continued from page 5)

T. Garrett Benjamin, pastor of Second Christian Church of Indianapolis, challenged the ministers from 20 regions to be "the salt of the earth" that purifies and preserves.

The object of purification and preservation, he said, is the whole church. "We need more salt in the church. The power of salt is in its quality, not quantity."

Black Mayor Bennie Thompson of Bolton, MS, urged the ministers to become involved in social action programs, adding "I can't see any man of God not trying to help his children. As ministers, you set an example for your congregations."

Ministers have an "obligation to preach the Gospel as it is now," Thompson said. That may mean building education facilities, day care centers, health clinics and not just worship facilities, he said.

Ms. Phyllis Carr, staff consultant for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Indianapolis, outlined ministries needed today.

Her suggestions included building a crisis pantry, seeing that all members of the congregations are registered to vote and know the issues, providing jobs for people just out of prison or jail and organizing parents, students and teachers to get needed changes in school systems.

Dr. Sandy Ray, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Brooklyn, NY, preached three sermons on the retreat theme, "Dimensions of a Complete Life."

On the ills of the world, he observed "we can't cure the world with diplo-

matic salve, it will take major surgery. We can't change the world by throwing money around it. If it is to be saved, it will be by moral and spiritual means," Dr. Ray said.

On interdependence, he noted "the luxury liner can't get in or out of the harbor without the tugboat. The liner has everything but the ability to come in or go out.

"The tugboats in your congregation keep you going," he told the ministers. "If you neglect the tugboats, watch out."

Raymond E. Brown, Indianapolis, vice-president of the Board of Church Extension, in the final sermon, said "our style of life is a reflection of what we are in Christ.

An evening session at Hillside Christian Church featured a drama, "The Shoes", interwoven with themes of the need to be accepted, conflict over spending money and the need of the individual to make choices rather than accepting another person's decisions.

The Second Coming Mass Choir of Second Christian Church, featured at the Cincinnati General Assembly, led singing in a celebration service, then sang four hymns with a modern beat that stirred the 300 persons present to tapping feet, humming and shouting amen.

Pianist for the retreat sessions was Mrs. Mozelle Chaney, Cleveland, OH, and song leader was G. A. Evans, Memphis, TN.

Clarence Johnson, director of black ministry of the department of ministry and worship, coordinated plans for the retreat.

OLIVET ON THE MOVE

The congregation and friends of Mt. Olivet Christian Church of Baltimore, MD were happy to join in the dedication of a new organ donated in memory of the late Mrs. Eleanor Greene who died in June of 1974.

In lieu of floral expressions members and friends gave a monetary donation to be used as a down payment on the organ by the family. The family is sharing the responsibility for the remaining amount to be paid. A plaque with names of donors will soon be presented to the church. Those wanting to share in the memory of Sister Eleanor Greene are urged to contact the church.

Pastor Donald A. Gibbs and members of Mt. Olivet are proud of the growth being experienced in the membership. At least fifteen candidates were recently scheduled for baptism.

Another feature at Mt. Olivet was the first anniversary of our return to our present site at 230 n. Fulton Ave., Baltimore, MD on April 6, 1975. Brother Joseph Morris was chairman of the program. The membership gave wonderful support to the cause.

THE PREACHER'S SALARY

The 1974 average annual compensation (including parsonage or parsonage allowance) for all Christian Church Ministers was \$10,005. This is the equivalent of an annual cash salary of \$8,700 (plus parsonage or parsonage allowance.)

The average compensation base of Christian Church Ministers in 1969 was \$7,687, which was \$6,685 cash salary plus parsonage.

While figures represent substantial increases within the past five years, these ministers have less average compensation than any other professional group.

It is true that ministers are dedicated and committed servants of Christ and His Church. No dedicated minister is overly concerned with his financial "rewards." However, he does depend on the Christian spirit and fairness of the church in arriving at adequate compensation.

When your church considers the minister's compensation this year, please remember to:

- Fully reimburse the minister for the church's business expenses he bears, such as auto, church travel or welfare.
- Make an "offset allowance" for Social Security taxes.
- Provide adequately for Pension Plan and Health Care.
- Allow for inflation.

How well do you support your minister?
from PENSION FUND BULLETIN

March, 1975

LISTEN LADIES



Dear Companions of the Clergy:

I am sure you would like to know that past efforts on the part of the Ministers Wives Fellowship of the National Convocation of the Christian Church have assisted some 18 to 20 under-graduate and graduate students in preparing for the Christian ministry. Of this number, two anticipate graduation at the close of the 1974-75 academic year.

In view of the tremendous lack of opportunities for field education positions and family needs, those who will be continuing are counting on us to assist in generating funds to see them through to graduation and that coveted moment of ordination and the formal yoke of the Christian ministry.

It is my hope, that, even now, you have begun your programs and solicitations for the Black Scholarship Star Supporter Fund and that the rewards will be complimentary of those whom we seek to undergird and of the "High Calling" to which they seek to give response.

Officers for the biennium 1974-76 are: Vice President, Mrs. Mildred E. Dunnville, 233 Spring Street, Jonesboro, TN 37659; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Lee E. Koonce, 978 Mississippi Blvd., Memphis, TN 38126;

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ernest Newborn, 717 Houchin, Jefferson City, MO 65101; Financial Secretary, Mrs. John Foulkes, 8404 S. Ada, Chicago, IL 60620; Treasurer, Mrs. F. D. Bradley, 39 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002; Cheer Chairman, Mrs. Bertha Evans, 5027 Stacy Drive, Memphis, TN 38109.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.

Sincerely,

Marion Sands Henry
President

BLACK METHODISTS IN CRISIS

Black Methodists for Church Renewal appealed to bishops of the United Methodist church meeting recently in Minneapolis, MN to do all they can to help strengthen local Black churches, described as "in a crisis situation."

Mrs. Thelma Barnes of Atlanta, GA, who presented the appeal as executive director of the group, said a shortage of Black United Methodist ministers had contributed to the decline of local Black churches.

She urged the Council of Bishops to help develop more Black clergy and lay leaders.

The bishops and the Church in general also were urged to help improve public secondary education for Blacks; to aid Black colleges, which were called the main source of Black church leadership, and to establish centers for social change and experimentation.

The United Methodist Church has an estimated 415,000 Black members in a total membership of some 10 million.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

YOUNG ADULTS ORGANIZED



A group of young ladies at Mount Olive East Christian Church, Martinsville, VA first came together on January 22, 1975 to organize a young adult Christian Women's Fellowship. Starting membership was 13 women. Many have joined the group since then. Directing and advising us is Mrs. Odatta Redd, chairman of Women's Work of the Region of Virginia. She has acquainted us with the women's work.

We are presently involved in a new project, which includes making banners and using the blessing boxes. We also give through outreach with the senior CWF group. Our study material is the Book of Esther. For our Easter materials we used "Afraid--Yet Filled with Joy."

Officers were installed as follows:

Chairman, Shirley Gallant
 Co-Chairman, Margretha Kellam
 Secretary, Mary Davis
 Assistant Secretary, Sharon Reid

Treasurer, Hattie Kellam
 Three Committees:

Service Committee:

Geraldine Kellam

Judy Kellam

Christine Reid

Worship Committee

Josephine Pilson

Ethel Kellam

Christine Reid

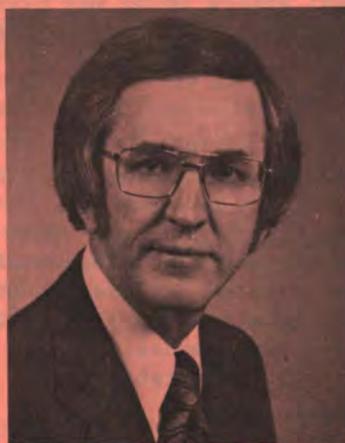
Study Committee

Gwendolyn Reid

Christine Reid

Our membership presently stands at 18 members. Rev. George Hart of Reidsville, NC is Pastor.

TEEGARDEN HONORED



Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, Indianapolis, IN, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been named recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award for 1974-75 by Phillips University of Enid, Oklahoma.

The annual award of the Phillips Alumni Association is based on contributions to society, professional distinction, civic leadership and service to the University.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

10

SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS ITEMS ESPECIALLY

Relevant to Black Church Concerns

(STUDY YOUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCKET)*

1. Concerning Candidacy for the Order of Ministry (Amendment)

Black Church Concern: Regional interpretation and implementation of the criteria and procedures that allows for ministerial experience and value for educational courses and/or similar formal events which may have equivalency to junior college or university preparation.

2. Concerning Financing Unmet Needs

Black Church Concern: That any "Comprehensive Development Program" adopted include the unmet needs submitted in 1973 in Black Church work emphasis on new congregation establishment.
Support Item

3. Concerning the Establishment of New Congregations

Black Church Concern: That the emphasis in any such consultation be on the need for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to be significantly expanded among Blacks and Hispanics within the next decade. That a formula for assuring annual receipt of funds to achieve this goal be developed. Support Item

4. General Assembly Offering for Ministerial Relief

Black Church Concern: That Black Disciples attending the San Antonio Assembly come prepared to give liberally as individuals and/or members of congregations sending a special offering. That more Black Disciple congregations enroll their pastors in the Pension Fund and thus save embarrassment for the minister or his family when age or health forces retirement. Support Item

5. Response to General Assembly Resolution No. 33 on Conservation of Church Members

Black Church Concern: That Black ministers serving congregations which have strategic location in the established corridors of racial migration be among those leaders cooperating in this experiment. Support Item

6. Supplementary Report of the Commission on Budget Evaluation

Black Church Concern: That any consideration of Recommendation No. 2 on page 8 of the March 12, 1975 Commission letter by the Committee on Structure and Function include serious reflection on the relationship of certain aspects of the National Convocation to be handled through the Church Finance Council.

(continued page 11)

7. "A Summary of Reconciliation in Mission" (Referred to in Director's Report)

Black Church Concern: That the General Reconciliation Committee find ways to communicate the key findings in the Summary to the congregations and units and that a way be devised for church leaders to give in depth study of specific unmet needs in investments, employment and representation of racial minorities in church structures. Emphasize the Report - Ask for a Copy

8. Response to "The Imperative is Leadership, the Study of Ministerial Education"

Black Church Concern: Adequate representation on vehicles developed to mount strategy; carry our alternative ministerial education programs; develop an endowment for institutions; make special emphasis on curriculum development; and study the purpose and study of Bible chairs and schools of religion. Intensive interest must be maintained for the inclusion of Black liberal art and seminary students in meaningful and financially sustaining field education assignments.

9. Concerning Food Crisis Resolutions

Black Church Concern: In addition to making adequate crisis responses to immediate needs made vivid in other nations, the real

emphasis should be made on assisting the developing nations achieve a growing capability to produce their own food stuffs for domestic consumption as well as exportation. In the meantime, the critical nature of hunger and malnutrition among thousands of poor in the U.S.A. must not be neglected. Study the "Stance Paper on World Hunger and Development."

