



Pastor & First Lady Richardson

EMANUEL

EXPRESS NEWS

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THE RESURRECTION: IT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL



1 Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. KJV

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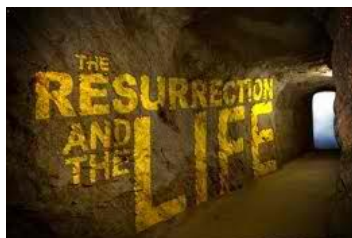
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Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (Eph 1:3). I trust that you and your family are doing well and that God's choice blessings are rich in your lives.

As we enter the month of April, our ministry theme is *Resurrection*. Though the subject of the Resurrection is very popular in the Christian church, often times we fail to promote it with the attention and enthusiasm that it deserves. I was impressed by a commercial campaign that aired sometime ago by Ford Motor Company that advertised their 2011 Fiesta. As the commercial opens a couple is sitting in the new 2011 Ford Fiesta, which is positioned in the middle of the street. The young lady sitting on the passenger's side of the car after noticing that the man sitting behind the steering wheel has no keys, looks at him and ask a brief question..No Keys?



And the driver says - no – watch this. He pushes the button to the ignition and at an instant; in the background celebratory music begins to play.



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People acrobatically began jumping down from the tops of buildings, fire escapes and porches and running into the streets in celebration. Simultaneously airplanes flying overhead with men parachuting and sky diving from the air into the streets also joined in the celebration. Trucks were parked in strategic places with signs and banners that advertise the new features of the car. Streamers were draped across the street that bore the message that the “New Fiesta is Here”.

Men and women on unicycles also joined in the celebration by riding in the streets with umbrellas that had an alphabet printed on top of each umbrella that collectively spelled out “Hands Free Sync” short for Synchronization. By this time the men parachuting and sky diving at the beginning of the commercial have finally landed, and their parachutes strategically draped across the tops of the buildings and into the street and they also had words printed on the tops of their parachutes that collectively bore another message that simply read “The New Ford Fiesta”.

Suddenly manhole covers in the streets began ejecting into the air followed by people jumping out of them into the streets to join in the celebration. As the camera panned back onto the couple in the car, the man who was the proud driver of this new celebrated driving machine responds with four simple but profound words that described the essence of the moment, He said “it’s a pretty big deal”.



When I think of the Resurrection and all of the benefits and privileges that it provides, I can also say that the Resurrection is a pretty big deal!

When we gather in our churches this Easter there may not be any planes flying over our heads, but I can say without reservation that the Resurrection is a pretty big deal! There may not be anybody acrobatically jumping from roof tops, fire escapes, landings and porches, but it’s still pretty big deal! There may not be any trucks, streamers, or parachutes that bear signs to advertise what is in the center of the celebration, but it’s still a pretty a big deal! There may not be any people riding unicycles and carrying umbrellas bearing messages about our Lord and His finished work on the cross, but you can believe that the Resurrection is a pretty big deal!

There may not be any manhole covers being ejected from the streets followed by people jumping out of them, but this Easter Sunday morning, we will be coming from under our covers entering into his gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise and we will be leaping and rejoicing in unrestrained celebration, because the Resurrection is unequivocally a pretty big deal!

It’s bigger than the Easter Bunny, Easter Basket, Easter egg and the Easter Dinner. It’s bigger than a new hat, new suit, new dress or new shoes. It’s bigger than the Easter crowd or the Easter Flock.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

WITH FIRST LADY, MSNY. ANASTASIA RICHARDSON



Once again I was blessed to attend the Tennessee Central Jurisdiction 2012 State Women's Convention under the leadership of Bishop Brandon Porter, Jurisdictional Prelate and Mother Ida M. Porter, Supervisor of Women. The convention convened March 20th through March 23rd in Piperton, Tennessee at the Cornerstone Church of God in Christ.

What a powerful and awesome meeting it was. The theme was "Celebrating a Glorious Past, Embracing a Promising Future" (Phil. 1:3-6 & Jer. 29:11). I was able to attend both the morning Workshop Empowerment sessions and the night worship services. During the Workshop Empowerment sessions they focused on the following topics:

Time Management - how to identify your personal time robbers, how to eliminate time robbers, how to set priorities and avoid the activity trap and how to stay on a schedule.

Successful Communication Skills - The importance of communication, the communication process, the role listening plays in the communication process and how to improve listening skills.

Stress Management for Women in Ministry - Beating burnout before it beats you, the four stages of stress, a checklist for burnout, and how to get out of the overload ditch.

