

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST TEMPLE

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TO: The Presiding Bishop, General Board, Board of Bishops, Council of Pastors and Elders, Officers, Members, Friends, and Those Who Love The Church Of God In Christ, Inc., Everywhere

FROM: Bishop Samuel P. Nesbitt, The Still Small Voice
1241 West 9th Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32209

DATE: November 9, 2012

GREETINGS:

Early this morning, at or about 5:00 a.m., the Lord moved upon me to write to you as we are gathering in St. Louis, from all parts of the globe, to participate in another Holy Convocation. As we gather, many of our brothers and sisters have been left homeless in the Northeast, others have been claimed by death; and, others are wounded. Let us pray for those whom God delivered from the hands of **Sandy**, and let us be prepared to help and contribute to those who are in need. Again, we have observed God's power as He moved in the **wind**, and we are convinced that it was God because *The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm.* Nahum 1:3. Just as God moved through the **northeast** with powerful winds and wrecked and destroyed everything in its path; if our leaders will humble themselves and pray and seek God's face, and turn from their wicked ways, God can and will send His Spirit in our midst, like a mighty rushing wind blow sin out of our lives and revive us again. **Will you join with me in prayer that God will turn us away from fleshly desires and ambitions and turn us to those spiritual values that can make The Church Of God In Christ great again.**

It's Quadrennial election time in The Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

During the past four (4) years, the Presiding Bishop and General Board have occupied the highest Executive seats in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. They have been given **center stage** and special recognition at all National Meetings. The very best hotel accommodations have been provided for their comfort and convenience. Limousine or luxury automobiles, that burn high test gasoline and that are driven by **saved, courteous** adjutants or chauffeurs are always made available to take them wherever they desire to travel. Those who approach the pulpit to speak or perform any function in the presence of the Presiding Bishop and General Board always remember to give honor to the illustrious Presiding Bishop, First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops and General Board.

The record will show that those who are selected, by our leaders, to make adulatory remarks when presenting them, are sometimes so busy giving **honor** to our Leaders that they forget to give honor and praise to God for allowing them and our Leaders to be alive. Overjoyed with the privilege to honor our Leaders, they sometimes forget that **in everything** we should **give thanks**. I Thess. 5:18.

We have been most gracious to our Leaders: We have loved them, we have honored them, we have given them liberal financial gifts, and we have given them **respect**. God has blessed us to see another four (4) years, and we are anticipating electing **new** leadership for the **Church**. What should our attitude be? We should give God thanks for bringing us to this time; we should examine ourselves to be sure that we have been true in the performance of our assignments. We should repent of our sins **TO GOD** and ask to be forgiven. We should check to see if we have been honest with the **CHURCH** and those whom we were elected to serve; and, we should check to see if we have a good relationship with those whom we plan to serve.

For all the honor, respect, financial blessings, and special recognition that the administration has received, how has the administration responded? Have they been honest and just? Let's look at the record.

1. In violation of the stipulation of the **Constitution** of the Church, the Administration presents itself as the **Presidium** of the Church. The term **Presidium** is representative of a dictatorial concept of government which has no place in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. We elected them to be The General Board of the Church, but they appear to be what **The Church Law does not allow**.
2. The Church elected one man from the General Board to be the **Presiding Bishop** of the Church. In violation of what the **Constitution** provides, the Presiding Bishop has been presented as **The Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle and seventh in succession**. We have no provision in the **Constitution** for **A Chief Apostle**; and, he is not the **seventh in succession**. Beginning with Chief Apostle C. H. Mason, the Church has had only seven (7) leaders. Senior Bishop C. H. Mason had only one successor, Senior Bishop O. T. Jones, Sr. In 1968, the Church changed its system of government and leadership style. Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., was the first Presiding Bishop, and Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., is the fourth in succession to Bishop Patterson.
3. The National Church joined with the Kansas Southwest Jurisdiction to settle a little Church matter. They, by certain legal ploys and improper information from the Church, were able after more than seven (7) years to take over the Church from the local congregation that mortgaged homes to get money to build the Church for the local congregation.

They put the saints out, and they forced them to pay rent for the time that they desired to use the Church. This take over had a negative effect on the Church in the community, and it certainly did cost them some **big money**.