10. Report of Church Units

Black Church Concern: Read them. Each unit provides a service for the congregation. How has your congregation been served by the unit whose report you are reading? What else do you want to know about the unit? Find the unit's booth in the Assembly exhibit hall. Raise a question during a business session. Attend the Convocation Caucus August 15 at 10 p.m. until 12 midnight.

11. Concerning Ministerial Enlistment Among Black and Hispanic (College) Students

Black Church Concern: That the consultation process conclude that the opportunity is important enough to be funded church-wide as a regular part of the appropriate unit's budget.

(continued page 12)

(continued from page 11)

12. Concerning Support of Farm Workers

Black Church Concern: The Church should accelerate its efforts of support for this exploited group so that their concerns will be eventually guaranteed by law as other workers.

13. Concerning Local Experiences in Christian Unity

Black Church Concern: Black churchmen have a long history of wholesome interdenominational relationships among themselves (i.e. alliances, preaching, anniversaries, etc.) This resolution is challenging us to expand and enrich such experiences by participating in an enlarged group called a "Generating Community." Black churchmen should urge Consultation on Church Union leaders to encourage the use of already existing interdenominational groupings in some predominantly Black urban areas for developing "generating communities."

* A San Antonio General Assembly Business Docket can be secured by writing to the General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

VISITATION TO AFRICA

Three Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) leaders will spend a month in the early summer surveying church work in Africa.

It will be a first visit for Mrs. Wallace R. Ford of Boulder, CO, and Dr. William K. Fox of Indianapolis, but for Robert G. Nelson of Indianapolis it will be another in his annual administrative visits. Dr. Nelson is the executive secretary of the Africa department of the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries.

"Our trip will coincide with a special meeting of the Africa Working Group of the National Council of Churches of the USA," Dr. Nelson said. "The AWG is struggling with some of the most important issues concerning relationships to Africa churches."

Mrs. Ford was selected from the board of directors of the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries. Dr. Fox, assistant to the General Minister and President of the Disciples, was chosen as the administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

LOW PENSIONS BOOSTED SOME

The board of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Indianapolis, IN has voted a \$100 a year increase in supplemental gifts to low pensioners of the church.

The maximum supplemental gift of \$1,300 a year for a couple and \$650 for an individual has been raised to \$1,400 for a couple and \$750 for an individual.

This requires an increase in the annual gift distribution of almost \$28,000. The total increases from \$380,000 to \$407,000.

It was half the increase originally proposed by Pension Fund executives. Regional allocations for supplemental gifts have been reduced by more than \$5,000.

The deficit could be met by gifts from individuals and some "over and above" budget giving by congregations, according to Dr. William Martin Smith, president of the Pension Fund.

If funds are not forthcoming, there must be a cutback in gifts distributed to needy individuals in 1976, he added.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

UP-DATE "BUNDLES"

Purchasing the bundle service for UP-DATE from the Office of the National Convocation helps to meet the rapidly rising costs for printing UP-DATE as well as assures an ever widening number of people who have a chance to read information in UP-DATE. The following is an annual pay schedule for receiving the bundles service.

15-34 copies-----	\$15.00 per year
35-49 copies-----	20.00 per year
50-74 copies-----	25.00 per year
75-99 copies-----	30.00 per year
100-150 " -----	35.00 per year

ORDINATION AT MT. SINAI

Three congregations combined forces in an historic mass lay ordination and songspiration service April 20 at Mt. Sinai of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The lay leader group ordained consisted of Brothers Emmett Johnson of Cephas Chapel Church, a deacon, advanced to eldership; T. Christopher, C. Collins, and Larry Townsend of Mr. Beulah Church to deaconship and Jeremiah Townsend to elder; Johnnie Daniel and Robert Bryant of Mt. Sinai to deaconship; and Tommie C. Kirk, A. L. Mothershed, also of Mt. Sinai, to eldership. Also Waymon Morgan, a deacon at Mt. Sinai, advanced to eldership.

Elder B. J. Mattison, pastor of Cephas Chapel, delivered the ordination sermon. Leading the laying on of hands ritual were pastors of the cooperating congregations: D. J. Holden of Mt. Beulah Church; T. R. Moore of Mt. Sinai Church and B. J. Mattison.

Other ministers participating were Elders James R. Burton of Pulaski Heights Church and Thomas M. Palmer of the Parkview Church.

HISPANIC PASTORS TO MEET

A leading Hispanic theologian will address a national strategy conference on Hispanic ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be held in New York City June 25-28.

He is Dr. Justo Gonzales, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, GA. (continued on page 14)

Dr. Gonzalez will give the keynote address at the 7:30 p.m. opening session at La Hermosa Christian Church, speaking on issues and problems related to Hispanic Americans and their implications for the church. Five work groups will meet in the morning June 26 to discuss preservation of Hispanic culture; political development of the community; evangelization, congregational development and new church establishment; ministerial recruitment and training; and Hispanics and issues of racism and sexism.

Among resource persons will be executive ministers of the Christian Church in the Southwest and in the Northeast where there are the largest concentrations of Hispanic Disciples.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

TOOLS FOR THE JOB...

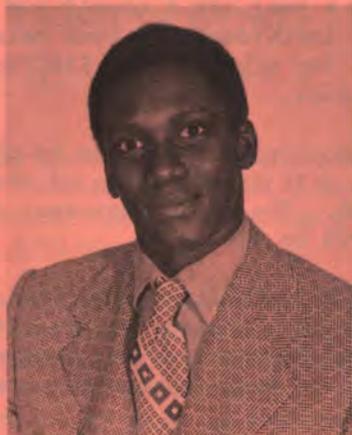
SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Urban Ministries, Inc. is an independent, interracial publishing company. The company claims to be "the first predominantly black-owned publisher to produce interdenominational Sunday School literature." It was founded in Chicago in 1970. The Board reports that "More than 7,000 teachers throughout the United States and several foreign countries use UMI literature."

President of UMI, Melvin E. Banks, says the material is Bible centered and "prepared from the start especially for urban and black young people."

Free examination kits can be secured from URBAN MINISTRIES, INC. 9917 South Green Street, Chicago, IL 60643.

ASSISTS AILING PASTOR



Clarence Hodrick

Former STEEM student and sophomore at Northwest Christian College fulfilled the pastoral duties at the Grove Street Christian Church during the illness of the pastor, Eugene W. James. He did the preaching, taught the senior class, took the youth to Conference, made pastoral calls in homes and in the hospitals, officiated one funeral, received two members into the church - one by transfer and one candidate for baptism.

Clarence remained at home during the second quarter continuing his schooling at The Alameda Community College so that he could be of help to his mother after his father suffered a critical accident on his job at the Shipyard. Mr. Clarence Hodrick, Sr. improved sufficiently so that Clarence, Jr. has returned to Northwest...where he is preparing for full-time Christian service. Mrs. Lois Hodrick is the CWF president for the Christian Church of Northern California and Nevada.

The pastor and members of Grove Street Christian Church are grateful to God and to our Brotherhood for the STEEM Program.

COORDINATOR for R. A. I. N. S.

The executive director of IFCO, Ms. Ann Douglas, of New York City has announced the appointment of the first full-time national coordinator of the IFCO/RAINS Coalition, Ms. Melissa Lawson.

RAINS (Relief for Africans in need in the Sahel) is a coalition against hunger made up of 26 national organizations and initiated by The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, Inc. (IFCO). Its mission has now been enlarged to address the crucial issues of hunger in the United States as well as the self-development of famine-scarred West Africa.

Ms. Douglas noted that Ms. Lawson has done a phenomenal job as a volunteer RAINS organizer during her last two years at Stanford University and as West Coast regional office director.

Co-chairmen of the RAINS Coalition are Congressman Charles C. Diggs (D-Mich.) and Dr. Elliott Skinner, former ambassador to Upper Volta.

"We cannot stop hunger simply with relief or rhetoric," said Ms. Douglas. "RAINS purpose is to educate Americans and conscientize them to develop an awareness and understanding of the nature of our system which perpetuates hunger and starvation both here and abroad."

Ms. Lawson will coordinate the activities of the hundreds of RAINS community groups and volunteers mobilized to study and take action on the interlocking international causes of hunger.



FOR
WHOM
THE
BELLS
TOLL

THOSE WHO HAVE
CROSSED OVER

CONVENTION PRESIDENT DIES

Dr. William Barnett Blakemore, Chicago, IL, who died in Dallas, TX May 2, had served only nine months of a six-year term as president of the World Convention of Churches of Christ (Disciples).

Dr. Blakemore, in Dallas for meetings of the World Convention, was the second member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States to serve as president.

The World Convention, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1980, is a confessional body rooted in religious movement identified with Alexander Campbell on the American frontier in the early 1800s.

Dr. Blakemore, dean of the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago since 1945, was elected at the Mexico City convention in late July-early August.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

ACTION ON BLACK CHURCH WORK

Black congregations with programs related to crime in minority communities will receive funds to operate the programs from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Money for four experimental projects is available through the Urban Emergency Action Committee, according to a report given at the Disciples' Committee on Black Church Work meeting, held in Indianapolis, IN April 24-25.

Priority will be given projects that deal with a particular facet of crime in a minority community, such as law enforcement, drugs and juvenile justice, according to Gerald Cunningham, Indianapolis, director of human rights and criminal justice of the Department of Church in Society.

The programs will be implemented although "they can never be totally successful until unemployment, powerlessness, racism and economic exploitation have been removed," Cunningham said.

Another program to be initiated before the end of the year is the training of Black ministers and lay leaders in Mississippi to design and implement community involvement programs in their areas.

The training program will be directed by the Mount Beulah Development

Corporation, organized in 1973 to help persons and groups in Mississippi develop projects to achieve greater economic, social and cultural advantages.

During the two-year period, the corporation will not fund other projects.

The committee also heard reports from the Board of Higher Education on developing a fund to employ Black seminary students in congregations and a resolution on recruiting Black and Hispanic students through the Short-term Employment Experience in Ministry program.

Charles Faulkner, pastor of Clark Street Christian Church of Greenville, TX observed that "congregations must be made aware that \$1-2,000 a year is not enough salary for a seminary-trained minister."

Scholarships are supporting 26 Black ministerial students this year from the Star Supporter Fund, with more applications anticipated next year.

Strengthening existing and organizing new Black congregations also was discussed.

Some \$241,851 have been granted to Black congregations and other programs related to strengthening the church since 1969, according to Dr. Enoch W. Henry, Jr., Indianapolis, director of special services to Black congregations.

A resolution asking for a strategy for establishing Black and Hispanic congregations in the United States and Canada was supported by the committee.