Financial Freedom - The power is within you - The dollar Dilemma, some myths about finances, checklist for trustworthy spending, and principles for Wise Money Management.

Laws of Loyalty vs. Disloyalty in the Church - the stage of disloyalty, learn to detect disloyalty, and six points of laws of loyalty in which we as believers should be upholding.

The Wise Stepmom - "Adult Stepchildren" - smart dating, pressure to bond with the stepmom, steps for stepmoms of Adult Stepchildren, and how prayer and love never fails.

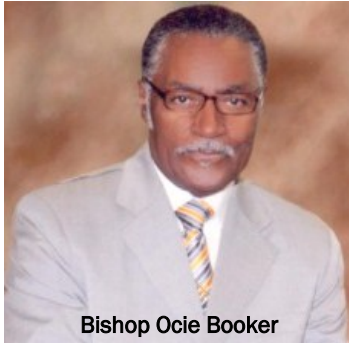
The night services were just as awesome. We heard great messages from each speaker. Messages for the week were: "I Have Work to Do", "Give me Hope but Don't tell me no Lie", "God Sustains Us" and "It's only through God's Spirit".

I thank God for an opportunity to attend this great Convention this year!!!



State Supervisor Mother Ida Porter
Tennessee Central Jurisdiction

2012 State Workers Meeting: "Faith: The Right Plan"



Bishop Ocie Booker

The First Jurisdiction Illinois Annual Ministers and Workers Meeting convened Monday, March 12 through Friday, March 16th. The theme of the meeting, taken from Matthew 4:1-4, was "Faith - The Right Plan". Each night the saints came from far and near with great expectations for what God was going to do in our presence.



Mother Charlotte Eades

On Monday Night, the meeting opened in Evanston, IL at the Faith Temple Church of God in Christ, where the honorable Bishop Carlis Moody is pastor. The highlight of the evening as always was the word of God. This year the Lord placed District Missionary Caberia Showers on the heart of our prelate, Bishop Ocie Booker to open our Ministers and Workers Meeting. Missionary Caberia Showers who is the District Missionary of the Bishop Shepard Little District delivered an awe inspiring word entitled "I've Made My Choice and I am Staying on Course". Her text was taken from Philippians 3:13-14 where Paul declares "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Missionary Showers opened her message by referencing the recent story of the Costa Concordia Cruise Ship that overturned due to the captain getting off course. Using this tragic accident as a teaching point, she shared with us many examples of how getting off course can cost you significantly. Like the captain of the ship, Missionary Showers informed us that we all have an assignment and we cannot afford to lose focus and get off course. Missionary Showers was at her best. God used this chosen vessel to set the course of our Ministers and Workers meeting with a timely, insightful, inspiring message that we all needed to hear.



On Tuesday Night the saints converged on the west side of Chicago to



the Peoples Church of the Harvest Church of God in Christ where the illustrious and visionary pastor is third Administrative Assistant Superintendent Michael Eaddy. The highlight of the evening was the preached word of God. Second Administrator Assistant, Superintendent Walter Blalark, the celebrated pastor of both Living Gospel and Cole Temple Church was the messenger. After an anointed sermon Solo from Missionary Carmen McGee entitled "I will bless the Lord", Superintendent Blalark gave insightful remarks and then directed our attention to a very familiar passage of Scripture found in Hebrews 11:1 "

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2012 State Workers Meeting: “Faith: The Right Plan”

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"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Superintendent Blalark delivered a powerful, thought provoking message to expand our understanding, expectations and appreciation on the topic of faith. His subject was "The Proof of Faith".

Superintendent Blalark stated that the dictionary alludes that there is no proof of faith. It defines Faith as our belief that is not based on proof. However the bible tells us that faith is the evidence of things not seen. He explained that one of the proofs of our faith is the evidence. It is this evidence of what we are unable to see, but yet believe, that motivates us to pursue until what is not seen is seen. He went further to tell us that the proof of our faith is not only in our belief but it impacts the words that we speak over our lives and how we exemplify godliness in our communication and relationship with others. He went further to say that Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross is the ultimate proof of our faith and if we have surrendered our lives to him as our Lord and Saviour, then our Salvation is also the proof of faith.

Superintendent Blalark shared so many wonderful things about faith including a powerful testimony of how he exercised his faith to be delivered from the dependency of high blood pressure medication. In his closing remarks he stressed that we must endeavor to download what we receive in church into our everyday lives. He emphasized that faith is not only spiritual, but practical.