4. They went into the state of Delaware, and based on false information and without a trial, they removed Bishop Holsey as Jurisdictional Bishop, took all of his salary and income, and denied him the right to attend or to participate in his Jurisdictional Convocation. They accused him of stealing some four (4) million dollars that his Jurisdiction was blessed to receive from investments, and then heralded it abroad that he had stolen money. After accusing Bishop Holsey of stealing money, when he was tried, he was found to be **not guilty**. For some unknown reason, the **Leaders** seem to desire that he be made **guilty**. Why? Evidence has been presented to prove that all charges are false, but the administration, the General Board, seems to hold that he is guilty: They seem to want him to be. For your information, they claim that he took **four million dollars**, but I did some checking and found facts to prove the following: He bought and paid cash for a beautiful Episcopal residence, in the name of the Jurisdiction, for \$630,000. \$383,000 should be in the custody of the First Assistant Presiding Bishop, Board Member Samuel Green and General Secretary Bishop Lyles. As a good Leader, he paid off all debts of local congregations to the tune of almost \$900,000. Bishop Holsey was very gracious to everybody who visited the Delaware Jurisdiction. He gave to General Board members \$32,000; he gave the widow of Bishop Blackshear \$22,000; he paid for the funeral and burial of Bishop Blackshear for an amount in excess of \$50,000; and, I think I see where a check was given to Bishop Blake for \$50,000. I am looking at checks equal to more than \$300,000 in loans to brothers in dire need.

When the money was loaned to fellow-Bishops, Pastors and those in need, they promised to repay him within a reasonable time. The General Board members nor any of the persons whom he trusted have repaid their loans. This failure of the borrowers to repay rendered Bishop Holsey unable to pay a \$100,000 note which had become past due. The Bank foreclosed the mortgage. The Presiding Bishop heard about the situation, called Bishop Holsey and suggested that if he would grant clear control and ownership of the house to the Jurisdiction which paid for it, then a loan from the General Church might be made available, not to him, but only to the Jurisdiction to pay off the loan. **This is what he said relative to one of his Jurisdictional Bishops and loyal supporters:** We would not put forth the money for his use and control since he had already done away with \$4,000,000.00.

NOTE: It should be noted that there is nothing on record to show that Bishop Holsey had already done away with \$4,000,000.00. The record shows that the Delaware Jurisdiction owns the Episcopal residence, he is the Jurisdictional Bishop and he and his family reside therein.

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Some of the \$4,000,000.00 has enriched all of the General Board members, the Board of Bishops, and all of those who borrowed money and have not repaid it.

Personally, I have known and worked with everyone of the seven (7) Leaders of the Church Of God In Christ; and, I know six (6) who would never have allowed our dear Bishop Holsey, a man who loves our Church and has been loyal to the Church, to worry about getting \$100,000 to take care of an emergency matter. It is a **sin** for more than 300 Bishops of the Board of Bishops, of which Bishop Holsey is a member, to allow the Administration to treat a brother as if he is a stranger. Are we **saved**? Or are we just **pretending**?

To be a Bishop in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. should be considered a special honor and privilege by those who are consecrated pursuant to the standards that are set in our doctrine and Constitution. As Bishops, we are called upon to conduct ourselves in accordance with the values that are set in the Word of God, thus we must display **love** and **concern** for everyone, and especially the household of Faith. Bishop Holsey of the State of Delaware is our **brother** and a member of the **household of faith**. He has a need that we are morally obligated to share. Our **faith** teaches us: *But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the Love of God abide in him?* I John 3:17.

The fact that the Presiding Bishop, based on his knowledge and understanding, elected not to let Bishop Holsey have \$100,000 is no reason why the Board of Bishops should not help a brother who is a member of the Board of Bishops. It appears that the Presiding Bishop has become fixated on the idea that Bishop Holsey has taken four (4) million dollars, and that is not true. Until he can clear his mind, I don't think he will let him have the money. I have been informed by a reliable source that a representative from the National Church's office was sent to the Bank to purchase the note for the Church. I also understand that Bishop Holsey petitioned in bankruptcy to protect his interests and those of the Jurisdiction.

In these critical times, we don't need persons in leadership positions who are partial, inconsiderate or who are not compassionate. We certainly don't need leaders who enjoy receiving for themselves, but don't want to help others. When we consider **who** we are, and how God has blessed us beyond measure, we must never let **the angel that was thrown out of heaven** inflate our **egos** and make us think that we are at a point where we've **got it made in the shade**. God can cut us down with a **blade, dig a hole and bury us with a spade**. If you don't think He can, just think what He did with **Sandy**.