The resolution will go to the General Assembly of the Christian Church when it meets August 15-20 in San Antonio, TX.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

DISCIPLES JOIN RACISM PROTEST

Wade D. Rubick, legal counsel of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, IN, appeared at the 1975 annual stockholders meeting of Union Carbide Corporation to protest the company's policies at its plants in South Africa.

"In response to action of the 1971 General Assembly of the Christian Church we wish to show solidarity with disadvantaged groups and to promote racial justice and human dignity," Rubick said.

The protest against Union Carbide policies in South Africa was joined by agencies of the American Baptist Churches, United Church of Christ and two Roman Catholic orders.

"The action called for the appointment of a South African review committee to go into the matter thoroughly," the attorney said. It was proposed that the committee would consist of five to 15 members and be appointed by the Union Carbide board of directors.

Rubick said that the U.S. State Department has established a minimum wage level for a family of five in South Africa of \$155 a month. Union Carbide, he said, is paying six out of eight levels of employees below the poverty line.

"We are deeply concerned about our company's involvement in South Africa from several points of view, but particularly in connection with the issue of apartheid," Rubick said.

"Under apartheid Black African people cannot vote, cannot own land, cannot form political parties, cannot organize legitimate trade unions, cannot live where they desire or marry whom they choose."

Rubick also called into question a Union Carbide massive joint venture to develop a new ferrochrome plant in South Africa worth \$38 million.

"Our concern with respect to this expansion is that we may be further involved in more undesirable employment and corporate practices," the general counsel said.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

Gospel GIBLETS

*Charles Webb, Jr. was installed as pastor of the Pine Street Christian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma June 1.

*T. Garrott Benjamin was awarded a "Doctor of Ministry" degree by Christian Theological Seminary June 1.

*Booker (Ted) Dickason was ordained in Cincinnati, Ohio at United Christian Church (his "home church") June 1.

*Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius W. Arnold was given a special appreciation service and reception by the 92nd Street Christian Church of Los Angeles, California June 1 as they retired from the ministry there after 30 years.

LEADERS ATTEND JAMAICAN SYNOD

Convocation President Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. and the Administrative Secretary, William K. Fox, saw a new day for the Disciples of Christ Church in Jamaica. The evening of March 31, 1975 at the Torrington Christian Church of Kingston, Jamaica during the opening of the 95th Synod of the Jamaican Church.

The Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) U.S.A. completed the long process of transferring the full titles to properties they owned on the island to the Disciples of Christ Church in Jamaica. Hylton and Fox were invited by the Jamaicans to be fraternal visitors.

Principals in the historic ceremony were Dr. Robert Thomas, president of the Division of Overseas Ministries who made a major statement in behalf of the Church in America, Keith Goldson, Synod President, who received the titles; Mrs. E. Hunt who presented a plaque of remembrance and appreciation of Dr. Thomas; and Mrs. Hazel Byfield, acting executive secretary for the Jamaica Church, who introduced the ritual with an historic statement.

The emotion filled moment was a fitting action to launch the Ninety Fifth Synod which emphasized the theme - "Growth Through Self-Reliance." The balance of the weeks program lifted up "Self-Reliance through Planned Financing, through Community Participation, and through Evangelism. Dr. William Nottingham, executive secretary for the Department of Latin America and the Caribbean, was an interpreter of events and coordinator for the U.S.A. delegation.

Convocation President Hylton addressed a plenary session and Administrative Secretary Fox was the principal Banquet speaker.

The highly meaningful week was climaxed in stately public meeting at the Duke Street Church on Friday night, April 3 when Richmond Nelson, Headmaster at Oberlin High School was the closing speaker, and Pastor Cyril H. Morris of the Highgate Church installed Stotrell Lowe as the first executive secretary.



Dr. William Nottingham, Executive Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, joins Dr. Thomas in a consultation at the Hotel Casa Monte of Kingston with short term fraternal worker Ms. Carmen Gibson. Carmen is ending her term of service in the Jamaican Church this summer. Miss Gibson has served the Church in Kenya, Africa, the Virgin Islands and now Jamaica.

JAMAICANS SEEK "SELF-RELIANCE"

NINETY FIFTH ANNUAL SYNOD
of the Disciples of Christ



Stotrell G. Lowe is installed in the final Synod Service April 4 in Duke Street Church, Kingston, by Pastor Cyril H. Morris of the Highgate Church as the "Executive Secretary" of the newly independent Disciples of Christ in Jamaica. Other leaders receiving the installation handshake are left to right: Mrs. Victor (Carmen) Browne, Treasurer and Pastor C.C. Smith of the Kingsgate Church in Kingston, Vice-President. (Mrs. Browne's husband was re-elected Clerk of the Synod.)



An important aspect of religious life in Jamaica is program of the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston. April 3 the above met briefly with the College President. Left to right: Dr. Robert A. Thomas, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries, U.S.A.; Pastor Bevis Byfield of the Torrington Church, Kingston; Ruth Montgomery, volunteer tutor in Christian Education at the College; Horace O. Russell, President of the College and Dr. William K. Fox, Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, U.S.A.



Keith Goldson, dedicated church layman and re-elected President of the Jamaican Church, is congratulated April 2 during a banquet by Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, U.S.A. Dr. Hylton presented Brother Goldson with a religious medalion as a memento from the Convocation.



Jamaican hospitality and graciousness was showered on the U.S.A. delegation. Here Mrs. S. Smith, immediate past President of the Christian Women's Fellowship, gives Dr. Robert A. Thomas some love tokens to carry back to the U.S.A. The activity took place during the Synod Banquet April 2.

PARTIAL MEETING DATES for CHURCHES of CHRIST DISCIPLES of CHRIST of AMERICA, INC.

Time	Event	Place
May 20-23, 1975	- The Fifth Biennial Session of the General Assembly Disciples of Christ	- St. Mark Church of Christ, Brooklyn, N.Y.
September 11-14, 1975	- Northeastern Assembly of the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ	- Place to be announced
October 9-12, 1975	- 105th Annual Assembly of the Washington and Norfolk District Disciples of Christ in Eastern North Carolina and Virginia	- Headquarters Building, Roper, NC
October 17-19, 1975	- The Union Assembly of the Churches of Christ Disciples of Christ, Rocky Mount, NC and Richmond District	- Place to be announced
October 22-26, 1975	- 103rd Annual Session of the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly, Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ)	- Goldsboro Disciples Institute, Goldsboro, NC
November 13-16, 1975	- Western Assembly of the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ	- Place to be announced
December 26-28, 1975	- The South Albemarle Union Meeting of the Churches of Christ-Disciples of Christ	- Place to be announced
December 26-28, 1975	- Southwest District Meeting,	Goldsboro Disciples Institute, Goldsboro, NC
December 28-29, 1975	- Dunn-Wilmington District Union of the Disciples of Christ of the Southern Assembly	- Place to be announced

STATE CONVENTION OR FELLOWSHIP DATES

Time	Event	Place
Jun2 19-22, 1975	- Alabama Christian Missionary Convention	- Mobile, Alabama
July 4-6, 1975	- Florida Convocation of the Christian Church	- Silver Springs, Florida
July 9-11, 1975	- Leadership Conference	- Tougaloo, Mississippi
July 9-13, 1975	- Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship	- Jarvis Christian College Hawkins, Texas
July 15-20, 1975	- Kentucky Christian Missionary Fellowship	- Louisville, Kentucky
August 6-10, 1975	- Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention	- Shaw, Mississippi
August 13-17, 1975	- Piedmont Tri-State District Convention	- Roanoke, Virginia
October 9-12, 1975	- South Carolina Christian Missionary Convention	- Place to be announced

GENERAL CHURCH

Time	Event	Place
August 15-20, 1975	- General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	- San Antonio, Texas



The "Second Coming Choir" of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN has an exciting musical album on sale.

It features the songs which made this great choir an inspiration for all attending the 1973 General Assembly in Cincinnati. The album costs \$5.00. Contact the church at 130 W. 29th, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

SEND ME YOUR • DATES

• ARTICLES • QUESTIONS



W. K. Fox
Box 1986
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46206

BY
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OF
MONTH

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OF OTHER
INTERESTED
CHURCH WORKERS.

EDITORIAL POLICY

THIS IS A NEWSLETTER WITH EMPHASIS ON NEWS. OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO RECORD THAT NEWS WHICH INFORMS, EDIFIES AND EXPANDS THE CHURCHMANSHIP VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSION.

EDITORIALIZING IS HELD TO A MINIMUM. WE DO NOT PROVIDE SPACE FOR UNSOLICITED READER RESPONSE AND/OR CONTINUING DEBATE.

WE ASSUME THAT THE SOURCES OF DATA ARE RELIABLE AND SHARE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF UP-DATE. THE COOPERATION OF THE READERS AND CONGREGATIONS IS APPRECIATED. YOU MAKE UP-DATE.

KEEP THE NEWS COMING.

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Up-Date

ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

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

SOME NOTES ON AFRICA

This gigantic statue of a Mau Mau freedom fighter stands on the campus of the Paa Ya Paa Artist Guild community 12 miles from Nairobi, Kenya.

It arouses the deep yearnings and strivings for creative expression, self-reliance, and nationhood which I found present throughout the parts of Africa I was privileged to visit briefly this July.

The statue was fabricated in concrete over a period of seven months by a talented East African artist who belongs to the Paa Ya Paa Guild - a community of gifted young people guided by the famous artist-philosopher couple of Elimo and Rebeka Njau.

But from what I saw and felt all too briefly, full freedom, self-reliance and nationhood in Kenya, Sambia, Tanzania, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal will require more than concrete and take longer than seven months.

Yet one has the feeling deep down inside that self-reliance and nationhood will come to such developing countries in Africa in varying degrees, through various means and on different time-tables. Church and government leadership whom I met seemed determined to build nations capable of responsible membership in the world community.



UP-DATE

VOL. III, NO. 8/9
Aug.-Sept., 1975

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

One Wednesday while walking casually through the big Makola area of Accra, Ghana, I wandered into the large Presbyterian Church just back of the Parliament building of Ghana.

I found the church crowded (What spiritual devotion I thought.) The preacher was talking. Presently there was singing and people rose and walked toward the exits. I got up and followed.

Outside I moved past the bulletin board on the patio to the main corridor and continued down the steps. People were circling on either side toward the center and looking up at me with strange expressions on their faces.

I looked back of me and lo there were pall bearers carrying a wooden casket. I was leading a funeral processional.

Embarrassed, I quickly got lost in the crowd. I thought I had been attending a traditional worship service.

Every country we visited in Africa and every community we entered could have provided similar experiences. I soon discovered that what I thought I was seeing and hearing was really different from what my Western orientation led me to believe. If I could have understood the language of the preacher in the church and known the words of the hymn, I would have known the type of service I was experiencing.

