

Bishop C. C. Owens, Founder

Elder Michael A. Richardson, Pastor



Pastor & First Lady Richardson

EMANUEL EXPRESS NEWS

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BUILDING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I trust that you and your family are doing well and that the blessings of the Lord are rich in your lives.

Our ministry theme for the month of June in Character or Christian Character. The dictionary defines character as the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing. It is also defined as moral or ethical qualities or specifically qualities of honesty, courage, or integrity. Finally character is also defined as one's reputation.

When we think of Christian character, we think of embodying the moral and ethical qualities that our Lord and savior Jesus Christ exemplified while He was on this earth. In other words Christian Character is to be Christ Like.

After dating they eventually got married. On their honeymoon night, as they prepared for the moment they had been waiting for, the bride, pulled off her wig, false eyelashes, popped out her false eye and put her false teeth on the night stand.

As human beings we can be very pos-

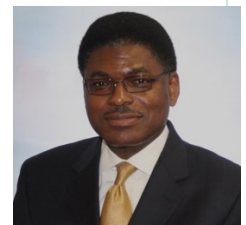
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SAVE THE DATE: FIRST JURISDICTION ILLINOIS STATE AIM CONVENTION JULY 11TH - 14TH, 2012

ST. PAUL C.O.G.I.C. - 4526 S. WABASH—CHICAGO, IL
BISHOP CHARLES M. FORD, HOST PASTOR
PASTOR MICHAEL A. RICHARDSON, AIM CHAIRMAN
BISHOP OCIE BOOKER, PRELATE



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As she continued reaching to remove more false apparatuses, the groom at this point was so taken by everything that had just unfolded before his eyes that he cried out in desperation for the only thing that appeared to be real. He shouted "Sing, Woman Sing!

It is nothing wrong with enhancing the outer appearance, or to look or be at your best. There are indeed great benefits. Someone said, if you want close friends, begin by brushing your teeth, taking a bath, putting on deodorant and some clean clothes. Though this maybe a starting point to obtain close friends, if your character is messed up, dingy, dirty, offensive and obnoxious, your chances of finding any friends will be nearly impossible. The best suggestion for obtaining close or true friends is found in Proverbs 18:24 ***A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly.*** That's character!

Again, there is nothing wrong with enhancing our outer appearance, but we should also apply the same required effort and sacrifice to build and develop our inner character and inner beauty. The reality is that while everyone can see your face, only you and God sees your heart. At the end of the day what matters most is not so much what others see on the outside, but how you measure up on the inside.

Achieving and developing Christian Character is not an easy feat. It is not developed overnight, but over time. We cannot achieve it on our own, but we need help. Just like we need the help of a barber, a hair stylist, a tailor, a fashion advisor, a fitness trainer or physician to look our best, feel our best or be at our best, we need the help of the Lord to achieve, develop and build Christian Character. Like a barber, He may have to cut. Like a stylist, He may have to press. Like a tailor, He may have to take in and let out. Like a fashion advisor, He may have to bring order. Like a fitness trainer He will need to work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure. And like a physician He may need to provide healing, comfort and restoration.

*A man that hath
friends must
shew himself
friendly.*

Proverbs 18:24

In other words God helps us to build Christian character through, challenges, temptations, trials and even suffering. If we submit ourselves to Him and trust Him while He takes us through the process (like we do our barber and hair stylist), we will ultimately become more and more like Christ.

The story is told of a group of women that met for Bible study. While studying in the book of Malachi, chapter three, they came across verse three which says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled the women and they wondered how this statement applied to the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out more about the process of refining silver, and to get back to the group at their next Bible study. The following week, the woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him while at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith work, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames



First Things First with Msny. Richardson

During the month of May we celebrated and honored some great women in the church. The following are a few of the events that took place:

On Saturday, May 5th, First Jurisdiction Illinois held their annual Woman of the Year Luncheon. This luncheon was instituted by the late Bishop Shephard Little fulfilling his desire to give recognition to deserving women in the Jurisdiction. Bishop Booker has allowed the women's department the opportunity to continue with this valued tradition. Since its inception, it has been a blessing to many women. Candidates must be recommended by their peers and stringent requirements must be met in order to be considered.



This year's honoree was **Mother Betty Stripling** from the St. F .W. McGee/Williams Campbell District. Mother Betty Stripling was praised and celebrated for serving with distinction in many positions within her local church and jurisdiction. It was a great time of fellowship and many shared kind words and accolades for the honoree.

Before the honor is bestowed upon the new Women of the Year, the previous Woman of the Year (District Missionary Edith King) must relinquish her crown to the honoree. This is always a bitter sweet time for the previous recipient to relinquish her crown. It is one of the greatest honors one can receive and after holding the title for an entire year, it's not easy to let it go! The torch was finally

passed to Mother Stripling and she was crowned with the tiara, presented with a beautiful plaque and a medallion was placed around her neck. In addition to these tokens of royalty, she received a monetary donation. It was indeed a wonderful day of celebration.