The Presiding Bishop

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Bishops, wake up and think! Don't let the Devil deceive you!!!

They falsely accused Bishop Holsey of **stealing four million dollars, and they appear to be trying to do little things to make it appear that they don't know where the money is.** They borrowed the money and will not pay him so that he can meet his financial obligations.

All of the Jurisdictional records that were in the custody of the Officer from the National Church have never been returned to Bishop Holsey, but they keep calling for records that they already have in their possession. If you will review the partial list of some of the authorized expenditures, herein before listed, you will see that the total is almost two and one-half (2) million dollars. When you add the \$700,000 that is **Safe in the arms of Jesus (Good, solid investments)** it is clear that the money is accounted for. A further check of the bank accounts of General Board members, some National Officials and Pastors who borrowed in Good Faith, will show where checks from Bishop Holsey have been deposited therein.

When we publish information about a person that is not true, with the **intent** to deceive, that is called a **lie**. Those who publish the **lie** are called **liars**. If the **lie** is told or announced to **harm** one's reputation, that is called **defamation**. **Defamation** is indicative of **hatred**, and *Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.* I John 3:15. My dear brothers and sisters, while we are gathered in **Holy Convocation**, I think it would be **wise** for us, **Leaders and Saints**, to examine ourselves and see if our hearts are right with each other in the sight of **God**. **For some of us, this just may be our last time together. Amen.**

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Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.
Presiding Bishop, Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
3045 South Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90016

Dear Bishop Blake:

It is my pleasure to greet you as our distinguished leader: One who is loved and admired by the saints, one to whom honor and respect are given, and one on whom we rely for godly leadership. We pray for you daily, asking God to protect you and keep you focused on those things that He wills for the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

Bishop Blake, early Monday morning during my private prayer time, you rested heavily in my spirit. I lay awake for a while, offered a special prayer for you and our Church and returned to sleep. Early this morning, Tuesday, I had a similar experience as the one of yesterday. This second experience caused me some real concern; and, as I lay awake a voice said to me: Your friend Bishop Blake and the Church Of God In Christ need what you are qualified to give. Write to Bishop Blake and offer to help. If he accepts your offer, give it. If he refuses to accept your offer, you will be free.

Shocked by the statement, I arose, showered and dressed and went to my study. Looking through the files, I pulled up everything that I have on my beloved Bishop Charles E. Blake. The files reveal the greatness of the wisdom of the former leaders of our Church: They refused to allow the *angel that was thrown out of heaven* to destroy gifted young men and women who would later become outstanding leaders of our Church. I am sure that you can attest to the fact that the Church Of God In Christ has been good to you. While looking through the files, your little booklet *How Long This Madness?* caught my attention.

In this article you were attempting to describe the condition of the Church under the leadership of Bishop Chandler D. Owens, but more than twelve years after that time your description seems to be appropriate for this time under the administration of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake. I invite you to read the words that I have reprinted from your article and see how appropriate they are for this time.

HOW LONG THIS MADNESS?
By Bishop Charles E. Blake, SR

We face one of the most critical challenges to the well being of the Church Of God In Christ that I have seen in my more than forty years of ministry. The one responsible for upholding the constitution of the Church is the foremost transgressor thereof. The one responsible for providing protection of the various constitutional entities of the church is the greatest threat to their existence and well being.

Local churches and, pastors are leaving the Church Of God In Christ. They are leaving because they see no benefit in laboring to develop a strong congregation whose assets are vulnerable to the intrusion of those who have contributed nothing to its well being, or establishment. Can we validly insist on authority without any investment, withdrawals without any deposits?

We cannot allow a reign of terror to plague the Church Of God In Christ. Pastors walk in fear. Bishops walk in fear. Leaders fail to function in their constitutional prerogatives because the present Presiding Bishop and his staff, assume dictatorial control over every branch of the life of the Church. By intimidation, ridicule, and emotional brutality they seek to batter down every trace of independent thinking and every attempt by others to obtain or exercise their right under the Constitution of the Church Of God In Christ.

This Presiding Bishop has frequently not permitted the General Board to exercise the oversight and governance of the Church stipulated by the Constitution. Time and time again, he makes decisions and implements them without consulting with, or receiving the approval of, the General Board.

He goes about exercising dictatorial powers, and rushing into areas that the constitution of the Church has reserved for others. Due notice of the date, time and location of General Board Meetings is seldom if ever given.

