

The Ninth Episcopal Connection *“Together We Can”*

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Newly Appointed Presiding Elders in the Ninth District

Rev. Lummie Hearn
Oakland District

Rev. Peris J. Lester, I
Los Angeles District

Mark Your Calendar

2009

January 12-15, 2009

12th Annual Pastors' Conference/Founders Day Celebration
Atlanta, GA

March 11-14, 2009

Women's Missionary Council Executive Board Meeting. Jackson, MS.
Dr. Elnora P. Hamb, Presiding

April 1-4, 2009

Ninth District Spring Convocation Missionary & Leadership Institute; Los Angeles, CA.

Reflections on the 13th Annual One Church One School Conference, A Move from Good to Great

Theme: “Faith Based Partnerships; Building Strong Families, Schools and Communities”

During October 23-24, 2008, Dallas, Texas was the host city for the **13th Annual One Church One School Conference**. Hosted by the Eighth Episcopal District of the CME Church (Bishop Ronald M. Cunningham, Presiding Prelate), this annual event traditionally held in Chicago, Illinois not only experienced a different locale but also presented a novel format and introduced an innovative program (Take One Step).

Tradition met change and the response was fantastic.

The host church, the magnificent Christian Chapel Temple of Faith CME Church, Rev. Dr. Jerome McNeil, Pastor, was the scene of the **OCOS Student Empowerment Seminar** on Thursday morning and the **Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony** on that same evening.

CHANGE HAS COME!



*Barack Obama
44th President-Elect of United States of America*

The Student Empowerment Seminar has previously been an event for high school students, however, in this year of change, elementary, middle and high school students from the Dallas Independent School District and the Fort Worth schools attended.

Professor Lance Williams, an educator from Chicago's Northeastern Illinois University, challenged the students to listen critically to hip hop music and other genres, analyzing the producers and artists goals and the impact they are having on the students' academic and social aspirations. The call and response from the students was prevailing.

(continued on page 2)



Sunday School motto: *We want to make our Sunday School a school that teaches, a school that reaches every available home, a school that lives, a school that gives to make God's kingdom come.*

13th Annual One Church One School Partnership Conference (continued)

The Lifetime Achievement Awards praise God for what He has done through the life and work of **Mrs. Gladys Stern**, Women's Missionary Council, **Mr. William Blair**, newspaper editor and baseball great, **Dr. Zan Holmes**, retired United Methodist pastor, community activist, orator and **Senator Royce West**, political and civic leader.

The marvelous message by Bishop Ronald Cunningham, the keynote speaker for the evening, moved the more than 300 worshipers, reaffirming their faith in God's presence with them in good and difficult times.

On Friday morning, Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the was the keynote speaker for the opening plenary session, carefully setting the stage for the work to be done, given the educational, social and health status of children in throughout country today. Further preparation for this important work was detailed in the workshops that followed and that included Dr. Clarence Glover, *African American History*, presenter; Ms. Carla Cargle, *Financial Literacy*, Dr. Georita Frierson, *Health and Wellness*; and Professor Lance Williams, *Mentoring*. Members of the conference are continuing to express their appreciation for these workshops.

Participants in the Partnership Development workshop indicated that presenters, Mr. Leo Pinkett, Mrs. Lillian Curlett and Director, Phedonia Johnson integrated theory, process and practice in such a manner that enhanced understanding and honed skills to

effectively carry out the purpose of OCOS.

The Awards Recognition Luncheon recognized persons who have worked in the trenches. Awardees included: **Mrs. Curtistene McCowan, Community Leader of the Year; Dr. Darrell E. Thigpen, M.D. P.A., Health Educator Leader of the Year; Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Religious Leader of the Year; Mr. Clifford Harris, Educator of the Year; and Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Political Leader of the Year.**

The keynote speaker, Dr. Zan Holmes, gave an animated and powerful message, complete with rich stories, anecdotes and demonstrations on working together to save our children.



The Bishop's Corner

Bishop & Mrs.
Henry M. Williamson, Sr.
Presiding Prelate
& First Lady



Courage

Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Dt 31:6 KJV

I admonish you to be generous with your encouragement of others. Our current world is stress filled and the people are fearful of tomorrow. But, the people of God should take courage from God's Word and walk in the faith that has sustained us from generation to generation.

