

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST TEMPLE

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

FROM: Bishop Samuel P. Nesbitt, Former Chief Justice, Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
“The Still Small Voice”

DATE: November 3, 2013

GREETINGS:

It is my pleasure to greet you on the eve of our 106th Annual Convocation of our beloved Church Of God In Christ, Inc., whose Headquarters is located in Memphis, Tennessee. In this very hour, as I write to you, hundreds from around the world are preparing to travel to the Annual Holy Convocation in St. Louis in search of spiritual empowerment, healing and blessings that are always obtainable when “*True Believers*” humble themselves, pray, seek God’s face, and turn from their wicked ways. When we, by repentance, rid ourselves of all things that we know to be morally wrong, unpleasant, naughty, painful or unrighteous, we are in a condition to be recipients of the blessings that God will bestow upon us. Let us pray that in this year’s Holy Convocation our minds will be directed away from what our will may be, and let us be willing to pray: **Lord, let *Your* will be done.**

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTERS AND YOUR CALLS

It is always a pleasure to receive calls and/or mail from some of our brethren throughout the Church. It helps to keep me informed as to what is taking place throughout the Church. Some of the news is good, some is not so good, and some is just not what it should be among Church Of God In Christ saints. I am grieved by the news that some of our Leaders, whom we love, trust, support and elected to serve in notable positions in the Church, appear to have chosen not to follow the guidelines as set forth in the Holy Bible, "*our rule of faith and practice.*" Moreover, they even appear not to follow the C.O.G.I.C. Constitution which they helped to create and which they promised, in the presence of God and the General Assembly, to follow. Their failure to follow and uphold the Biblical Doctrines and the Constitution of the Church is not good for them or the Church. There are some who have been seriously hurt, pushed aside, ignored and made to suffer at the hands of those whom they love and support. I am further informed that, even with knowledge of their violations, that have caused serious harm, damage and injury to their brothers and sisters, they appear to ignore that fact. Haughtily, they attempt to carry on business as if nothing has ever happened. Can you imagine how condemned a Holy Ghost filled person might feel when he attempts to preach to persons he has hurt and no apology has been given? Such conduct is diametrically opposed to what we believe, teach and are obligated to practice. Unfortunately, it appears that when God blesses some of us to be elevated – by us – to notable positions of leadership, we seem to lose our balance. The "*angel that was thrown out of heaven*" seems to inject us with a haughty and authoritarian spirit that makes us feel that we can do no wrong. We assume a posture of being very busy, when nothing is being accomplished; and, we are always going someplace in a hurry; but, we never seem to arrive at a known destination. We like to have people around us who make us feel that we are right when we are wrong. We push the people away from us whose knowledge, wisdom and understanding could save us; but, we reject it. Such persons find it hard to repent until it's too late.

Repentance Is The Divine Key To Deliverance And Prosperity

All about us there are situations that remind us that we are fallible creatures. Sometimes we may stumble, we make mistakes in writing, we drop things and break them, and we split verbs (wide open). Doctors and lawyers make mistakes, and all persons who render professional service are subject to make mistakes. All persons who operate an automobile are likely to have an accident; therefore, they are required to carry liability insurance to protect other drivers and themselves. When God made man, He made him in the image that pleased Him. He made him fallible and gave him the right of freedom of choice. God knew that a fallible creature would make wrong choices, or even sin, so He provided a way to take care of that: He provided **repentance**. God does not expect us to be infallible, because only He is infallible. We are required to be Perfect (mature), and that is something that we can achieve. When we sin, our Perfection Plan allows us to **repent** and erase the sin and re-establish our clean record. To follow the plan is indicative of wisdom and thanksgiving to God for His goodness and mercy. An attempt to cover our sins, and act as if we have not sinned, makes us to become hypocrites. We become sneaky, conniving and persons who live a life of "*make believe.*"