The General Assembly, and its Chairman, are frequently considered to be adversaries, rather than sources of collaboration, support, guidance, and counsel. The supreme body of the Church, and its chairman, are subordinate to no other entity in the Church. The Presiding Bishop should highly respect this body, and assist its effective operation.

How is it that men are more concerned about personal power and prestige than they are about the kingdom of God: More concerned about politics than about souls? Many people are willing to disrupt the spiritual program of the Church that they may exercise their personal whims and power. What church can afford to drive men away rather than draw them: So many are willing to cause men to leave the Church, rather than draw them? So many are willing to cause men to leave the Church, rather than to see them thrive and flourish amid an atmosphere of freedom and justice.

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The Church Of God In Christ does not belong to leaders. On the contrary, leaders are given to, and belong to the Church. They exist for the *perfecting of the saint*, and for the *edifying of the body of Christ* Eph. 4:11 - 12. If these offices exist for the saints, then the saints cannot exist for; or belong to, those in these positions. Jesus said to Peter, *If you love me, feed my sheep*. Sheep do not exist for shepherds: Shepherds exist for the well being of the sheep.

Since this is the case, from whence come this arrogant use of power and this obsession with wealth? Where does this abuse of people, and this disregard for their wishes come from? Why do men wish to lord over that upon which they have bestowed no labor?

All of us have made tremendous investments in our local churches and in the National Church. We must allow no one to claim personal ownership, or dictatorial power over God's Church. It belongs to Him, it belongs to all of us. We have a right to feel safe, secure, and respected in our church. We will accept nothing less.

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willing, not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.* (KJ) I Peter 5:1 - 4.

Bishop Blake, *The Madness* which you so eloquently described, had its beginning in 1968 when we renounced the God-given pattern for the leadership of our Church and adopted the political system of electing 12 men every four years. We planted the seed for competition and rivalry which should not be in the Church. Instead of being workers together with God we become workers in disunity against God and each other. If we continue the way we are going, great harm will come to our beloved Church and many will be harmed. Bishop J. O. Patterson saw this before he died and said that he would use the time he had left to try and bring us to **True Holiness**. He died before he had a chance to try to bring us back. I love you, I love the Church and the record shows that I have used my God-given talents to advise, counsel, and give leadership in activities that were designed to help our Church to be a powerful witness in the world. I know who we are and what we can become if we will heed the voice of the Lord.

The Madness to which you refer can be stopped, and you are the person that God has in position to stop it. God has given me the message and the help for you that will **STOP** it.

This action you take will bring **PEACE** in every area of the Church, it will protect the dignity and reputation of all concerned, and place the Church under your leadership and enable us to accomplish greater works in His name.

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You are our Leader and my message is for you, **ALONE**. I will be happy to come to Los Angeles, for it will give us an opportunity to see West Angeles COGIC, the congregation that I like to think that the Lord used me to help their beloved Pastor in their time of need. There was a time when I would just hop a plane, at my own expense, and fly all over to go to Churches. They did not give me a dime, nor did I consider it a crime. Now, if you accept my invitation to come to you and deliver the message that God has given me for the Church, I must request a round-trip ticket for me and my wife. While I'm there, in order to let your congregation know who I am, I will be happy to deliver an inspirational message that I am sure will be good for their spiritual enrichment. Preaching is something that I have been doing for the last 67 years, and I just enjoy performing for the Lord.

I will allow ten (10) days for your response. To God be the Glory.

PAX VOBISSCUM

Bishop Samuel P. Nesbitt

**I WROTE TO MY BELOVED PRESIDING BISHOP, BUT HE DID NOT RESPOND.
WHY?**

Because of my concern for our **great Church**, and my sincere **love** for all of the saints, I wrote to my beloved Presiding Bishop, asking that he would grant me the privilege of coming to Los Angeles to confer with him relative to matters that should be of importance to the **Leader** of the **CHURCH** that he has been elected to lead. The record will verify the fact that I am not a **novice** nor a **stranger** to Bishop Blake, for it was the young **theologian** and **lawyer** from **Florida**; the youngest son of the late **Bishop and Mrs. W. R. Nesbitt, Sr.**, who was called upon by the First Presiding Bishop of the Church, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr. and Chairman of the General Assembly, Bishop Rimson of Detroit, to hear, decide and settle the case involving the **young, inexperienced pastor** of the West Angeles Church Of God In Christ, Los Angeles, California, Elder Charles E. Blake. The **Leaders** of the Church knew, understood, and appreciated the **wisdom** that God gave me to bring **peace** in that situation. **April 12, 1973** was a **happy day** for the **young inexperienced pastor who needed help**.