The language - the symbols - the values and national objectives are among the things one should have some understanding about if one is to appreciate the revolutions going on today in various African countries. I left after three weeks with a long unfinished study-action agenda.

I saw many people who are trying to provide solutions to the problems of nation-building in Africa -- Church leaders; "Y" workers; a Pentecostal preacher with a vision; an African culture researcher; a brilliant artist-philosopher; an Evangelical Church basketball team; three Peace Corp. workers, etc. By chance I rode from New York to Indianapolis with the executive of the development program for the World Council of Churches.

But the ultimate solutions will not come from the Europeans, the Chinese or we Americans -- but from the Africans themselves.

I will be eternally grateful to Robert Nelson and the Division of Overseas Ministries for making this experience possible for me and for Mrs. Wallace Ford of Colorado who was an enjoyable traveling companion.



CHURCH IN OUR TIME

(excerpts from an address)
by Mirhetha McMickle*

"Over the past decade or so there has been much discussion and activity on the matter of identity, especially among young people... would suggest to you that perhaps as Christians, we have also experienced an identity crisis and have a need to know who we are and from whence we have come...

"We are a part of the Church universal which came into being on the Day of Pentecost...a part of the Church in the United States...a part of some local congregation - and we are a part of the Black Church in the United States...

The Black church has been necessary to aid in the provision of "education, economic opportunity and unity for a people who had been denied all three." It has "provided the training ground for Black leadership...the forum for social issues which have confronted the Black population...the place where talent in music and oratory has been developed; it has been the repository of our history and culture."

"Perhaps the most significant event in recent years was the Montgomery bus boycott which subsequently turned history around for black people...

"More recently, Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, pastored by the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, has been in the forefront of Black churches engaged in programs of economics, self

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS...The grand opening of a "Community Cafeteria" at the Hillside Christian Church was recently announced by the manager, Rancil Williams. The cafeteria expects to "specialize in fine foods for the whole community" and is open from 4:00 pm until 9:00 pm. The opening day featured "live entertainment". Mose Laderson is pastor.

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE...Good Samaritan Christian Church has resumed services in its own building at 3635-37 Park Heights Avenue after worshipping elsewhere while the building was being refurbished. The pastor, the Rev. Gabriel Manns, is experimenting with a Saturday Night Sing" and worship service with some success.

MT. OLIVET Church had two of its members receive the M.Ed., degree from John Hopkins University recently. They were Mrs. Edith F. Harris and Mrs. Marion Whitfield Battle.

50 new members joined during 1974-1975. June 18 27 persons were baptized and given the right hand of fellowship. Donald A. Gibbs is pastor.

OHIO, CINCINNATI...The United Church commissioned Cheryl Boyce to do a study on youth several months ago. The study entitled A SURVEY OF YOUNG ADULT ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CHURCH is now complete and being evaluated by the congregation. John R. Compton, Sr. is pastor.

VIGNETTES

CONTINUED

TEXAS, HAWKINS... "Key Woman" Mrs. E.B. Washington spurred District V's CWF group of the Southwest Region to achieve its financial goal for Outreach Giving in 1974-1975. She was given high commendation during the July 16-21 meeting of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship at Jarvis Christian College. (A fire which completely destroyed Mrs. Washington's home in Somerville, Texas prevented her from receiving the recognition in person.)

MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON... United Christian Church sponsored a "Calendar Tea" June 1 at the Grove Park Community House. Mrs. Verona H. Ratton was chairperson for the event which realized \$3,000 emphasized "Serving through the Months," and crowned Mrs. C. C. Mosley, Sr. "Mrs. United Christian."

The high day was launched by a sermon by Thomas Griffin of Indianapolis. R. H. Peoples is pastor.

MISSOURI, JEFFERSON CITY... Ernest J. Newborn, Associate Secretary for the Christian Church in Missouri, Inc., delivered the "Baccalaureate Sermon" for the Senior High School here in May. Superintendent of Schools Joe Nichols, Jr. described the presentation as "beautifully done."

NORTH CAROLINA, WILSON... Karey E.L. Gee, Associate Minister of the Christian Church in North Carolina was baccalaureate speaker for the graduating seniors of Fike Senior High School here in June.

DEVELOPING AFRICAN GENIUS



These women are the sole breadwinners in their families in Nairobi, Kenya, have low incomes and reside in a deprived community. The Maridadi Craft Center makes cotton print material and fashions all sorts of products from this cloth for sale. A congregation in Nairobi sponsors the project in cooperation with the Kenya Council of Churches.



These art pieces are part of the many produced by the East African artists in residence at Paa Ya Paa, Nairobi, Kenya. "Paa Ya Paa" means "the antelope rises." Elimo Njau, its driving spirit, says "Symbolically it means ... the antelope rises into a realm of open-minded creative adventures." It is the oldest African-owned, non-profit art gallery and studio in Nairobi - "aimed at the promotion of the work of (serious) artists, musicians, and writers. . ."

VIGNETTES from page 4

NORTH CAROLINA, GOLDSBORO...August 3, 1975 was designated as "The Day of Dedicatory Services for Saint Mark Church of Christ." Dr. J. L. Melvin is pastor and presiding Bishop for the Goldsboro-Raleigh District.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS...Ministers and friends of Dr. Thomas Benjamin, Jr. of Second Church had a "small dress dinner celebration in his honor" at the Indianapolis Athletic Club June 21. The event was coordinated by Landrum Shields at Witherspoon United Presbyterian Church and given in recognition of Brother Benjamin's receipt of a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Christian Theological Seminary.

PENNSYLVANIA, PITTSBURGH...The East Hills Community Church held its first worship service in February 1975 and became the first new Disciples of Christ congregation established above the Mason-Dixon Line in more than a decade. Arthur L. Harris became the first full-time pastor April 1, 1975. Dwight French, Regional minister for the Christian Church in Pennsylvania, has guided the birth of this new congregation.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE...A "Saturday Children's Hour" program carried on weekly in the summer at the Gay-Lea Church sponsored "An Evening in the Holy Land" in May. Dr. Bessie E. Chandler was narrator and Russell Crowder presided. Parents and staff of the "Saturday Children's Hour" sponsored the event. William Dansby is pastor.

TEXAS, FORT WORTH...Tours of the remodeled facilities of Community Christian Church were conducted for a week beginning May 18. Groups in the congregation sponsored evening worship services in a week of formal dedication for the refurbished building. Paul A. Sims, Sr. is pastor.

NORTH CAROLINA, DURHAM...Approximately 250 young people attended the second annual youth revival at the St. James Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) in early April. The theme - "Jesus Christ Liberated" - was preached on nightly by guest leader, the Rev. J.L. Caldwell of Chapel Hill. Brother R.E. Jones, pastor of St. James, reports that the revival was a success. Recently the men of St. James sponsored a "Fellowship Week" series of programs.

CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY...May 18 the Grove Street and Mills Terrace Christian Churches held a merger celebration. The event climaxed a long series of consultations and deliberations by the two congregations. Eugene W. James, pastor of Grove Street, has been a prime mover in this historic development.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO...A "Service of Devotion and Dedication" was held at Park Manor Church in June to climax the conclusion of a remodeling program and the significant leadership of Dr. Charles H. Webb, Sr. Pastor Webb is in his seventeenth year of service to the Park Manor congregation. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, and pastor of the Centennial in St. Louis, was the guest speaker.

CONTINUED ON Page 11

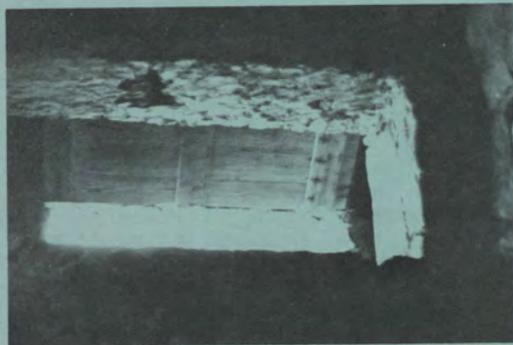
THE SCARS OF SLAVERY



Guide at Isle of Goree, Dakar in Senegal shows how slaves were shackled before the long sea voyage to the West Indies



Torture cell for unruly slaves on the right and death cell on the left. Death was by crucifixion at Elima Castle, Ghana



At the Isle of Goree, Dakar those who survived were put out the exit to the ships and the sea - to the West Indies and America



Court at the Elima Castle in Ghana where slaves had iron shackles put on their feet

MONEY CONFERENCE SPONSORED

Dr. John B. Eubanks on the staff of the School of Religion at Howard University in Washington, D.C., reports that recently the seminary was a co-sponsor of a "Seminar on Money Management and Churches." All ministers in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area were invited. Sponsorship of the event was shared with the Advisory Board of the United National Bank of Washington.

Among the subjects discussed in the one day meeting were: How a Bank Serves Churches; Churches and Politics; A Theology of Stewardship; Church Persons in Business; Cooperative Church Life; and Church Members and Money.

Guest leaders for the discussions were drawn from the business as well as church world.

MEN
EYE
1976



'Who's In Charge' Sessions '76

Do you know what "Sessions '76" is all about? As a Brother in Christ given the task of helping to interpret the event, let me tell you what I know.

The National CMF has asked for a men's meeting similar to the women's Quadrennial. Now we have it. It will be a

men's gathering at Purdue University June 18-22, 1976. It is called Sessions '76. The theme is "Who's In Charge".

Its objectives are:

- To Provide fellowship.
- To Develop inspiration.
- To Educate for better churchmanship and Christian living.
- To Deepen commitment to Christ and the mission of His church.
- To consider the question "Who's In Charge".

A great program is being put together. Now is the time for you to make arrangements to attend. Sam Kelley, Coordinator

BARNES KEYNOTES

Carnella J. Barnes of Los Angeles, president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship, climaxed a series of CWF institutes in the Region of Indiana June 21 with a keynote address at a retreat in Indianapolis at Indiana Central College on the theme: "From Service to Servant - Try Caring."

Mrs. Barnes is assistant director of the Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs. In 1973 she was given special recognition by the South Central Planning Council on the Aging for outstanding service to the community.

Indiana CWF groups held skillshop classes for officers prior to the Retreat in eight districts of the Region.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ennix, first Black woman staff for the Region, coordinated the sequence of events.

YOUTH CHALLENGE YOUTH

Five college and seminary students planning careers in the ministry shared their concepts of the ministry with high school students in camps this summer.

They were Gregory L. Brown, Indianapolis; Lonnie E. Edmonson, Durham, NC.; Pete Felix, Houston, Texas; Elayne B. Johnson, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Laurel E. Nowell, Denver, Colorado.

They participated in camps in Arkansas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Iowa, Michigan, California, South Carolina, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Illinois, North Carolina, New York and in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The five were participants in the Person to Person Interpretation Program of the Department of Ministry and Worship, started in 1969 to encourage young people to consider the ministry as careers.