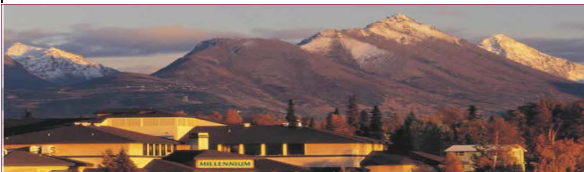
Involve yourselves in the service to others; the sick and shut-in, those that have lost jobs, encourage them; the children – be there to talk about the things that are pressing on them but do not neglect to keep them before God and in God's Word. God's people need to walk courageously without fear or hesitation. The battle is not "yours" but the Lord's.

I encourage to you to love, and be loyal to your God, family, local church and our great Zion the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. I encourage to you to give generously of your time, talent and treasure.

Yours in Christ,

Henry M. Williamson, Sr.

**Support the Ninth District
Special Fund!**



Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. Convenes the Alaska-Pacific Region Annual Conference in the Land of the Midnight Sun with Guest Bishops Ronald M. Cunningham and Thomas L. Brown, Sr.

The 42nd Session of the annual conference of the Alaska-Pacific Region was held May 26-29, 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska. The Rev. Paul Everett. (First CME) was the host pastor, and the Rev. Ava Gaines (St. Paul Evangelical), and Rev. Tawana Wilson (Church of the Redeemed) were the co-host pastors. The Alaska District leaders and members were awesome hosts of this event in the Land of the Midnight Sun.

On Monday, May 26, a welcome reception was held at Lake Spenard's Millennium Alaska Hotel. The event was well attended by state representatives, local clergy and community leaders. Bishop & Mrs. Henry M. Williamson, Sr. greeted the Conference and introduced their many special guests of the week including Bishops and Mrs. Ronald M. Cunningham, Presiding Prelate and First Lady of the Eighth Episcopal District, and Bishop & Dr. Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Presiding Prelate and First Lady of the Fourth Episcopal District.

Bishop Brown delivered the sermon for the Service of Holy Communion.

Mrs. Williamson was the speaker for the worship service led by the Ministers' Spouses.

Mrs. Mattie Powell led the missionaries in the Lena Jones Rice March on Wednesday evening, and the worship speaker was Dr. Louise Baker Brown.

The Ministry to Men sponsored the annual Men and Lay March. Mrs. Virginia Kilpatrick of First CME received the Layman of the Year Award!

Bishop Cunningham delivered the closing sermon.

We were blessed to have two General Officers with us throughout the conference.

Dr. Willie C. Champion, General Secretary of the Department of Evangelism and Missions provided a session on "The Importance of Evangelism in the Local Church."

Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield, General Secretary of the Department of Christian Education, presented "The Importance of Christian Education in the Local Church."

Rev. Julio Andujo, pastor of Amos Temple CME, Riverside, CA, led the powerful Bible study sessions each morning.

Rev. Dr. Bobby Best of Greater Cleaves CME in Oklahoma City, OK, and Rev. Joseph C. Gardner, Sr., pastor of Hayes CME in Los Angeles, were meditation speakers.

Other guests included Presiding Elder & Mrs. Napoleon Goshay and Presiding Elder & Mrs. James Raymond of the Southern California Region; Mr. Travis Hicks, Treasurer of the Southern California Conference, and his wife, Jacqueline, who serves as the Office Manager of the Ninth Episcopal District Headquarters Office; and Rev. Manuel Henderson of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

Bishop Williamson ended this great annual conference with the Reading of Appointments.



