

**FROM:** THE CHAMBERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD, CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
**TO:** CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST PASTORS  
**RE:** HERITAGE SUNDAY CELEBRATION, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008  
**DATE:** July 14, 2008

Dear Pastor:

**T**he Church of God in Christ has designated Sunday, September 14, 2008, to celebrate the birthday of our founder, Bishop C.H. Mason. This will be a historic day, as local churches in America and around the world celebrate our rich heritage, and the contributions and sacrifices of our forefathers with special emphasis on the valued ministry of the laity of our Church.

The Church is presently supporting a large number of missionaries, pastors, churches and schools in over fifty eight (58), foreign countries. For example, in the country of Haiti, which is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, the Church of God in Christ has established one hundred and fifty (150) churches, an orphanage, a guesthouse, and forty two schools (42). However, there still exists a present need to increase our support for global missions.

In addition to the foregoing, here in the United States, the Church is currently operating two educational institutions: The Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary, an affiliate of the Interdenominational Theological Center, (ITC), located in Atlanta, GA; and All Saints Bible College, (ABSC), located on the campus of our International Headquarters in Memphis, TN.

Pastor, in order for the Church to continue providing the critical support needed to operate global missions in foreign fields, and the educational ministries of the Church of God in Christ, we are humbly requesting that each of the members of the Church, invest a gift of twenty dollars (**\$20.00**).

Please note this is the same offering that we have traditionally received as our national laity offering. This year however, we have designated Sunday, September 14, our C. H. Mason Birthday Celebration and Laity Sunday Salute, for all churches to share this special gift on the same day. Meeting this goal, on one (1) day will fund our Annual Global Missions and Education Budget. Our Presiding Bishop and General Board have designated that every dollar raised on this day will be earmarked for Global Missions and Education only.

To make this initiative a great success, we are asking that all churches partner in ministry together and commit to giving a total ministry gift of at least one thousand dollars, (\$1000.00). For some congregations, the total ministry gift of 20.00 per member may not equal one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), however, with intense efforts and sacrifice; this goal can be reasonably obtained.

**The offerings received by local churches should be given and reported to your Jurisdictional Secretary or representative as your Jurisdictional Prelate will specify.**

The Presiding Bishop, Bishop Charles E. Blake, and all of the Members of the General Board, are working diligently to advance this ministry vision. Pastor, thank you for your support of this worthy undertaking, and remember that *“Together we can make a difference.”*

The Resource Kit for Heritage Sunday may be downloaded at [www.cogic.org](http://www.cogic.org). For additional information or resources email: [cogicheritage@aol.com](mailto:cogicheritage@aol.com). *You may write to COGIC Headquarters, 938 Mason Street, Memphis, TN or call 1-800-947-9350.*

*May the Lord God bless you and your congregation in our earnest and sincere prayer.*