The West Angeles Case, as most of the Church cases, was not a difficult case. It resulted from a lack of understanding of what our Church believes, what is stated in our doctrine, laws and Constitution, the rights of officers and members of the Church, the function of the Bishop, and the rights of the pastor and members. It was obvious that there was a lack of knowledge on the part of all parties concerned in that case. They had not been taught, but when they were informed, they understood and followed. It took a little time, but progress was made.

Today, our beloved Church is the victim of **bad legal counsel**. It appears that attempts are being made to solve **Church** matters by **secular** standards. It further appears that our leaders delight in taking our people to the courts to prove their authority, when they should prove their leadership by showing the people love and understanding. They may think it's smart to mistreat **God's Saints**, but **God** is just about **to show up and let them know not to offend his little ones**. It appears that our **leadership** is operating under the influence of a **spirit** that is akin to that of the *angel that was thrown out of heaven: He does not come except to steal, and to kill and to destroy.* St. John 10:10. I know the men who comprise the present General Board, I voted for all of them, but based on some of the decisions that have been made by the present Board, many of our brothers and sisters have been greatly hurt. Bishop Blake, in his pamphlet, *How Long This Madness* alludes to the unstable time which now exists in our beloved Church. It was about this situation that I was directed to go and talk with our **Leader**.

Because all of you were included in the message that was to have been delivered to our beloved Presiding Bishop, I am enclosing my letter to him in it is enclosed his pamphlet in which he asks the question, **How Long This Madness?** I was prepared to discuss with him an approach to resolving the **Madness** which the Lord has given to me to give to him **with particulars**, but **he did not respond**.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EXCERPTS FROM THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC., MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE AND A RESPONSE FROM BISHOP SAMUEL P. NESBITT, BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

EXCERPT: Presiding Bishop Blake noted that while sexual misconduct allegations are of concern, those against our credential holders are at a lower percentage than other denominations. He noted that in Southern California, sexual abuse settlement and judgments against the Catholic Church totaled 500 million dollars. He stated his priority to make the Church Of God In Christ a safe environment and further that the Sexual Misconduct Manual will be made available in digital format and offered to the general membership. In addition a course will be offered online in an effort to reduce liability.

BISHOP NESBITT'S RESPONSE: As the elected Leader of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., a religious denomination that believes in Holiness as the way of life which God has predestined that we should live, and that accepts the Holy Bible, *the only infallible written Word of God*, as "**our rule of faith and practice**", the Presiding Bishop has every reason to justify his concern about **sexual misconduct allegations against our credential holders**. The recent rash of sexual misconduct cases among our credential holders tells us that they were not merely **sexual misconduct allegations**, but they were real cases. Charges were brought, evidence was presented, and the cases were adjudicated in the Courts. The perpetrators were convicted and sentenced pursuant to what the Law allows. It is quite unfortunate for the credential holders (jurisdictional bishops and others) and their friends, their families, the Church and those who look to them for leadership, that they by not being watchful *were drawn away by their own lust and enticed to sin*. Jas. 1:14. Not only were the acts unlawful; thus punishable by the **law**, but they are also contrary to **sound doctrine**, and subject to the punishment that the **faith** prescribes. Sex crimes against children is not tolerated in our society, and the Church must take a firm stand against such acts to protect our families and the future generations. If the Presiding Bishop desires to deal with the problem of providing a safe environment in the Church Of God In Christ, I humbly submit the following suggestions:

1. **Let's give them the Word:** If you would not like to participate, choose some of our capable **preachers** and **teachers** (Men and Women) and let

them teach and **preach** what the **Bible, God's Word**, says about sexual immorality and those who are participants therein. It also tells what **God** thinks about it. The messages should not be given to condemn, but should be given to inform and convict. The **Word of God** *"Is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Heb. 4:12. Your Sexual Misconduct Manual may be good for what it may be designed to accomplish, but **God's Word is better.**

Any person who is "saved," and remembers how hearing and believing the **Word** of God convicted him and brought him to repentance and changed his whole life, I challenge such a person to look in the mirror, when he is washing his face, and give God a **big praise!** Your image in the mirror should remind you that there are some persons, other than yourself, who knew you when you were reputed to be someone other than who you are reputed to be **now. Look what God has done for you!**

2. Arrange and schedule counseling services for those who may have problems with their sex life. Keeping them hidden may not be good for them nor those with whom they work each day. In some cases there may be persons who have committed certain acts but were able, by certain agreements, to avoid being prosecuted. In those cases counseling is needed for **prayer, confession and repentance.** Once the mind is cleared of the sin, by repentance, the person is able to resist the temptation to repeat the same act.