*C-ME for Jesus***IN THE NEWS***Proud To Be CME***News around the Ninth District Regions****Highlights of Annual Conferences****Arizona-New Mexico Region**

The Arizona-New Mexico Region Annual Conference was held June 18 through June 22, 2008 in Albuquerque, NM, and hosted by the Phillips Chapel CME Church, Rev. Dr. William W. Dorn, Jr., pastor and Presiding Elder. The Conference began with an Ecumenical/Annual Conference Ushers Program on Monday evening. Young Adult Ministry. Each day began with prayer and a morning meditation. Rev. Ermanno Willis did an excellent job leading the meditation periods and assisted by Rev. Reuben Caro. Bishop Williamson presented Rev. Kwesi Kamau, the Regional Administrator and author of a book of prayer, to present two sessions on the subject. Among the evening speakers was the First Lady, Mrs. Doris Y. Williamson, who presented an amazing challenge to the Conference for immediate obedience to Christ in service. The Conference was closed by Bishop Williamson at the Lay Banquet on Thursday evening. The Banquet was a special treat, hosted at the church and catered by Dr. Dorn and his staff. The Banquet had a very good concert featuring Dr. Dorn and special guests from the community with an original song performed by Rev. Kamau with the group.

Oklahoma Region

An overflowing crowd filled the sanctuary of the historic Christ Temple CME Church in Tulsa Oklahoma for the pre-conference musical, July 27, 2008. Mrs. Maxine Bennett and Mrs. Ameyka Pittman led a spirit-filled 100-voice Regional choir in praise and

worship. The official opening of the Conference began with the service of Holy Communion. Host pastor and host Presiding Elder Dr. Stacy Cole served as Worship Leader. Dr. Jerome McNeil, pastor of Christian Chapel CME Church (Dallas, Texas), delivered the Communion sermon and message, "Why I Can't Quit." Women in Ministries of the church were highlighted through the day. Rev. Ruthie McKitrick taught from the book, "The Ships That Sail Us From Good To Great." President Eloise Lee and Vice President Gwendolyn Gipson successfully increased the number of \$100.00 members for the Lena Jones Rice marchers. Mrs. Doris Williamson spoke on the topic "Prompt Obedience." The Memorial Service preacher was Rev. Anthony Walker. The Laity and Ministry to Men ministries were emphasized on Tuesday. Mrs. Phedonia Johnson, National Director of One Church One School, spoke at the 100 Men in Black service. The Lay leaders, Mr. Clifford Harris, Mr. Gerald Henderson and Mr. Otis Bennett, assembled a Male Chorus. The ordination sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Charles King.

Northern California Region

The conference was hosted by St. Peters CME (El Cerrito, CA), pastor, Rev. Frederick Taylor. Bishop and Mrs. Dotcy I. Isom, Jr. were special guests. A musical concert by the Region's Mass Choir kicked off the conference. The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Betts delivered the sermon at the service of Holy Communion. Two candidates for the Episcopacy, Rev. Dr. Darryl Coleman and Rev. Dr. Syl-

vester Williams, were present. Mrs. Valerie Betts was the speaker for the Ministers' Spouses service. Mrs. Sallie Lindsey, in her last official duty as Missionary President, led the Northern California missionaries at the Lena Jones Rice March, and was royally honored. Our Women's Missionary Council President, Dr. Elnora P. Hamb, was a special guest and speaker for the service. Bishop Isom was the speaker for the Lay & Ministry to Men service. Dr. Coleman delivered the ordination sermon on Wednesday.

Southern California Region

The conference was hosted by Amos Temple CME (Riverside, CA) and held at the Riverside Convention Center. Rev. Julio Andujo was the host pastor. Our special guests were Bishop and Mrs. E. Lynn Brown, Presiding Prelate and First Lady of the Second Episcopal District, and Bishop & Mrs. Ronald M. Cunningham, Presiding Prelate and First Lady of the Eighth Episcopal District. The Region Choir led praise and worship prior to the Holy Communion service. Bishop Cunningham delivered the sermon for the Holy Communion service. Mrs. Alfreda Davis led the missionary service, and the guest speaker was the First Lady of the Ninth Episcopal District, Mrs. Doris Williamson. Mrs. Beverly Raymond was the guest speaker for the Ministers' Spouses hour. The Rev. Dr. Raymond Williams, pastor of Holsey CME in Philadelphia, PA, and a former pastor of Amos Riverside, was the guest speaker for the Lay & Ministry to Men service. Bishop Brown delivered the Ordination sermon.

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The Christian Index Online: www.thechristianindexonline.blogspot.com/