



Pastor & First Lady Richardson

EMANUEL EXPRESS NEWS

3058 West Van Buren - Chicago, IL 60612 - (773) 722-8391 - www.emanuelcogic.com

“A REASON FOR FORGIVENESS”

July 2012



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FIRST THINGS FIRST	3
STATE AIM CONFERENCE	4-5
JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS	6-7

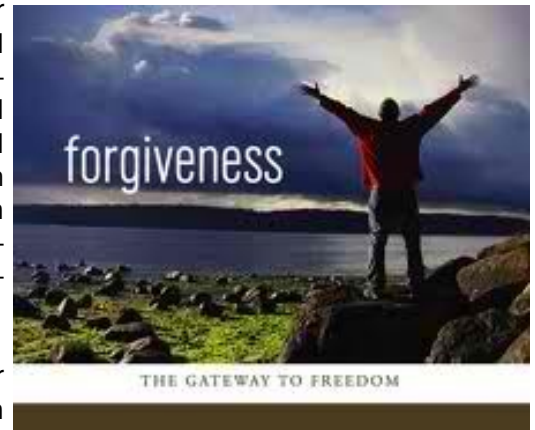


Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. KJV

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who has blessed us to sit in heavenly places in Him. It is my prayer and heart's desire that you and your family are doing well and that the blessings of the Lord are manifest in your lives.

Our ministry theme for the month of July is Forgiveness. Forgiveness is defined as the act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings, and errors. As a theological term, forgiveness refers to God's pardon of the sins of human beings.

Out of the many things that God has provided for humanity, forgiveness is one of the greatest. In fact when God forgave us he met our greatest need. Chuck Swindoll in "The Grace Awakening" wrote this "If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior!



God's brand of forgiveness is far superior than ours. When God forgives He forgets. In Isa 43:25 God says "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." In Micah 7:19 it reads "He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Someone says that when God forgives He throws our sins into the sea of forgetfulness and puts up a sign that says "No Fishing!"

Another verse of scripture that highlights how God dismisses our trespasses is found in Psalms 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Do you understand how far that is? Let me just give you a hint. If you were to travel north from anywhere, at what point would you begin going south? At the north pole. But if you were traveling east from anywhere, at what point would you begin going west? You could go east forever and never be going west. That's how far God removes our sins from us when they are forgiven.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However when we forgive, we often struggle with removing, throwing away or forgetting the trespass or transgression against us. We talk about forgiveness, sing about forgiveness, teach and preach about it, but our noise about forgiveness becomes mute when we are called to forgive. C.S. Lewis put it this way “Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.”



Though we may not have the capacity to forget, remove and throw away trespasses like God, we must strive to do it with all sincerity. Clara Barton, the founder of the Red Cross, was never known to hold resentment against anyone. One time a friend recalled to her an especially cruel thing that had happened to her some years previously, but Clara seemed not to remember the incident. "Don't you remember the wrong that was done to you?" the friend asked Clara. She answered calmly, "No, I distinctly remember forgetting that." Like Miss Barton, we must distinctly remember to forget!

Though the act of forgiving requires effort and depending on the severity of the transgression can be most difficult, there are some good reasons for you to forgive. First of all, Forgiveness provides Freedom. When we refuse to forgive someone for something they have done to us, we become bound and enslaved by the situation in question. It will negatively impact your focus, your productivity, your rest and even your health. Every time the person who has trespassed against you comes into your presence or into your thoughts you feel bound, restricted and uneasy. However, when we forgive we begin to reclaim the liberty, peace and freedom we once had.

Another reason for forgiveness is that it provides healing. Unforgiveness can be deadly. It destroys relationships. It destroys marriages, families, and friendships. It destroys neighborhoods communities and even churches. However, I agree with Marianne Williamson who said that “the practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world”. Though forgiveness may not be easy, if we would strive to practice it daily in all of our interactions, we will reap the benefits of better and healthier relationships with one another.

Finally, the best reason for forgiveness is because Christ has forgiven us. In the book of Col 3:13 the Apostle Paul rights “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” When we consider the price that was paid to purchase our Salvation which is a direct result of God forgiving us, when we consider all of the many benefits, blessings and liberties that we are entitled to, how can we not demonstrate the love of God to others as He has shown unto us?

Be tolerant with one another and
forgive one another whenever any of
you has a complaint against someone
else. You must forgive one another
just as the Lord has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is conditional. Jesus said in Mark 11:26 “But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” We express our appreciation and gratitude of God’s love and forgiveness towards us by expressing that same love and forgiveness to others. George Herbert said “God’s love is like a bridge that makes reconciliation possible. If you take away the bridge, the separation remains. He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass.”

During this month of forgiveness let us strengthen the bridge of reconciliation by reflecting on God’s forgiveness towards us and practicing forgiveness towards others.

