

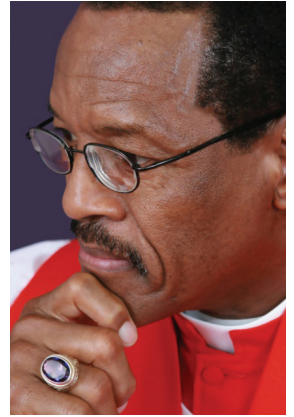


THE APOSTOLIC MISSIVE III

YOUR SERVANT IN CHRIST

I am confident He will finish what He starts in You! (Phil 1:6)

November/December 2007



TO: The Members of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
FROM: THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND CHIEF APOSTLE
DATE: Wednesday, November 21, 2007
RE: A GLORIOUS CENTENNIAL CONVOCATION!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

What an amazing display of God's grace toward the Church of God in Christ! The Centennial Celebration had record attendance exceeding 70,000 delegates. The Holy Spirit's visitation came with powerful and dynamic worship, healing and deliverance; and a special touch of grace that brought great peace and unity over the entire convocation. We were blessed with an anointing of God's Spirit who dwelt among us and renewed our hearts, our hope, and our mission to the world.

On behalf of the General Board, General Officers, and leaders of the Church, I take this privilege to extend my appreciation for the support, prayers, and encouragement you gave to the Centennial Celebrations in Memphis, Tennessee. As well, I especially want to thank you for a victorious outcome of the General Assembly, which now allows me to continue leading the Church, unbridled, as the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc.

More than 6 decades ago, the immortal words of Winston Churchill were amplified from the Harvard University podium of the 1943 graduation ceremonies. As a postwar statement that is just as true today as it was then, he said, "With greatness comes great responsibility." While Churchill was reflecting on the end of "The War," and the future role of the U.S in world affairs, the same words ring true for the Church of God in Christ in reaching the world for Christ.

In the last century the Church of God in Christ rose from a motley group of sanctified proselytes to a highly respected denomination with more than 6 million members in 64 countries. The Lord has used the Church of God in Christ to accomplish great things in worship, proclamation, social justice, urban renewal, and gospel music. God be praised! Without pause, we must continue our work of grace by forging a 21st Century agenda which responds to new challenges around the world.

But, with these great strides has come opportunities to match the challenges of the 21st century with a vigorous spiritual force that once again shakes the foundation of religious life across the globe. The Word of God has given us assurance that "no weapon formed against His kingdom can prosper," and that "we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us and gave Himself for us!"

Our issues are different in the 21st century than the challenges of the previous century. But, the root of contemporary crisis emanates from the same foe—spiritual darkness! And we are assured by the promises of God who said, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you!”

So, we have some work to do for the sake of the Kingdom and the glory of God! As Jesus instructed his disciples in his post-resurrection state, “fear not!” For as long as God is with us, He is more than the whole world against us!

Over the next year, we will move toward the implementation of every promise we have made for the development and future growth of the Church. As I SEE YOU IN THE FUTURE, I envision a healthy local church, a prepared leadership at every level of the Church; a comprehensive program for youth and young adults; a social justice agenda that reverses the circumstances of black men, families, and urban communities; evangelism that reflects as much a Christ-like compassion as it does a zeal to reach the world with the Gospel. Every effort is already underway to insure the highest level of financial stewardship.

I am praying the God of peace will continue to sustain your life, your future, and His will for your life. I pray that the Spirit of the Living God will sustain the Church of God in Christ and make us one. I pray that every blessing added to your life will also be shared to further the cause of Christ around the world as it is given to the Church of God in Christ. I pray that His will be matured in your heart, lifestyle, and impacts the world around you.

We are better together!

Your servant in Christ,

The Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.
The Presiding Bishop
THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.