Sunday, May 13th was our traditional Mother's Day celebration. This is the day that we honor and salute all of the mothers or women of the church who have helped to make a difference or played an integral role in the upbringing of a child. This is also the day that we honored our very own church mother, Mother Ophelia Turner. Mother Turner is a faithful, active and dedicated member of the church. We can count on her to be present and on the scene for everything that the church does. Mother Turner along with the Mother's Board were showered with special gifts of love. Every mother and woman present were given a gift along with a rose to remind them that no matter what storms they have to face in life that God will never leave them nor forsake them.



Saturday, May 19th our church was honored to host the State Ministers Wives Alliance under the leadership of Mother Jean Booker. Mother Booker is a dynamic leader and example for this vital department. She always has something new to present to us and to help us in our role as Pastors & Ministers Wives. The ladies came out adorned in their yellow, which was the color for the month. First Lady Missionary Nellie Smith was the selected speaker and she expounded on "Affirming Personhood" – Proverbs 27:19. Msny. Smith provided a wealth of information and inspiration on this important subject. After our meeting we were blessed to dine and enjoy the fellowship of one another.

2012 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING



The 2012 District Meeting for the David A. Reed Senior District convened on Monday May 14, thru Friday May 18th, 2012, at our Superintendent's Church, Reeds Temple COGIC in Griffith Indiana. Monday night was pre-musical night facilitated by 1st Lady Klista Hill. There was representation from various churches and many talents



were highlighted including original songs rendered by the District Choir. The Emanuel Praise ministry under the direction of our own Sister Katherine Brookins rendered a thought provoking interpretive skit based on the theme for the meeting 'Holy Ghost Revolution. The participants included Sister Katherine Brookins', Sister La Cole Murray, Brothers; William Brookins, Stanley Banks, James Yarbough, David Alexander, Phillip Brooks, Alfonz McGowan (Jordan), and little (twin) Joshua, as well as sister Whitney Turner of Zion Temple Church. They all did a wonderful job to set the tone for the week.



Tuesday night was facilitated by Pastor Michael Hill and our own Pastor, 2nd Assistant Superintendent Michael Richardson was the keynote speaker. Proverbs 3 versus 5-6 was the text with the subject "Trusting in the Lord". The Pastor admonished us that we are creatures of trust, and will regularly put our trust in everything from a paycheck, money, cars, and gas to operate them, to our own abilities. However these things can and will let us down. He gave us a great example of a pilot caught in the midst of a terrible storm in the dark, he has to rely on his controls and not what he can see, but what he 'reads' to guide him to safely land, in turn we must place our complete trust in the Lord our God, even when we can't trace him! The night concluded with the Pastor praying for the families

gathered on the altar.

The women were in charge for Wednesday night and our own 1st Lady 2nd Assistant District Missionary Anastasia Richardson did a fantastic job facilitating the evening. District Missionary Maggie Booker came forth with words of wisdom to the women. She sighted Matthew 11 28-30 Rest in the Lord. She told us that we must find the "old path and walk therein"; seek the Lord and not find ourselves so busy and inundated with appointments and invitations to events that cause us to neglect the house of worship. We must always be open to seek His face even if we can only find the strength to groan, because the Lord knows all that we have need of, and He alone can give us rest! Elect Lady Lundy prayed for all of the women, with special emphasis on widows and single mothers. Afterwards Dr. Sherelene Harris, President of the Pastors and Ministers wives, presented a tribute to the Founders wives, Mother Elvie Owens from Emanuel and Mother Elaine Reed from Reed's Temple. The First Lady of the District, Iris Reed presented wonderful love tokens to District Missionary Booker in addition to the Red Card for the Women's International Convention. Just when we thought the evening was over, Sister Katherine Brookins, and Thee Emanuel Praise Ministry at the request of 1st Lady Reed ministered "I want it all Back!" a stirring illustration of our struggle against the evils of the enemy.



THEME: HOLY GHOST REVOLUTION

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Our Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop Ocie Booker spoke on Thursday night which was set aside for prayer for the men. He said that he recalled the time when the Saints of God entered the sanctuary worshipping and praising the Lord and how there was a definitive sound that you felt to the depths of your soul. He spoke of an antiphonal (or deeply felt) praise that we needed to seek to re-capture. Revelations 4 was referenced where the 4 beasts worshipped around the throne of God and evoked spontaneous praise from the 4 and 20 Elders, and so must we be ready to praise the Lord! Our worship must be pure and not mixed with the world. He closed explaining that as we praise and thank the Lord, we must realize that we are thanking Him for being cleansed from the ‘incurable disease of sin’ and he admonished us to let nobody take your praise! All men present filled the altar as our Jurisdictional leader prayed for the men.