On Wednesday night the First Jurisdiction Illinois Annual Ministers and Workers Meeting convened in Griffith Indiana at the Reed's Temple Church of God in Christ, where the celebrated pastor is Superintendent David A. Reed.

On Wednesday night we come together for a twofold purpose. First, to be a blessing to our sainted Jurisdictional Supervisor, Mother Charlotte Eades, who is indeed worthy of our honor, and to be blessed by her as God uses her to speak to our hearts. This year Mother Eades bestowed the honor and privilege to deliver the official Women's Night message to three powerful and anointed women of the Lord who were armed and ready with the word of God.



After Mother Eades blessed us with brief but inspiring expressions, Sister Yolanda Bateman rendered a sermonic solo that consisted of a medley of inspiring songs that primed our hearts and minds for the anointed word that was to follow. After the sermonic solo, Mother Shirley Hughes presented the three speakers for the evening, Msny. Gloria Parker, Msny. Myrna Herndon and Msny. Felicia Sanders.

For the remainder of this article please visit our website at www.emanuelcogic.com

Submitted by: Pastor Michael Richardson

res·ur·rec·tion [rez-uh-**rek**-shuhn]

1. the act of rising from the dead.
2. The rising of Christ after his death and burial.
3. The state of those risen from the dead.
4. A rising again, as from decay, disuse, etc, revival.

Source: dictionary.com

It's bigger than the Easter Bunny, Easter Basket, Easter egg and the Easter Dinner. It's bigger than a new hat, new suit, new dress or new shoes. It's bigger than the Easter crowd or the Easter Flock, the Resurrection, it's a pretty big deal.

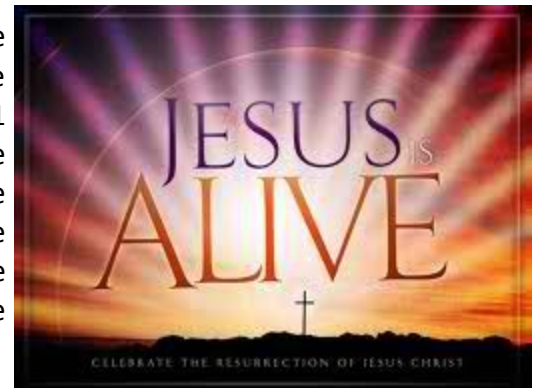
Pastor Richardson



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But the Resurrection is a pretty big deal because while all other religious founders are sleeping in their graves, our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ is alive and well. It's a pretty big deal because God loved us so much, that while we were yet sinners, that He came to us in the form of man, died for our sins, took the sting out of death, snatched the victory from the grave and declared that all power has been given to Him in heaven and on earth! It's a pretty big deal because if we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we will not remain dead, but will be resurrected unto eternal life. Now that's a pretty big deal!

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul explains in detail the importance of the resurrection of Christ and why we need to promote it with the attention and enthusiasm that it deserves. He writes in 1 Corinthians 15:19 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."



As we gather this Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, let's remember the driver of the Ford Fiesta who simply said "watch this" and pushed the button. Let's tell others to watch us as we praise Him and lift Him up and declare without reservation that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour is alive forevermore! Let's push the button and tell the world that the Resurrection a pretty big deal! *That it's a new deal. It's a better deal. It's the best deal. It's the real deal. It seals the deal. It validates the deal and it guarantees the deal!*

Pastor Richardson

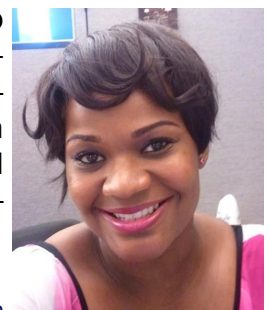
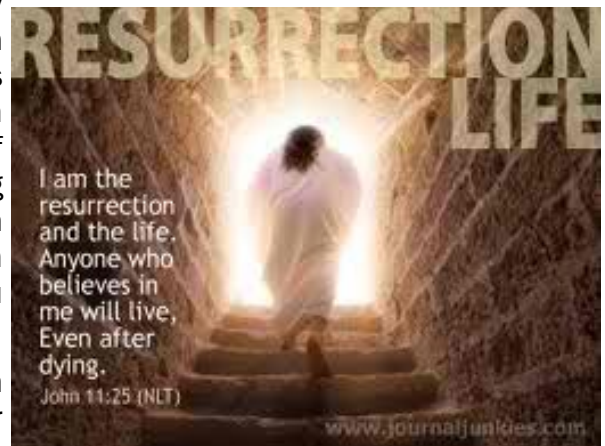
Monthly Inspiration

In this the month of Resurrection we celebrate what is arguably the greatest day in Christendom, Easter. Juxtaposed only against the Christmas Holiday, Easter is the ultimate fulfillment of God's greatest promise. God promised to send us a Savior and that He did; but it wasn't until that Savior sacrificed His life and the promise through death was brought to life. We now have access to life and that more abundantly and ready access to eternal life!