Suggestion: If we will reduce the number of banquets, appreciation services, and breakfasts to honor different persons; we might find it more beneficial to all if we use some of that time for Information Education Sessions. It may shock some of those who were consecrated Jurisdictional Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops when they are told that the Bible declares that a *"Bishop must be blameless."* I Tim. 3:2. They appear to have met the requirements as set by the Presiding Bishop and General Board, pursuant to what our poorly written Constitution requires, but they are not in compliance with **"our rule of faith and practice."**

3. It is quite unusual and surprising that the Leader of our beloved Church Of God In Christ would take pleasure in making the report to our General Assembly that **"while sexual misconduct allegations are of concern, those against our credential holders are at a lower percentage than those of other denominations."** Because *"all unrighteousness is sin"* I John 5:17, I don't

think it will make us look any better by comparing our sins to those of other denominations. Whatever the "percentage" is, we should repent for it and line up with what we claim as our **faith**. I think the **leadership** has an obligation to "*cry aloud, spare not: Lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell my people their transgression; and the house of Jacob their sins.*" Isa. 58:1

In Genesis, Chapter 4, we are told that after Cain killed his brother Abel, God cursed him and "*set a mark*" on him to protect him. In our society, the pictures of pedophiles are posted in various neighborhoods so that parents and others may be able to keep a watchful eye on them. Do you think it would be wise for us to **put a mark** on persons in our Church who have been adjudicated **pedophiles** so that we will know who they are? Do you think we should allow Credential Holders (Bishops and Elders) to adorn their sacred garments and other attire (gold crosses and rings and chains) and march in the procession with the other Bishops? Just as if nothing ever happened? Does the fact that they pay their credential financial reports make a difference? The Courts have found them guilty because they are **lawless**, and the "*law is for the lawless:*" I Tim. 1:9. Do the legal **felons** have a right to appeal to the Church based upon their right pursuant to "*what the law could not do?*" Rom. 8:3. At the Leadership Conference and Bishop's Conference, may I suggest that we engage in some **real study**. When we finish, God will reveal to us what we should do.

EXCERPTS FROM BISHOP BLAKE: Bishop Blake reported that he traveled to five different cities per week to various Church Of God In Christ churches. He noted that mayors, governors and other political figures now respect the influence of the Church Of God In Christ and often call on our pastors and churches for support.

BISHOP NESBITT'S RESPONSE: Mayors, governors and other political figures did not just now begin to respect the influence of the Church Of God In Christ, but they have been doing that since the days of Bishop Mason. Presidents called Bishop Mason for prayer and advice, because our **ministry of saving sinners and making them good citizens** helped them to maintain order in the various communities. When my father and other COGIC Preachers went into a community the people knew that a **man of God** was in town. Souls were saved, people were healed and homes were made better. We are glad to know that our beloved Presiding Bishop was able to discover what a great Church we are. When we are given another report from our illustrious Leader we would like to hear of the effect that his presence had in the places where he traveled.

The Presiding Bishop

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EXCERPT FROM BISHOP BLAKE: Bishop Blake stated that the **General Assembly directed and controlled the activities of persons in the Church Of God In Christ.**

There may be some who would like to have it that way, and who may attempt to act as if it is that way, but I think we should pray about what that whole concept suggests. We should ask the question: **Who gave the unorganized General Assembly the right to direct and control the activities of persons in the Church Of God In Christ?** When we meet in the next Official Assembly, perhaps we should **discuss just what is intended by the wonderful suggestion.**

NOTE: So many of us never have attended the **General Assembly** of the Church Of God In Christ, and some may not even know that there is such an illustrious body as the General Assembly. It is good to know the **mind** of the person who is elected to lead us, for we will have a good idea as to the direction in which he intends to lead us. The Bible is right: "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" Proverbs 23:7. It also tells us that out of the abundance of the heart are the issues of life.