"Through the program, we have been instrumental in motivating young persons to prepare for the ministry in the Christian Church,...", said Clarence L. Johnson, Jr., Indianapolis, director of black ministry and administrator of the program.

"The aim is that as participants interpret ministry, they model a ministry that ennobles human life and enables the person to arrive at

his or her decision," Johnson said.

While in camps, the five described seminary life and theological education or the short-term ministries they are in, share their understanding and concern for human issues and human ecology, and relate why they are preparing for the ministry. CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH IN OUR TIME (from page 3)

help, and education...this congregation has financed and built a shopping center..., an aerospace center and a housing development...With the help of federal funds a chain of Opportunities Industrialization Centers in 80 cities across the United States (and Africa) which have been training men and women in marketable skills, as well as basic academic education...

"The ministry of the Church has been changing "as it moves beyond the walls of church building to serve the needs of the surrounding community..."

"The Church in our time will survive if you and I take (the) Great Commission seriously - 'Go ye therefore.' He said 'Go' - He did not say send... sit and wait for those who need...but go where the needs are...Go in love."

*Mrs. McMickle is a member of the Park Manor Church of Chicago and delivered the full address there during the 1975 Woman's Day worship service

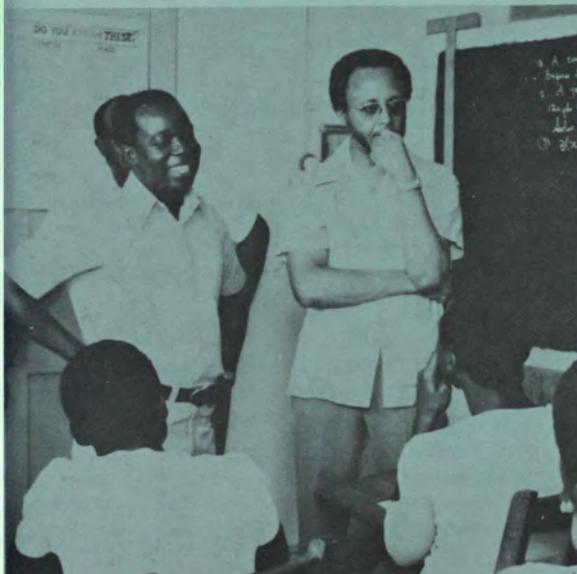
FACTORS IN NATION BUILDING



Secretary S.A. Shauri of the Christian Council of Tanzania typifies a church organization related to the needs of the Nation. - Dar Es Salaam



Director J.C. Mfula orients Ms. Jane Heaton, former general worker for the Disciples of Christ, on her responsibilities at the Mindola Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe, Zambia - a courageous experiment in leadership development



Dr. William Shaw, pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church, right, is told by the Opportunities Industrial Committee Director in Accra, Ghana how these young men are securing marketable skills



Young men in the O.I.C. center in Accra, Ghana learning how to lay drain pipe

HARRIS SPEAKS AGAIN

Summer has almost gone and many of us have been relaxing from our Christian Womens Fellowship meetings.

I hope some of you, however, are in the process of implementing our new study materials for the 1975-76 year.

I hope you will select the study material which will be of genuine interest to your group. (Materials can be secured from the Christian Board of Publication in St. Louis, or your Regional Church office.)

The time is also drawing near for those of you who are planning a Woman's Day program to begin thinking about a speaker. Send me your desires and I will be pleased to suggest the names of several persons to you. Write:

Mary Harris, Chairperson
C.W.F. National Convocation
P. O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

FULTON CHURCH ACTIVE

A gigantic money tree was presented to Rev. W. L. Jenkins of 2nd Christian Church, Fulton, Mo. during his 2nd anniversary service June 29, 1975. Mrs. Sandra Richmond and Ms. Rita Richmond were program chairmen.

.....

Pastor Jenkins held a \$1,000.00 financial drive during the month of April. It was a success. \$1,059.75 was contributed with the cooperation of all the church members.

.....

"Giving flowers while you live" was started several months ago. The following people have received awards for their outstanding Christian services to the church: Mrs. Lorraine Dudley; Mrs. Shirley Cuson; Mrs. Maxine Webb; Mr. Willie Scruggs and Woodrow Ellington.



FOR
WHOM
THE
BELLS
TOLL

THOSE WHO HAVE
CROSSED OVER

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - Memorial services were held recently for Elder W. C. Wiley, Sr., Chairman of the Congregation of Community Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas. He also served as an elder and trustee. Elder Wiley was also chairman of Local 351, Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen, for the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad, and a Chef Cook. Survivors include his widow; Mrs. Etta R. Wiley; a son, W. G. Wiley, Jr.; brother, James Wiley of San Francisco, Ca., sisters Mrs. D. W. Bond, Compton, Ca., Mrs. N. W. Stockes of San Angelo, Texas. Christian interment was held at Fort Worth's People's Burial Park.

The Reverend Paul A. Sims, Sr., pastor at Community, delivered the eulogy, "A Price Has Fallen!"



May 1, prior to accepting a call to become pastor of Pine Street Christian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Charles Webb, Jr. was ordained at the Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago, Ill. Left to right: Leon Riley, Chicago Disciples Union executive; Jack Reeve, Illinois Regional Church Minister; John Compton, vice-moderator of the Church; Herbert Knudson, presiding minister for ordination; Montee Akers, Jr., assistant minister at Park Manor; Charles H. Webb, Sr., Senior minister at Park Manor; Montee Akers, Sr., Park Manor elder; kneeling, Charles Webb, Jr., the candidate.



BRIGHT TO B.C.E.

Gerrod (Jerry) C. Bright has joined the staff of Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ as an internal auditor, according to Harold R. Watkins, Vice President and Treasurer of the international planning and financing unit.

Bright, formerly an accountant with the international certified public accounting firm of Ernst and Ernst, is a graduate of Phenix High School, Hampton, Virginia; Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg and holds a B.S. in Accounting from Norfolk State College.

In his new position he will be in charge of procedures for monitoring fiscal control of the multimillion dollar agency through accurate and continuing audit output.

Bright served in the United States Air Force for eight years. He is married to the former Florence Jones of Hampton, Virginia. They have a five year old daughter.

BACK TO HOME BASE

by Lorenzo J. Evans

Given the history of the Black man in America, it is inevitable that a theological enterprise would develop to articulate the Black religious experience. That enterprise has just barely begun. Its task is to explore not only the theme of liberation, but concepts of God, the nature of contemporary faith and the meaning of personhood. It must develop new myths and symbols to undergird both faith and action. It must further define the nature and purpose of the Black church and clarify its mission and the soul of its ministry.

I propose that the purpose of the Black church and its ministry today is what it has always been: that is to help Black people experience the fact that God's love, as revealed in Jesus Christ. This makes a critical difference in the quality of man's life in this world. In order to do this, the Black church must define itself in such a way that both the collective and the personal aspects of living are transformed and made a new creation.

This conviction about God's concern for man's life in history is articulated well by James Cone in his second book, A Black Theology of Liberation. In other words, the Black Church will not have envisioned its task completely unless it

determines its mission to be that of helping to transform the conditions under which Black men live collectively in this society. It is not enough for a few Black exceptions to "make it". The masses of Black Christians must "make it" also.

At the same time, however, the church must also help Black people to experience the fact that God's love makes a difference at the personal and individual level. In all the conversation in Black Theology about liberation and freedom, it seems to me not enough attention has been given as yet to the problems and needs of the Black man. His collective needs have begun to be articulated, but Black theologians have forgotten to some extent that he also has many personal and individuals needs.

What we must never forget is that the Black Church as tribal community provided, in addition, some alleviation of the harsh conditions under which Blacks lived. The most successful congregations did not depend upon worship and preaching alone. Beyond what could be called "worship therapy", they developed and utilized their common resources both to build individual personhood and to provide for such natural and social wants of Blacks as housing, food, business and education.

I would say that within the last fifty years or more, say between 1910 and 1965, the Black church forgot that heritage and responsibility. It forgot its peculiarly Black mission and tried to become "Christian" as some American Protestants, understood Christianity. It failed to offer a real alternative for living to the urban Black even though there was a church on virtually every corner.

I would suggest that the function of the Black Church in this generation is to return to what it once knew best: helping Black people to experience the fact that God's love for man makes a critical difference in the quality of life in this world.

I believe there are two major methods by which this purpose can be achieved. First, by building a self-conscious communities of faith which concentrate their resources and energies on the particular needs of memebers of the community of faith.

(continued in next issue)
* Retired member of general Church staff

Fox
I.F.C.O.
OFFICER

Dr. William K. Fox of Indianapolis, Assistant to the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation has been elected first vice-president of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO).

IFCO is a church and community foundation whose mission is to help forward the struggles of oppressed people for justice and self-determination. The board met in Toledo, Ohio recently to announce grants for 1975, elect officers and plan new directions together with community organizations from across the country. Christian Church News

WOMEN LAUNCH STUDY

Approximately 35 leaders from churches across Texas of the Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) were introduced to the 1975-76 International CWF theme, "Caring," at the CWF workshop during the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship's 94th Annual Assembly held at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas July 16-20, 1975.

Ms. Laura Luz Bacerra, national director of Social Involvement for the Christian Church, Indianapolis, delivered the principal address on Women's Night, July 17. Correlating the CWF's 1975-76 theme, "Caring" with TCMF's general theme, Christian Witness In Times Like These, Ms. Bacerra pointed out areas in which Christiana people must become involved, areas in which they must care "in times like these."

Mrs. Alva Brown, Associate Minister of the Christian Church in the South-west (CCSW), conducted the workshop sessions and previewed and displayed 1975-76 CWF/CWF study materials.

The Texas women re-elected Mrs. Cora Ward of Dallas to head the CWF. Other officers are: Mrs. Giley Griffin, vice-president; Mrs. Ruthie Jackson, secretary; Mrs. Carrie Fudgen, treasurer; Mrs. Ural Hardin, worship director; and Mrs. Carrie Johnson, service director.

SEND ME YOUR • DATES

• ARTICLES • QUESTIONS



W. K. Fox
Box 1986
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46206

By
1st
of
MONTH

WE
WOULD
BE GLAD
TO HAVE
A LIST
OF
NAMES/ADDRESSES
OF OTHER
INTERESTED
CHURCH WORKERS.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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EDITORIALIZING IS HELD TO A MINIMUM. WE DO NOT PROVIDE SPACE FOR UNSOLICITED READER RESPONSE AND/OR CONTINUING DEBATE.

WE ASSUME THAT THE SOURCES OF DATA ARE RELIABLE AND SHARE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF UP-DATE. THE COOPERATION OF THE READERS AND CONGREGATIONS IS APPRECIATED. YOU MAKE UP-DATE.

KEEP THE NEWS COMING.