God has given us so many promises both spiritual and natural. Things that we have longed for in our lives, our hearts' desires, our dreams have all been realized but many are yet to come to fruition. What is the missing piece of the puzzle? Why are our dreams and goals sleeping in their graves when God has spoken life to them? I urge you to realize that your dreams are not too far gone. Whatever your heart's desire, it can still come to pass. In Ezekiel 37 the Lord asked Ezekiel the question, "Can these dry bones live?" Then He instructed Ezekiel to prophesy that the bones *would live!* Ezekiel's name means that God will strengthen. A prophecy is simply a word from God that something will come to pass. In short, we all need to realize that God has strengthened us to call those things that are not as though they are, as faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. The missing component in resurrecting our dreams is our belief! We have got to step out on faith and realize our God given power. With just a word we can speak life and or death into our lives and dreams... You should choose life!

God breathed life into the nostrils of man and such initiated life. He granted us that very same power (figuratively) in Ezekiel. I admonish you to use your breath to breathe life into every dead situation you've experienced. When I say every - I do mean EVERY... You may say, "Oh I overcame an old relationship that meant me no good and I have no desire to breathe life back into that situation." I implore you to dig a little deeper into yourself. You may find some of the things you once loved, you once did, and you once enjoyed, you no longer do because they're connected to such a dead situation. Get back into the swing of life and enjoy every aspect of it! Why? Because Jesus said He did not come to condemn the world nor shame it for its wrongs but He came to renew our minds and to give us life and that more abundantly. Because of the blood that He shed we owe it to Him to get the most out of this life that we live. If you once had a vision to persevere until your passion for holiness was realized by everyone you encountered then make sure you resurrect those desires as we move ministry forward.

We thank Jesus for His obedience to the Father in this month of Resurrection. What a wondrous advent we come together to celebrate!!! We acquiesced to sadness, defeat and anger for a moment; but we took it all back when the resurrection occurred. The resurrection undid all of the bad that we thought we had succumb to. The debt was paid, the battle won. Take a note from the story, life, death and resurrection of Christ. Realize you have the power to triumph over every trial because you've been given the word from God to speak life to any dead or dry situation you will every encounter!



Submitted by: Sis. Latoya Gipson



April 1st - 9:00 am
1st Sunday Pastoral Prayer

April 1st – 11:00 AM
 Palm Sunday

April 2nd - 7:00 PM
 State Fellowship Meeting
 @ Living Gospel Church of God in Christ
 1515 Dundee Avenue - Elgin, IL
 2nd Admin. Asst. Supt. Walter Blalark, Host

April 6th – 11:00 AM
 State Good Friday Service
 @ St. John Church
 7527 S. Cottage Grove - Chicago, IL
 Admin. Asst. Supt. Isaiah C. Grover, Host

April 6th – 7:00 pm
Emanuel Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 8th – 11:00 AM



April 9th-12th
 National Spring Call Meeting
 (Memphis, TN)

April 14th - 9:00 AM
State Evangelist Department Symposium
 @ St. Paul Church of God in Christ
 4526 S. Wabash Ave. – Chicago, IL

Sunday, April 15th - 5:00 PM
 D. A. Reed Sr. District Fellowship Meeting
 @ Zion Temple Church of God in Christ
 1414 S. Pulaski Road – Chicago, IL
 (Emanuel is the host church)

April 21st–5:00 PM
 D. A. Reed Sr. District AIM Skating Event
 @ Tinley Park Roller Rink
 17658 S. Oak Park Ave.—Tinley Park, IL
 (see inserted flyer or Sis. Keeya Thomas)

Monday, April 23rd - 7:00 PM
 State AIM Training
 Tabernacle Ministries
 1233 W. 109th Place - Chicago, Illinois
 Bishop Ocie Booker, Host

Wednesday, April 25th & Thursday, April 26th
7:00 PM Nightly
 Jurisdictional Men's Conference
 @ Pickens Memorial Church of God n Christ
 5659 South Union – Chicago, IL

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 12th— First Lady Msny. Anastasia Richardson
- 18th - Jeremiah Chase Gipson
- 18th - Earl Anthony, II
- 20th - Caprice Locust
- 26 - Deacon Meldemetrius Johnson, Sr.