The meeting culminated on Friday night with Superintendent David Reed bringing the official message based on our theme “Holy Ghost Revolution”. After soul stirring sermonic selections from Psalmist Kim Stratton who shared “I feel Jesus” and “More than enough” the atmosphere was set for a powerful word from our leader. He explained that a revolution is an overthrowing of government, taken by force and is unexpected. If the Clergy and spiritual leaders would come together in spirit and with one mind to seek the Lord we can spark ‘real’ change in our neighborhoods and win souls for the kingdom. In standing with one mind we will cause the church, the laity and ultimately the communities and cities of Chicago and Gary Indiana to catch on fire for the Lord and end all the evils and crimes that the enemy is running rampant with our youth. After calling all youth forth for prayer every young person and saint present felt that we were truly ready for a real Holy Ghost Revolution!



After calling all youth forth for prayer every young person and saint present felt that we were truly ready for a real Holy Ghost Revolution!

Submitted by: Msny. Viveca Williams



Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones. -Phillips Brooks

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were the hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, then she thought again about the verse, that "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the entire time the silver was being refined. The man answered yes, that not only did he have to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on it the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "But how do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy--when I see my image in it."

Romans 5:3-5 reads "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. NLV

I wish to challenge you during the month of June, to submit yourself to God's process of Character Building. The results will amaze you. You will look better than you ever dreamed or imagined. In fact when people see the new you they will see more than just you, but the image of Christ radiating through you!

Be Blessed,

Pastor Richardson



char·ac·ter [kar-ik-ter]

1. the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing.
2. one such feature or trait; characteristic.
3. moral or ethical quality: *a man of fine, honorable character.*
4. qualities of honesty, courage, or the like; integrity: *It takes character to face up to a bully*
5. reputation: *a stain on one's character*



I JUST WANNA THANK GOD

This time last year my son Timothy wasn't doing well in school. In fact, he had to attend summer school due to poor grades. Of course there were punishments, denial of requests, and favorite things removed from his room, but to no avail. No one wants to fail, and no parent wants to see their child struggling. **Turn it over to Jesus and he will work it OUT!**

When things started off on the wrong foot this year, different steps were taken. Last year, I kept it to myself. This school year I told those that I know who value education and love the youth of the church. They jumped right in and lectured as well as prayed for him. The now Pastor, Elder Hill would come to the house when Tim would call him for help or he would tutor by phone. Sis. Joyce and Sis Annie offered places for tutoring as well as the use of their family members. We went to the saint's houses and received help wherever we could find it. Sis. Marchelle opened her home and even tutored him along with her sister Beatrice after services. He began a free tutoring program that bought in professionals in the education and business fields with expertise in the areas he needed help with. I thank you all for your help, **but I PRAISE GOD!**

God can and will turn it around but you must be willing to turn around too! Instead of failure, he is putting the work in to receive good grades. He hasn't been to tutoring since February, but he realizes he must do his best. At the end of the first half of the school year he was failing English, Math, and Physics. He has now passed Physics. He has an A+ in English and a B in Algebra III. To make it plain, he now carries 3 A's and 2 B's. **God is Great and Greatly to be Praised!**

Timothy has had the love and support of his family too! His sister, Melinique encourages him to complete his work, assists him with his work as well as gives him pep talks when she feels that Tim needs them. He has the prayers and constant concern of the righteous as well. You know the prayers of the righteous avail much. **To God be the Glory!**

Look at God, Tim was recently given the GT (Gordon Tech) shirt by the school and his name was announced over the schools TV announcements in honor of his Student of the Week status. That's not all! **I thank God** because last semester, Timothy also achieved Honor Roll status during the Honor Roll assembly. **Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him!**



I Just Want To Thank God because without Him we would be nothing! I thank Him because in Him there is no failure! Oh It's true, God cares for the sparrow, but yes, He cares about every aspect of our lives too! The bible says He will make the last first and Timothy's math teacher called to tell me that Tim has definitely moved out of last place.

Glory and Honor is due God, Get your Praise ON!

Submitted By Msny Alayna Johnson



GRADUATES & CELEBRATIONS

PHILLIP BROOKS, JR.



Phillip Brooks is an 8th grade graduate from the Alain Locke Charter Academy. This August, **Phillip** will be attending St. Ignatius College Prep.

Congratulations Phillip!!!

ALFONZ MCGOWAN, JR.



Alfonz McGowan is an 8th grade graduate from O'Keefe Elementary School. This August, **Alfonz** will be attending Chicago Hope Academy.

Congratulations Alfonz!!!

JESSICA M. KELLY



On May 1st, Jessica M. Kelly was inducted in the Junior Honor Society at Coolidge Middle School. A few Emanuelites, family and friends cheered her on!

Jessica, Keep up the good work!!!

MONTHLY INSPIRATION

Jesus

You are my champion.

God gave you to me.

My life, my salvation.

Dear Jesus,

You are my high tower, my shelter, my peace, my prince, my counselor.

Strength and health you impart to me.

You are my hope in glory!!

You are my righteousness.

My grace and mercy.

Submitted by: Mother Lorraine Gipson

***Character is
what you are
in the dark.***

-Dwight L. Moody