

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST TEMPLE

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EYEWITNESS REPORT FROM THE DELAWARE JURISDICTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC. OF WHICH BISHOP THOMAS L. HOLSEY IS THE JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE

TO: The Presiding Bishop, General Board, Board of Bishops, General Assembly,
General Council of Pastors and Elders, Departmental Leaders, Officers, Members
and Friends of the Church Of God In Christ Everywhere

FROM: Bishop Samuel P. Nesbitt, "The Still Small Voice"

DATE: September 7, 2013

Greetings:

Sister Nesbitt and I have just returned home from a very glorious week of Holy Convocation with Bishop Thomas L. Holsey and the saints in Delaware Jurisdiction, this was their 85th Holy Convocation. The fellowship was wonderful, the worship was inspiring, and, unlike Jacob of old, we knew that God was in that place. Superintendent Swann, Vice Chairman of the National Judiciary Board, accompanied by Superintendents Bouldknight and Burton of Massachusetts, were with us on Wednesday night. Superintendent Swann delivered the message, and Superintendent Bouldknight sang the solo: *"I'm A Living Testimony,"* and brought the audience to their feet. Mother Dianne Custis, Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women, spoke on Thursday night and presented insights that were good for women and men of all ages. Friday night, Bishop Larry Shaw, Secretary of the Board of Bishops for the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., was the speaker. He spoke of our great holiness heritage in the Church Of God In Christ and the benefits to be gained by remaining true to the faith. On Saturday night, Bishop Holsey ordained 13 deacons, 1 deaconess, and 1 Elder. He also received into the fellowship 1 Elder from another jurisdiction. The evening message was delivered by Bishop Samuel P. Nesbitt, former Chief Justice of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. The worship service was very inspirational and one which signaled future growth within the jurisdiction.

On Sunday, the Official Day of the Convocation – to an audience of approximately 600 attendees – Bishop Holsey spoke from the Subject: “Building the Kingdom of God.” The message dealt with the principles of the Kingdom and how they should be implemented as we work together – with God – to effect growth and development in the Jurisdiction. After a period of consecration and the celebration of HOLY COMMUNION, we retired to the lower auditorium of the church where we were served a delicious dinner. And, guess what? It was all complimentary. When dinner was finished, carryout containers were provided to those who desired to take food with them, and there was a plenty left for those in need. **Church Of God In Christ**, when we follow the **Kingdom Principles**; which are motivated by **Love** – and **God is Love** – we have the assurance that we will always receive *“our daily bread.”* When we are faithful, and people oppose us, He will prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies.

Four times during the last three years, Sister Nesbitt and I have been the guests of Bishop and First Lady Holsey in the state of Delaware. Each time we have been royally treated and all of the saints there are so very friendly. We like the atmosphere in Delaware, because it is just like **Real Church Of God In Christ Saints** should be.

The Delaware Jurisdiction can take pride in the fact that there are now 3 Districts, 16 congregations, 16 pastors, 3 District Superintendents, 3 District Missionaries, a Leader of the Sunday School, Youth, and Evangelist Departments. The saints who were misled are now returning home to their local churches, thus the Jurisdiction is showing signs of growth. The city of Dover, the Capital of Delaware, has Bishop Holsey as the chaplain of the City Council. His daughter is Recording Clerk for Kent County, and Elder Dixon, a member of Bibleway Church, is a City Councilman in the City of Dover. Looking over the audience, I saw faces that I had not recognized before: They were persons who had returned and were happy to be home. As I observed them, a song came to mind which we sang in the Church many years ago: *“God’s children are gathering home, with joy they are gathering home; from every division from whence they were scattered, God’s children are gathering home.”*

Since the year 1925, the Church Of God In Christ has been established in the state of Delaware, and is now recognized as one of the outstanding religious organizations in the state of Delaware! Beginning September 17, 2013, the Historical Society of Delaware will devote one month to the celebration of the great contributions that Black Religious Organizations have made to the city of Dover and the state of Delaware. As the highest official of the Church Of God In Christ in Delaware, Bishop Holsey will represent us well. When the story is told, it will be clear to the world that, in spite of what the *“angel that was thrown out of heaven”* would like to make us appear to be, the Church Of God In Christ, that was found by Bishop C. H. Mason and Others, is a **Church of love, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, understanding, and reconciliation:** It is the **Church** that works together with **God** in the progressive process of transforming sinners into *“saints.”* We believe that the **Church Of God In Christ** is God’s agency in the world to perform the service that is best described by St. Paul in II Corinthians 5:19-21 *“namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on*

behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

As great and as wonderful as our Church is reputed to be, and how clearly the rules for Holy Living are set forth in the Holy Bible, “our rule of Faith and Practice,” for us to follow. It concerns me that after more than three years the Presiding Bishop, General Board and Board of Bishops – the persons who occupy the highest positions of leadership positions in our great Church – and who should set the example for us to follow, find it so difficult to repent for the wrongful actions it appears that they have caused to be perpetrated against Bishop Holsey, his family, the Delaware Jurisdiction and the Church at large. I love and respect my Leaders, I voted for them to become our Leaders, I support them, and I pray for them. But, the Lord will not allow me to sleep when I know of the anguish they have caused, and continue to cause, to my fellow-bishop and his family. You see, I’ve been to Delaware four times within three years, I have talked with them, I have prayed for them, I have worshipped with them, and I have been inspired by their steadfastness. They are wounded and bruised; but, they are still praising God and moving **forward in the work of the Kingdom. **They are real Church Of God In Christ saints.****

In their time of dire need, the Leaders of the Church withheld help; and I am told that they instructed others to do the same. I am further informed that the Presiding Bishop, who gladly received a \$50,000 gift from Bishop Holsey, refused to help him. The reason given was that he had already done away with four million dollars. The Board of Bishops comprises more than 300 Jurisdictional and Auxiliary Bishops, any one of whom could have sent him \$1,000 without missing it. But, not one of them sent him a dime. Does the action of the Leaders represent the **Christ of the Church Of God In Christ?** The answer is **NO!!**

The Presiding Bishop, General Board and Board of Bishops should apologize to Bishop Holsey, his family and the Delaware Jurisdiction for engaging in actions against them that were, and continue to be, embarrassing, traumatic, unbrotherly, humiliating and unkind. They disrupted the business operational plans of the Jurisdiction, causing them to lose gains they had made in the implementation of programs for the Jurisdiction that would have enabled them to effect certain phases of their mission in various communities of the Jurisdiction. As one of your **Elder** brothers in the **Church Of God In Christ**, and one who has lived and taught what we believe, I think I am qualified to remind you what our faith teaches that we should do. **Then, too, the Lord told me to tell you that if you expect to continue to lead His people, and receive from them the respect and support that He said in His word that they should give to you, you must follow the guidelines that He set for you to follow or you will be disqualified to lead.** Bishops, I think this is the time for you to **repent**: The Lord is not late, but He is following His schedule. This is what the Word of God says: *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* II Peter 3:9 (NIV). God’s Way is the better way, for it leads to peace, happiness and joy. On the other hand, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”* Prov. 14:12. **I think I would choose the way that leads to life.**

This case that attempted to indict Bishop Holsey never should have been initiated. It was based upon that which was not; therefore, *ex nihilo nihil fit*. Persons who should have been devoting their time, energy, effort, skills, strength and talents to the task of helping people to come to know a better way of life were deceived by *“the angel that was thrown out of heaven.”* It is good to know that the elect were not deceived, but only the unwatchful were caught off guard. **For all of you who were involved in bringing about this trouble in the Church Of God In Christ, the vision for which God gave to Bishop C. H. Mason, it is now time for you to repent. Please don't delay, because it is later for you than you think!** It appears that the charges that you brought against Bishop Holsey were false. All of the Church Courts have ruled in his favor, and Bishop Holsey and the saints in Delaware have forgiven you; and, they asked God to forgive you *“because you knew not what you were doing.”*

May I suggest that you follow David's example. He was the King of Israel, but when the Prophet Nathan told him that **story** and he saw himself in the mirror (**His conscience**), he **repented** and asked for **mercy**. **God** knew his heart, and **God rated him as a man after His heart**. The God who rated David knows your hearts, and He is ready to **rate** you and to **exalt** you when you do as King David did: **Repent**.

Your beloved Church, the Church Of God In Christ, loves all of you and desires that you “may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” III Jn. 1:1. **In order to help your soul to prosper, it has provided an expense account to cover your travel in the interest of the Church.** May I suggest that you call Bishop Thomas L. Holsey and ask him to convene the Delaware Jurisdiction in Dover at Bibleway Church. Why? For the purpose of meeting with the Presiding Bishop and General Board for you to tell them and show them how much you really love them. When you tell them how much you regret hurting them and accept their forgiveness, the Holy Ghost will be felt in that place. There will be singing, shouting, speaking with other tongues and healing in Bibleway on that Day. Please let me know the date when you will be there, and I will fly up to enjoy the blessings of the **Lord**. **That will be the day that God will exalt you as He did David of old.**

Bishop Holsey's number is: (302) 241-4385.

May the Lord's blessings be upon you until we meet in Dover and bring healing and peace in our Church – The Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

PAX VOBISCUM



Samuel P. Nesbitt