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ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

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

SPRAYED WITH HOLY WATER

This month's emphasis on the importance of the Christian ministry brings into focus the Ghanaian preacher in Accra who is famous for slinging a bucket of water on his arm during the Sunday morning service and splashing cold holy water (indiscriminately) on the waiting worshippers.

Every minister should use his unique spiritual gifts to proclaim the ancient Gospel. In places like Accra, Ghana this means Africanization of the Christian enterprise.

Pastor Yeboah-Korie, 36 year-old leader of the 200,000 member Feden Church in Ghana is a good example.



Yeboah-Korie, leader of the Feden Revival Church, Ghana, Africa. Spreading the gospel via holy water, schools & farms.

When I asked the hotel attendants how to get to Feden Church in Accra, the waiter, porter and taxi driver all knew the exact directions. (The life and work of a congregational minister should make a favorable impact on his immediate community whether or not people attend the church he serves.)

How can you forget the ministry of a congregation in Accra, Ghana which is only 12 years old but runs five schools - three prepatory, one secondary and one commercial?

How can you forget the ministry of a congregation which started out pooling their own few dollars to develop a mile square plantain and cocoyam farm at Bogoro, Ghana?

cont. pg. 2

UP-DATE

VOL. III, NO. 10/11

Oct.-Nov., 1975

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

How can you forget an urban pastor who guides 15 rural area ministers to lead members in their congregations to cultivate cash crops?

How can you forget a three hour worship experience led by a young pastor who goes down aisles splashing cold water on worshippers twice during the service? Mixes a squeeze of Bay Rum between sprays the second time around? Preaches an earnest and practical sermon translated into African dialect with equal vigor by a woman interpreter? Is supported in worship leadership by a electronic guitar, brass ensemble, a chancel choir and traditional African chant group? Prefaces the offering with a dramatic healing service?

Of course you don't forget. During these days when we engage in pastor's anniversaries and minister's observances of several kinds, you and I should strive to analyze how we can make a greater impact upon the mind and life of this challenging generation.

Maybe it won't take cold holy water and a squeeze of Bay Rum. But whatever it takes which in line with the spirit and intent of Jesus Christ at least ought to be tried.

RECOGNITION EVENT for the STANLEYS

Church and community leaders in near East U.S.A. attended a "Recognition Banquet" September 27 in the Park Avenue Christian Church for the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Stanley. It was an act of appreciation by church people in the New York Metropolitan District of the Christian

Church in the Northeastern Region as Arthur Stanley retires November 1, 1975 after seven years of service as the Area's executive minister.

The treasured "Honored Minister" pin was placed on Mr. Stanley in behalf of the Church by Dr. William K. Fox, Assistant to the General Minister and President of the Christian Church. High tributes to the Stanleys were given by Dr. Daniel K. Potter, president of the Council of Churches for the City of New York; Maurice M. Bell, urban church executive for the New York Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ; Dr. George W. Weber, president of New York Theological Seminary and Robert Washington, dean of that institution.

Also Elder David L. Kinard, president of the Black Minister's Fellowship in Brooklyn, Gontran Lopez, president of the Hispanic LaJunta of New York; J. W. Gardner, Bishop of the United District of the Church; Executive Minister Charles Lamb for the staff of the Northeastern Area of Christian Churches; and Mrs. Laura Briggs, president of the Area Board.

A letter of tribute was read from Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, General Minister and President of the Christian Church.

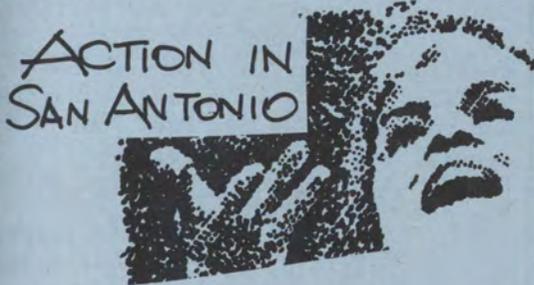
Music was supplied by the Antioch Church Choir of New Brunswick, New Jersey where Elder James Spencer is minister, and Mrs. Carrie Quander of Second Church, Bronx, New York where Elder Theodore Friedly is the pastor.

The Stanleys received gifts and a "special issue" of the Area newspaper featuring their services to the churches was distributed. A

basket of red roses was given to Mrs. Stanley by Mrs. A. Martinez in behalf of the Christian Womens Fellowship.

Titus Haynes of Long Island, New York and Anthony Carpenter of East Orange, New Jersey alternated as presiders. Booker T. Dickason, intern staff for the Area, handled program details.

The Stuyvesant Heights Church of Brooklyn, New York catered the event.



In a spirit of "Celebremos", some 8500 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members from the U.S. and Canada celebrated diversity of cultures, beliefs and understandings of faith in their biennial General Assembly August 15-20 in San Antonio, Texas.

Beneath a backdrop proclaiming "Celebremos!" -- "Let's Celebrate!" -- the Disciples spent six days debating social issues and church policy, worshiping in words and music and hearing Bible lectures and speakers.

Moderator Dr. Jean Woolfolk, Little Rock, Ark., led the delegates through a jam-packed business docket of 78 reports, resolutions and study papers.

The docket was so full, it required two special evening sessions -- an unusual practice during the assembly in recent years.

The assembly established theological education as a major priority of the church, although it turned down a particular proposal for funding education of ministers.

Dr. Woolfolk called the passage of the resolution making theological education a priority the authority to develop a plan for its funding.



Dr. James Moak, regional minister for the Christian Church in Kentucky, acknowledges his election as moderator of the General Assembly. Retiring Moderator, Jean Woolfolk in foreground.

She challenged delegates to tell their congregations that "We can't keep slicing and reslicing the pie. We've got to buy a bigger pie."

In other action, the assembly said it supported individual freedom in abortion decisions.

In other actions, the assembly: -- defeated a package of resolutions aimed at blunting the church's speaking on moral, ethical, political, economic, legislative and government issues. -- Reaffirmed its opposition to capital punishment. -- Opposed hard-core pornography in all forms

-- Urged the end of military and economic aid to the Philippines and called for a halt to imprison-

ment and torture of opponents to President Marcos. -- Opposed legalized gambling as a means of funding government. -- Reaffirmed support of the United Farm Workers Union and support of boycotts on lettuce, grapes and wines not bearing the label.

Almost 10 per cent of the resolutions that came before the assembly dealt with world hunger. All were aimed at world food shortages, including a world distribution system, conserving energy sources, establishing a national food policy, increasing food production, and such symbolic gestures as sacrificial meals.

Elected to serve for two years were Dr. James A. Moak, Lexington, Ky., moderator; Dr. James K. Hempstead, Dallas, Texas, first vice-moderator; and Dr. Ann E. Dickerson, Nashville, Tenn., second vice-moderator.

Dr. Moak is general secretary for Kentucky Disciples. Dr. Hempstead is minister of East Dallas Christian Church. Dr. Dickerson is assistant director of a child development clinic and assistant professor at Meharry Medical College.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

TOOLS FOR THE JOB...

We Call Ourselves Disciples
by Kenneth L. Teegarden
reviewed by Sherman R. Hanson

We are "Disciples." That is to say,
of course, that we are members of

congregations associating together in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which in turn says a lot more. "Disciples" is one of those full words and terms whose scope is extensive. Once you begin telling a friend what being a "Disciple" means you can easily find yourself going on and on.

Questions like: "Who are the Disciples" and "What do Disciples believe and do" crop up all the time. Those of us who are Disciples are continually working out and refining our ways of responding to such questions. Over the years we have utilized various books and resources, and now we have a new one: our general minister and president, Kenneth L. Teegarden, has written **WE CALL OURSELVES DISCIPLES**, endeavoring "to tell what the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is like in simple terms." Purchase from the Christian Board of Publication in St. Louis. Cost \$3.25.

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a conference at the National 4-H Center at 7100 Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. Friday, October 31 on **BLACK CHURCHES AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT**.

and Saturday, November 1 at the same place a conference under Washington Area sponsorship on **CHURCHES UNITING TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY LIFE**.

Contact Joseph Nash, 475 Riverside Drive, New York City 10027 (Phone 212-870-2050)

COLLEGIATES SERVE CHURCHES

Six interns served for 10 weeks last summer with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Short-term Employment Experience in Ministry (STEEM) program.

Leroy Frazier, a senior at Talladega (Ala.) College, worked with the Hunger Hotline program based at the All People's Christian Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Emery Lewis, Jackson, Miss., a senior at Tougaloo (Miss.) College, was assigned to the Mallory Avenue Christian Church, Portland, Ore.

Renee LaMondue, a junior at Lemoyn-Owen College in Memphis, Tenn., served with the St. Mark's Community Christian Church in Mobile, Ala.

Eugene Ross, a lay elder of the Christian Church, Camden, Miss., worked with the Christian Church Commission, Louisville, Ky.

Martin Polite, Garnett, S.C., a senior at Talladega College was also associated with the Christian Church Commission, Louisville

Cerise Brown, Indianapolis, Ind., a senior at Jarvis Christian College, served with the Five-Church Association of St. Louis, Mo.

The purpose of STEEM is to provide outstanding college students with an opportunity to explore some aspect of ministry as a career.

Supported in part by a grant from the black leadership projects committee of the Division of Homeland Ministries, the STEEM program is administered by the Board of Higher Education, with Richard B. Jones as staff coordinator.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

OHIO, CINCINNATI...Pastor John Compton at the United Church had a course for the membership this month (October) on "How to Handle Grief." November through January 1976 the minister is conducting classes for United Church members and friends on "Mastering New Testament Facts" and the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS...Persons joining Dr. James L. Merrill (Editor of THE DISCIPLE) on the "Caribbean Discovery" tour January 6-16, 1976 will spend a day at Oberlin School at Lawrence Tavern, Kingston, Jamaica. Tour places are still open.

TEXAS, HAWKINS...When the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship held its 94th Assembly July 16 at Jarvis Christian College emphasizing "The Challenge of the Church--In Times Like These," President Charles L. Faulkner said in a stirring "Keynote Address: "The continuing challenge of the Church in this present age is to imitate Jesus Christ...to demonstrate suffering love...to challenge ...its members to strive for perfection...demonstrate its essential oneness...challenge its members to get out of it...out of 'ivory towers' with the message of concern and love for people."

ALABAMA, MOBILE...Clarence Johnson, director of black ministry for the

Church, brought the Saturday morning inspirational message for the 97th annual session of the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention which was held at the St. Mark's Church. Some of the church workers sharing in the leadership of the assembly were president J. J. Fountain; H. B. Bowser, pastor of the Ross Street Church; J. T. Beale, regional minister; Mrs. J. L. Gilchrist, chairwoman for Christian education; Willie Jackson, chairman for the CMF; Mrs. Fletcher Fountain, chairwoman for the CWF; and John Lewis, chairman of the minister's fellowship.

