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Presiding Bishop's Emissary to the
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The Declaration endorsed by the Presiding Bishop on December 10, 2008, in the Hague of the Netherlands, commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration presented an opportunity for our leader to step upon the world's stage and interact with individuals of other religious traditions. Presiding Bishop Charles Blake honored me to attend and sign the International Declaration as his personal emissary. His concerns were expressed by my signature, and proclaimed that moral and spiritual faith are pertinent in solving the critical problems of human civilization. Our leader was not reactionary or illogical with his decision to sign and endorse peace. For the record, in the past, the Church Of God In Christ has always spoken with a clarion voice that human rights and civil rights are a part of the blessings that God grants his creation. Therefore, it is not inconsistent that the leader of a predominantly black denomination is sensitive to and ready to support the suffering humanity of the world whenever possible. The Faith in Human Rights document that I signed speaks for itself, and there is not one line that explicitly or implicitly supports homosexual agenda.

The web page, gcmwatch.com grossly exaggerated and misrepresented the whole situation. There is an obvious bias and ulterior political agenda and was written with a basic lack of honesty. The Hague group had no other agenda than the signing of a declaration that would speak to religious organizations and inspire them to decisively eliminate those questionable influences over their practitioners. Religion must never be used as a source for intolerance, hatred, and terror.

The Faith in Human Rights document states, "Adherents of various faith traditions have striven to protect human dignity. Religion has to stand for peace, reconciliation, universal values, mutual respect and upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our faith traditions have been and are capable of providing inspiration and guidance towards realizing these aims. We wish to reiterate our commitment to respect all human rights for all, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Presiding Bishop Blake sent me to do exactly what Jesus did. Jesus sat with people of religious traditions and discussed the highest principles for solving the critical problems of humanity. He was scorned for sitting with non Jews or those not considered righteous.

Most people with the rationale demonstrated on the website are possibly good political Christians. I am glad the leader of the Church Of God In Christ sees the suffering, the abuse, and the extremism which currently engulfs the globe as a moral issue first. The writer of the website misquoted the Tri-State Defender newspaper and paints a dubious picture. The writer erroneously said the human rights document was about gay rights and gay marriage. Read the document for yourself! There is not one line explicitly or implicitly mentioning gay marriage or gay rights. Next the web page stated the Commercial Appeal newspaper of Memphis, Tennessee did not run the story. A photo and write-up appeared in the faith and values section, Saturday, December 27, 2008. The photos demonstrated the wide diversity of religious traditions. Of course, people of different faiths should have the capacity to sit and talk to one another as creatures of God without giving up principle and calling. The writer of this misquoted document seems to be of the school of the misinformed and highly inflammatory. It is sad that technology has afforded someone of such base character the opportunity to spread ignorance and do violence to honorable people of faith. All of the signatories have a right to enjoy human rights, dignity, and peace.

The Presiding Bishop believes that it is imperative that we speak the trues of Jesus, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." The author of the web page called me a liar and put me under a scrutiny that is totally unjustified and erroneous. I will only lean on what Jesus said, "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake." His grace, the Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ, Charles Blake, is propelling the Church Of God In Christ forward to be the highly anointed, fresh and redeeming presence that the Church Of God In Christ should be. I pray for his strength under these needless and brutal attacks.

I can say without a doubt that traveling to the Hague has been a highlight in my life. I have studied for years, the situations around the world that we see daily on the news reels: nuclear non-proliferation, terrorism, the unending conflict in the Middle East, the starvation of children, the hopelessness and despair of political chaos, all need a spiritual remedy. While in the Hague, these issues were the chief subjects that the delegates spoke about. With God as my witness, not one person spoke about homosexuality and its issues. In fact to my knowledge I never saw one item with a homosexual emphasis. The Church Of God In Christ knows it is time for religious persons to have an agenda that will allow our various traditions to stimulate intrafaith and interfaith dialogue sparking cooperation among the people of the world. For us Christians, the Holy Spirit has sovereignty and is controlling our positive pursuit in these endeavors.

Dr. David A. Hall, Sr.

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