The Advertisements Make Us Look Good – Let’s Prove That We Are

The Convocation Planners appear to have retained professionals to advertise, announce and attract persons to the Holy Convocation in St. Louis. They used well-dressed, smiling persons who seemed happy. The names and pictures of the speakers were listed; but, no information was given relative to their qualifications or accomplishments. It just may have been assumed that an attractive picture may tell us more than a thousand words. On one of the flyers, the picture of the Presiding Bishop and seventeen other bishops, pastors and elders was listed under the superscription: **“I’m A Game Changer.”** They did not tell us what game they planned to change. The fact is, we did not know they were playing games. I am surprised that they allotted such a small space to the picture and announcement relative to the C. H. Mason Global Prayer Room. Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, Sr., the Founder and First Senior Bishop and Only Chief Apostle of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., is the reason why all of us are in the Church Of God In Christ. He was an humble, dedicated, compassionate leader. He loved God and God’s people (everybody). He had a special love for his leaders (pastors, elders, bishops), and the women of the Church had a special place in his heart. His love and concern for the women of the Church was shown by his appointment of Mother Lizzie Roberson as Overseer of Women. In his latter years, he appointed Mother Lillian B. Coffee as one of the Commissions to assist him in running the Church. When Bishop Mason appointed a person to a position, he would support the one appointed. He would travel thousands of miles to see about a brother; and, he would not allow men to destroy each other. Bishops, just think of who and what we are reputed to be, and think of the honor, respect, high positions you hold and the money you receive because of the suffering and sacrifices of our Founder, Bishop C. H. Mason. In the Church Of God In Christ, which Bishop Mason found, one does not have to try to be more than he is to be accepted and loved. You need only to be yourself and live holy as you are taught and grow in the **faith**.

Our Help Cometh From The Lord Who Made Heaven And Earth

The **flyers** advertising the Convocation seem to be designed to appeal to what the eye can see. They appear to magnify certain personalities as if they are the source to which we are to look to give us a glorious and rewarding Holy Convocation. While I may understand what might have been intended, I must inform you that **The Church Of God In Christ** looks to **God**, eternal spiritual presence – Who is everywhere and in every place and thing – to supply the needs of His people. The **flyers** show the Presiding Bishop in at least four positions: He is listed as a **Game Changer**, he is shown as a fully dressed shepherd in his clergy garments with a staff in his hand; he is shown praying for a man in the presence of others; and, he is also shown standing with the other 11 General Board members, who with him are standing, looking in the same direction, with their hands holding their wrists. Written in **LARGE, BOLD LETTERS** is the superscription: **PRESIDIUM OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**. We are not playing games, but we are at **war**. We don’t live by the standards of the world. *“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, we have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every Thought and make it obedient to Christ.”* II Cor. 10:3 – 4 (NIV)

The term **Presidium** suggests an authoritarian government which controls. It attempts to control the mind, and desires to dictate and have everything as it would have it. That **Spirit** is contrary to everything that **The Church Of God In Christ** believes. The "*angel that was thrown out of heaven*" appears to have deceived somebody to believe that the Church Of God In Christ has elected a group, twelve men whom we designated to be **The Presidium of The Church Of God In Christ**. The term may sound **impressive** to unknowledgeable persons, but **thinkers** know that it is the kind of **spirit** that will destroy our beloved Church. We elected a General Board and specified its authority. The problems that we are having in the Church today are the result of persons attempting to usurp authority that was never given to them. That take over spirit is what the term **Presidium** suggests, and those of us who fought in the Second World War, and subsequent wars, know how people were made to suffer under systems where **Presidiums** were in control. The Devil likes to make us desire to be what we are not; and, that is the sure key to our destruction. I have only been living, studying, learning, and participating in the wonderful things that God provides for almost 90 years. It is my desire to live to be 100 plus; therefore, I'm going to obey God's Word; and, I invite you to do the same.

Our Founder, **Bishop Charles Harrison Mason**, is now resting with the **Lord**. Because the **Lord** is everywhere, and Bishop Mason is with Him, he will be attending Holy Convocation with us this year. On the First Day of Convocation, and every other day, it would bless our Convocation if our Presiding Bishop would join with Bishop Mason and lead the total delegation in **prayer**. While we all assemble in God's presence in Holy Convocation. When we are assembled, I can hear our **Founder** say, "**God, the A-men and our Saviour, in the glory of Your presence we come to worship You is in this place. Bless Your little ones as they wait before You. Give us to render our wills to You so that we all will say 'Yes' to Your will and 'Yes' to Your way. Bind the Devil, and cast him out of the minds of the people. Rebuke death, and give Your little ones to rejoice. Forgive sins as we plead the blood of Jesus. The blood that heals, the blood that delivers from death, the blood of Jesus. The blood that heals us now. Man, God heals you; woman, Christ sets you free. Cast out stubborn spirits, and give unto Your people the will to obey. These are Your people, You saved them, when they were nothing, You lifted them up, and now Lord cause them to remember Your grace, as we worship You in this place. Let us remember where You brought us from and where we now stand. We give You praise and say 'Yes' in all we do. A-Men.**"

A Special Note To The Presiding Bishop and General Board

I have great love and respect for you, and I certainly would like to see you prosper. But, unless you **repent and encourage others to repent for wrongs the record shows that you know have been done**, you may not enjoy the blessings that could be yours if you humble yourself and say: **Please forgive me, I repent.** King David did it and just see how God blessed him. He will do the same for you.

Your brother in Christ,

PAX VOBISCUM

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel P. Nesbitt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Samuel P. Nesbitt