D.C., WASHINGTON...Brother Frank B. Bradley member of Michigan Park Church and serving an interim at Second Church in Hagerstown, Maryland, received a Masters of Arts degree from the Federal City College last June.

TEXAS, WACO...Mrs. Sadie Harper gave a financial gift to the Clay Street Church in June as a memorial for her late husband.

ALABAMA, BIRMINGHAM...J. T. Beale, regional minister and interim pastor for the Jeffries Memorial Church, recently brought the principal address at Macedonia Church when members at the Jeffries Church gave \$125 to Macedonia's building fund. The offering during the program was over \$1,000.

TEXAN IN MISSISSIPPI REVIVAL

The New Hope United Christian Church of Camden, Mississippi held it's 1975 Spiritual Revival September first through the seventh with Elder A. L. Smith of Jefferson, Texas bringing the timely messages each night. The success of the meeting was highlighted by the confessions of four young people who were candidates for baptism.

The Church is more than indebted to Sister M. L. Arrington and Sister B. Flemings for the fine work they are doing with our young people's choir which furnished the soul stirring music during the meeting.

Gratitude was expressed for having the privilege of working with such a cooperative group in trying to get the message of Christ to all in the community. James W. Ratten is pastor.

JAMAICAN LEADER TOURS TEXAS

Keith Goldson, of Kingston president of the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica, made a visitation to selected points in Texas, following his attendance at the San Antonio General Assembly.

Among those hosting the gracious lay church leader were Paul Sims and the Community Church; A. M. Pennybacker and the University Church; Harold

Rea and the Regional Office of the Southwest - all of Fort Worth.

Also Warren Chrisman and the Dallas Area Office; Melvin Dickson and the Warren Avenue Church; the Romine Church - all of Dallas.

Also Emmett J. Dickson, John Paul Jones and Jarvis Christian College; First Church - all of Hawkins.

Brother Goldson's activity in Hawkins included lectures and preaching at Jarvis and sharing in an evangelistic program being conducted by Dr. E. J. Dickson at the First Church.

Brother Goldson reports that the Texas visitation was mutually rewarding.

OVERSEAS WORKERS HONORED

Last July the Macedonia Christian Church at Birmingham, Alabama was the place where black Alabama Disciples of Christ had an appreciation reception event for returning short term overseas church workers, Mrs. Sandra Rucker Gourdet of Zaire, Africa and Maldonia Jackson who has completed her term in Japan.

Sandra Gourdet, who was accompanied by her husband, Daniel Gourdet, have been working in Mbandaka, Zaire as teachers. Mr. Gourdet, a Haitian, is employed by the government as an instructor of mathematics at the Zaire Institute in Bolenge.

Sandra teaches English at the girls' school in Mbandaka-Nsangea N'dotsi and at the Zaire Institute. Both returned to resume their work.

Ms. Jackson completed her two year term in Japan where she taught English to junior high girls. She returned to her position in the public school system of Selma.

The program was mainly informal dialog based on questions and answers. Mr. Gourdet gave an informative talk on Zairean customs and cultures. This was followed by an art exhibit.

The Gourdets presented the church with a cross made of ebony wood and ivory.

Elder Earl Murray, pastor at Macedonia, expressed the appreciation of the congregation and Disciples of Christ in the U.S.A., for the services rendered by the young church members.

Macedonia is Sandra's "home church."

BACK to HOME BASE (PART TWO) by Lorenzo J. Evans

If the energies and talents of a recognizable group in society can be organized to attain manageable goals, the result could be such a demonstration of the impact that the love of God can make in man's temporal life that it would command the attention of the entire black community.

Black churchpersons today have not

paid nearly enough attention to such men in recent black church history as Father Divine and Daddy Grace. Both are usually seen only as exploiters of the black community. But they took seriously the need to change the conditions under which their people live. They need to be studied more. The contemporary version of their approach is the Black Muslim, one of the fastest growing groups among black youth today. The secret of their success is the demonstration that their beliefs work. These beliefs make a fundamental difference in the lives of those who belong to them. The Muslims are engaged in education, economic development, fighting drug abuse, and a host of other things that get at the problems of blacks in this society. They do these things primarily, but not exclusively for their own members. Their demonstration is so convincing and appealing that more and more young blacks are led to join them.

A second method could be the development and utilization of a multi-skilled ministry. In this concept of ministry, the so-called "secular skill" has a definite relationship to the local Christian community. That community defines its goals and relationship also to the so-called "priestly-pastoral-teaching skills" of ministerial history. In other words, the secular and the ecclesiastical come together to provide a single ministry for a particular community designed to produce change.

Black American Christianity has been the unique expression of a people's experience of God; the institutional expression of that experience has been very diverse,

but without competition as the center of black communal life. The black minister, unsurpassed as a leader of the Black community, has been a singular artist as a preacher, employing the twin techniques of storytelling and rhythm in a unique way. Further, it is possible for the black church in this country because it functions as the substitute for the tribe in Africa. If so, the black minister's unrivalled position might be understood as the substitute for the tribal leader, thus accounting for his unique authority.

Finally, the contemporary purpose of the black church as it has always been is to assist black people in experiencing the fact that God's love makes a critical difference in both the personal and collective living of blacks in this world. The methods by which the church can accomplish this purpose are twofold: First, by building self-conscious communities and second, by the development and utilization of a multi-skilled ministry.

These are the ways, it seems to me, that the people of the black Church can develop a new strength and a new faith in God and in themselves and be free of dependence upon what white America may someday do for them.



FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

THOSE WHO
HAVE
CROSSED OVER

EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY - James Lee Claibourne, former army chaplain, public school teacher and pastor, fell dead in Newark, New Jersey in August. He left to mourn his loss a wife and six children. Elder Claibourne had completed Jarvis Christian College and had served congregations in Birmingham, Alabama and East Orange. The memorial service and burial was in his birthplace at Greenwood, Mississippi.

HOUSTON, TEXAS - Mrs. Florence Fields, licensed minister and widely known participant in many regional and general church assemblies, died in a local infirmary in late August. She had suffered a series of attacks - two during her attendance at the San Antonio General Assembly.

Mrs. Fields was a member of the University Church and maintained her living as a saleswoman. She was a vigorous advocate for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) doctrine.

She leaves to mourn her loss a sister and a large number of friends and distant kin.

WACO, TEXAS - Clay Street Christian Church scribe Mrs. R. L. Pennick reports a special worship service held May 25 "In Memory of our Departed Members."

The program was led by Pastor E. B. Washington while the music was provided by Mrs. L. Perkins.

Mrs. Ruby Deckard read a "Roll Call" of the deceased which included: Brothers J. Harper, G. C. Fisher,

Webb Bond, Wanze Givens, Westly Reed, I. Clayton, Floyd Bond; Sisters Pauline Austin, Beulah Reed, Nancy Watkins, Bessie Jearning, Hallie Smith and Ruby Washington.

The observance was concluded with a Communion Service

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - Mrs. Myrtle Heath Evans, public school teacher and social worker died suddenly in a local infirmary September 25 after an extended illness of several years.

She was a devoted member of Second Christian Church where she had served as superintendent of the Children's Department, member of the "Committee of 18," and president of the Christian Women's Fellowship. She served on the board of the Kennedy Memorial Christian Home in Martinsville, Indiana and the Alpha Home for Senior Citizens in Indianapolis.

She left to mourn her loss husband, Dr. Lorenzo Evans, retired general church staff program director; two daughters, Eddie Loe Griffin and Stacy Marie; grandson, Brian Griffin, father and other relatives and friends.

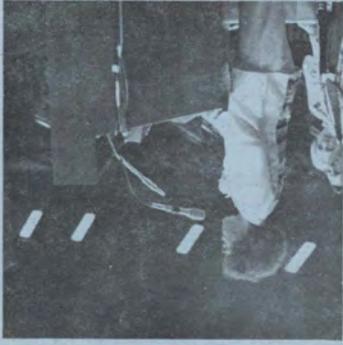
The service took place at Second Church where the memorial message was delivered by Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin, pastor. Principal assistants were R. H. Peoples and Cleo Blackburn.

RURAL CHURCH COMES ALIVE

Cherry Grove Christian Church, almost ten miles in the country from any town or hamlet in Hampton County, South Carolina, has come vibrantly alive!

Members reach the church over unpaved roads which are filled with large mud holes after a hard rain.

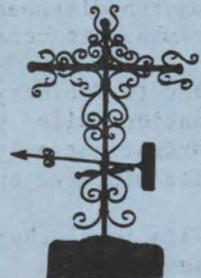
DISCIPLES AT



ANN DICKERSON ACCEPTING ELECTION AS SECOND VICE MODERATORSHIP



SAN ANTONIO



VICE MODERATOR JOHN COMPTON
GUIDES BUSINESS WITH THE G.M.P.



The late
Mrs. Florence Fields

The chairmen set a goal of 3,040 men from 760 congregations.
CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

PIEDMONT CONFAB

The Piedmont Tri-State District Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) met in its Ninety Third Annual Session July 30, through Aug. 3, 1975 with the Loudon Ave. Christian Church, Roanoke, Va. Dr. Noel C. Taylor, Vice Mayor of Roanoke, presented the "Key to the City" to Rev. Robert L. Brown, Convention President.

The Convention Theme was: "ONENESS OF THE CHURCH." Resource Leaders were Dr. E. J. Dickson, Professor of Religion, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas; Raye Feltner, and Karey Gee, Associate Regional Ministers for the Christian Church in North Carolina, Wilson, North Carolina; Miss Rosalie Kinkead, Associate Regional Minister, Christian Church in Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, and Rev. Clarence Johnson, Director of Black Ministry, Division of Homeland Ministries, Indianapolis, Indiana.

103 delegates from Virginia and North Carolina were in attendance.

Elected officers for the New Year are President: Rev. Robert L. Brown, Vice President: Rev. Fred Peeler, Secretary: Mrs. Juanity Dortch, Assistant Secretary: Miss Sandra M. Broadnax and Treasurer, Rev. Joseph L. Galloway.

HISPANICS CONFER

En tiempo de confusion y desesperanza, hemos venido a proclamar la Palabra de Dios.

In a time of confusion and hopelessness we have come to proclaim the Work of God.

En un mundo dividido por el odio y la mentira, hemos venido a celebrar el Amor y la Verdad.

In a world divided by hate and lies, we have come to celebrate the Love and the Truth.

With this beginning some 75 Hispanic ministers and lay people of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) wrestled with problems of the ministry in a National Strategy Conference on Hispanic Ministries June 25-28 in New York City.

Many of the frustrations surfacing were identical with those of other minority groups seeking a larger role in the church: little understanding of Hispanic cultural values, minimal representation of church boards and committees, slowness in starting new congregations and lack of active recruitment of Hispanic ministers.

Hispanic Disciples number approximately 2500 in 24 congregations out of the 1.3 million members of the 4500 congregations.

The conference, the first of its kind for Disciples, drew delegates from the northeastern states, the southwest, the Pacific coast and special guests from Latin America.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

“MY LORD IS A WRITING ALL THE TIME”

Convocation Churches Offerings For all Causes
Through Church Finance Council (Unified Promotion)
July 1, 1973 - June 30, 1974 compared to July 1, 1974 - June 30, 1975

<u>Regions</u>	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>\$Gain or Loss</u>	<u>% Gain of Loss</u>
Alabama	\$1,202	\$4,969	+ 3,767	+313.39
Arkansas	1,064	881	- 183	- 17.20
Ca., North	375	1,359	+ 984	+262.40
Ca., South	1,872	1,662	- 210	- 11.22
Capital Area	1,496	1,655	+ 159	+ 10.63
Florida	180	397	+ 217	+120.56
Georgia	276	312	+ 36	+ 13.04
Illinois	2,671	4,373	+ 1,702	+ 63.72
Indiana	8,733	8,614	- 119	- 1.36
Kansas	473	744	+ 271	+ 57.29
Kentucky	4,795	5,720	+ 925	+ 19.29
Michigan	1,095	1,185	+ 90	+ 8.22
Mississippi	1,509	1,953	+ 444	+ 29.42
Missouri	6,396	5,412	- 984	- 15.38
Northeast	2,113	3,314	+ 1,201	+ 56.84
North Carolina	3,445	6,444	+ 2,999	+ 87.05
Ohio	15,132	11,413	- 3,719	- 24.58
Oklahoma	1,924	1,304	- 620	- 32.22
Pennsylvania	20	238	+ 218	+1090.00
S. Carolina	115	300	+ 185	+160.87
Tennessee	3,610	3,266	- 344	- 9.53
Texas	5,098	4,681	- 417	- 8.18
Virginia	2,296	5,587	+ 3,291	+143.34
W. Virginia	5	10	+ 5	+ 50.00
Other	<u>1,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>- 1,650</u>	<u>-100.00</u>
Total	\$67,545	\$75,793	+ 8,248	+ 12.21

Note: Write the Church Finance Council at Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 for specific information.

THE \$1,000 AND OVER "CLUB"

GIVING OF CONVOCATION TO OUTREACH CAUSES 1974-1975*

Second Christian, Indianapolis, Indiana	\$ 8,564
United Christian, Cincinnati, Ohio	7,972
Park Manor Christian, Chicago, Illinois	3,280
Third Christian, Louisville, Kentucky	2,723
Centennial Christian, St. Louis, Missouri	2,026
Fayette Street Christian, Martinsville, Virginia	1,715
Mills Grove, Oakland, California	1,359
12th Street Christian, Washington, D. C.	1,205
Jeffries Memorial, Birmingham, Alabama	1,152
Woodland Christian, Columbus, Ohio	1,128
Louden Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia	1,107
Grove Park Christian, Kinston, North Carolina	1,101
Mississippi Boulevard Christian, Memphis, Tenn.	1,065
Cleveland Ave. Christian, Winston-Salem, N. Carolina	1,055
Stuyvesant Heights Christian, Brooklyn, New York	1,052
Warren Avenue Christian, Dallas, Texas	1,001
* As reported to the Year Book and Directory	

Churches Giving \$500 and above to Outreach Causes

Park Avenue Christian, East Orange, New Jersey	975
Wildewood Christian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	863
Alameda Street Christian, Nashville, Tenn.	832
West Paseo, Kansas City, Missouri	826
Mount Olive East Christian, Martinsville, Va.	804
Gay Lea Christian, Nashville, Tennessee	795
High Street Christian, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky	723
Macedonia Christian, Birmingham, Alabama	715
Second Christian, Vandalia, Missouri	700
Jarvis College Christian, Hawkins, Texas	700
Fifth Christian, Cleveland, Ohio	690
Parkway Garden Christian, Chicago, Illinois	670
Christian Chapel, Port Gibson, Mississippi	645
Little Bethlehem Christian, Eden, North Carolina	630
Denley Drive Christian, Dallas, Texas	626
First Christian, Concord, North Carolina	625
United Christian, Detroit, Michigan	625
Summit Christian, Dayton, Ohio	581
Williamsburg Christian, Brooklyn, New York	525
Walker Memorial Christian, Memphis, Tennessee	502
* As reported to the Year Book and Directory	

15

LEAD CONVOCATION CHURCHES IN SPECIAL OFFERING GIVING

\$ 100 AND OVER - 1974-75

Week of Compassion

Second Christian, Indianapolis, Indiana	\$750
United Christian, Cincinnati, Ohio	555
Mills Grove Christian, Oakland, Ca.	261
Vermont Christian, Flint, Michigan	242
Saint James Christian, Fountain, North Carolina	214
High Street, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky	210
Stuyvesant Heights Christian, Brooklyn, New York	207
Gay Lea Christian, Nashville, Tennessee	200
Fayette Street Christian, Martinsville, Virginia	200
Fifth Christian, Cleveland, Ohio	195
Centennial Christian, St. Louis, Missouri	171
Cherry Avenue Christian, Canton, Ohio	155
Mount Olive East, Martinsville, Virginia	150
Third Christian, Louisville, Kentucky	126
Fifth Christian, Cincinnati, Ohio	114
Park Avenue Christian, East Orange, New Jersey	100
Friendship Christian, New Brunswick, New Jersey	100
Mississippi Boulevard Christian, Memphis, Tenn.	100
Jarvis College Christian, Hawkins, Texas	100
Louden Avenue Christian, Roanoke, Virginia	100
12th Street Christian, Washington, D. C.	100

Reconciliation

Second Christian, Indianapolis, Indiana	\$1,200
United Christian, Cincinnati, Ohio	1,200
Centennial Christian, St. Louis, Missouri	525
Third Christian, Louisville, Kentucky	466
Alameda Street Christian, Nashville, Tennessee	433
Park Manor Christian, Chicago, Illinois	400
Woodland Christian, Columbus, Ohio	275
Jackson Boulevard Christian, Chicago, Illinois	213
12th St. Christian, Washington, D. C.	200
Walker Memorial Christian, Memphis Tennessee	175
Gay Lea Christian, Nashville, Tennessee	150
West Paseo, Kansas City, Missouri	100
Wildewood Christian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	100
Mississippi Boulevard Christian, Memphis, Tenn.	100
Jarvis College Christian, Hawkins, Texas	100

* As reported in the Year Book and Directory

NASHVILLE IN '76 ENNIX ACCEPTS

Planning for another inspiring National Convocation of the Christian Church Assembly August 18-22, 1976 at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee is in high gear.

The Host Committee made up by the Christian Churches in Greater Nashville has been formed. Dr. Allen Estill, Regional Minister for Tennessee is taking the lead with full support being given by Pastors Alvin Brown of Alameda Church and William Dansby of the Gay-Lea congregation. Pastors and members in sister congregations are working on ten sub-committees to assure good hospitality and care for you.

Dr. Howard Dentler, deputy general minister and president, has explored all possibilities for the best facilities available within range of our capabilities. Fisk University has been selected by the Board of Trustees



THE MODERN FISK Library reflects the spirit of progress at this famous university.

The program in August of 1976 will emphasize "ONE CHRIST - ONE WORLD - ONE LIBERATION". The drive for receiving more than 1000 full registrations begins November 15.

The modern air-conditioned dormitories and famous Jubilee Hall will be available for attendees living on campus.

Several motels within a 5 to 10 minute ride are being placed under contract for additional housing. Such housing will need to be engaged personally by individuals concerned.

Housing, eating, studying and speaking will all be within a block's radius. Old and young alike will not be under physical strain.

Surface transportation to downtown Nashville is only one block from Jubilee Hall.

All the great academic and cultural institutions in Nashville which earned it the name of "The Athens of the South" are within a 5 to 8 mile radius of Fisk.

The Board of Trustees reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mrs. Rebecca Galloway as vice-president in its June 2-3 meeting and empowered the Executive Committee (i.e. officers) to select her successor.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ennix, first black associate minister for the Christian Church in Indiana accepted the invitation of the Committee to become Vice President and Chairperson for the Fourth Biennial Assembly Program Committee.

AN "OFFERING OF LETTERS" FOR THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Hunger is a shrunken infant, the grief of parents, a person gone blind for lack of vitamin A. It is a way of life for increasing millions of our brothers and sisters around the world.

By creating us and redeeming us through Jesus Christ, God has given us a love that will not turn aside.

What can we offer? Charity, yes. But far more important: justice.

The U. S. Congress has before it a resolution on "the right to food". It asserts the right of every person to a nutritionally adequate diet and asks--for the first time --that this right become a cornerstone of U. S. Policy. It is a right that is grounded in the value God places on human life and in the belief that "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."

1. Write your Members of Congress
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

2. Write one or both of your U. S. Senators

U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Urge them to pass the right-to-food resolution (number in the House, and number) in the Senate). Write your

own letter. Address and stamp the envelope, and put it in the Sunday collection basket as an act of Thanksgiving.

For more information write:

Bread for the World
235 East 49th Street
New York, NY 10017

EDITORIAL POLICY

THIS IS A NEWSLETTER WITH EMPHASIS ON NEWS. OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO RECORD THAT NEWS WHICH INFORMS, EDIFIES AND EXPANDS THE CHURCHMANSHIP VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSION.

EDITORIALIZING IS HELD TO A MINIMUM. WE DO NOT PROVIDE SPACE FOR UNSOLICITED READER RESPONSE AND/OR CONTINUING DEBATE.

WE ASSUME THAT THE SOURCES OF DATA ARE RELIABLE AND SHARE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF UP-DATE. THE COOPERATION OF THE READERS AND CONGREGATIONS IS APPRECIATED. YOU MAKE UP-DATE.

KEEP THE NEWS COMING.

WALKER RESIGNS

Elder Thomas N. Walker of Edwards, Mississippi resigned from his position last August as Director of State Work for the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention and the first black "Associate Regional Minister." He had served for thirteen consecutive years.

His letter of resignation became effective September 1, 1975.



T.N. Walker, center, with Thomas Harris of Port Gibson, Miss., and Gerald Cunningham of Indianapolis. In Jackson planning for the Youth Conference in 1972.

Brother Walker referred to the steady improvement in the quality of church work during his administration and expressed "thanks and appreciation" to the State Convention leadership and the Regional Church minister, William McKnight.

Elder Walker will continue to be a participating member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mississippi.

His ministry includes being a public school teacher, councilman in the town of Edwards and minister for congregations in Mississippi and Louisiana.

SEND ME YOUR ● DATES

● ARTICLES ● QUESTIONS

W. K. Fox
Box 1986
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Indiana 46206

BY
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