*Be Blessed,
Pastor Michael Richardson*

FIRST THINGS FIRST WITH MSNY. RICHARDSON

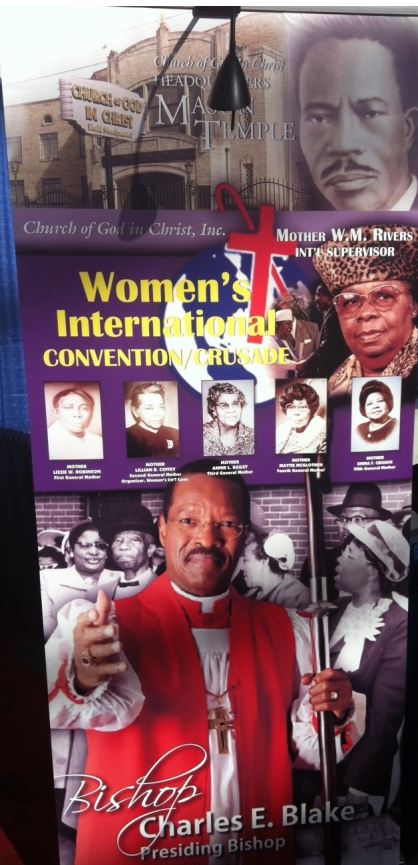
I was blessed again this year to attend the 2012 Women's International Convention and Crusade of the Church of God in Christ. Organized in 1911, this represented the 100th year celebration for the Women's Department and the 62nd Annual Women's International Convention. The Women's Department has a lot of rich history and plays a vital role in the global ministries of our great church. The Women's International Convention has much to offer from prayer, praise, worship, workshops, musicals, singing, teaching and phenomenal preaching.



Mother Willie Mae Rivers is the General Supervisor of Women in the Churches of God in Christ. She is also the Convention President, who does an exceptional job of staying out front and in charge. Mother Rivers, quoting from Elijah L. Hill's writings from the book "Women Come Alive" regarding Bishop Mason and the role of women in ministry stated: *"unlike most of his male religious contemporaries, Bishop Mason believed that women should be out front in leadership roles, cooperating alongside men in church work. In the beginning from the Azusa Street Revival until 1920, women were very visible in ministry... His vision was that women leaders would work alongside male leaders with women governing, organizing, and facilitating other female leadership roles."* Mother Rivers always has many words of wisdom to share with the women of God.

A few of the highlights of the convention:

For many years Mother Rivers headed the Leadership Conference which is an integral part of the Convention. This conference started 24 years ago with just a very few women attending and has now grown to thousands of women in attendance. Just a few years ago she incorporated a 12 hour prayer session that is always well attended and most motivating and inspiring. Mother Rivers incorporates delegates across every age group to play a part in this convention. The 49 years and under are privileged to have a dialogue with the General Supervisor. Everyone looks forward to seeing and hearing the Sunshine Band and the Puritans during the Friday day session. During this session our Presiding Bishop, Bishop Charles E. Blake prays and anoints all the youth in attendance. There is a banner parade that represents the various auxiliaries and departments within the global women's department. Time is taken to honor the seniors and to hear expressions from jurisdictional supervisors and workers that are involved in the foreign fields.



This year's theme for the Convention was "Seeking God through Prayer, Obedience and His Word". Mother Rivers along with other speakers during this convention drove home the point that there is a call for more Esther's, Mary's, Deborah's, Jochebed's and many other women in the bible that were used by God. We learned that we need more teachable women for the ministry. We need women to be on the frontline. We need real evangelists that are concerned about souls. We need more women who will give their lives to the Lord and, who will pray and fast, and seek God for His power to serve. We need to study God's Word, and get a grip of the master's hand so that we will be ready for the call of duty that He has for us!

There is much more that went on in this glorious convention. As always I left charged and motivated to seek God more through prayer, obedience and His Word. I am looking forward to attending the convention next year which will be in Orlando, Florida.

2012 STATE AIM CONFERENCE



The First Jurisdiction of Illinois 2012 Auxiliaries In Ministry Conference convened on Monday, June 12 through Thursday, June 14, 2012 at the historic St. Paul Church of God in Christ, where Bishop Charles Mason Ford is Pastor. Our theme for this year's



conference was "Bold Strategies to Revolutionize and Transform Ministry". Every night God blessed and enriched us in a tremendous way.

The First Jurisdiction, IL Youth Choir rendered songs of praise and inspiration each night. Under the capable leadership of our State Minister of Music, Pastor Kenneth Lockhart and Sister Cathy Bogan, and State Youth Choir coordinators, Minister Cornelius Dole and Sister Tammy Reed, we were blessed with one of the most anointed and melodious youth choirs we have ever had.



The message for Monday night was delivered by our Missions Vice President, Dr. Ophira Campbell Scott. This was

Dr. Scott's first appearance in our AIM Conference as a Keynote speaker and she was simply fantastic. Her message, which was aligned with our theme: "Bold Strategies for Revolutionizing and Transforming Ministry" was "Persuasion Power". Dr. Scott encouraged us to use our power of persuasion to win souls for Christ. She drew our attention to the conversion experience of the Apostle Paul on the Damascus Road. Though Paul was bent on persecuting the Church, after encountering Christ on the Damascus Road he was persuaded to surrender his life to Him. He declared in Rom 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord". If we are to possess the power to persuade others, then we must first be persuaded ourselves



On Tuesday, the Sunday School Department under the Leadership of Superintendent Michael Payton and Field Representative Vanessa Nash presented trophies and medallions to the winners of their recently held Sunday School Olympics. The event, which is growing each year, consisted of competitions that included spelling bee, math, and art. Participants ranging from ages 7 to 19 received first and second place trophies. As young people came forth, excited to receive their trophies, the audience exploded in celebration.

The highlight of for Tuesday evening was a powerful, informative, thought provoking and soul stirring

BOLD STRATEGIES TO REVOLUTIONIZE AND TRANSFORM MINISTRIES

message from our Sunday School Superintendent, Minister Michael Payton. Minister Payton engaged our minds and hearts in his electrifying message entitled "Either You Believe or You Don't". Being true to his calling as a Sunday School Superintendent and passionate about the word of God, Minister Payton took us on an incredible journey of news, facts, truth and scripture, exposing Satan as the archenemy of God and a deceiver of the saints and argued his case that our victory over the battles that we encounter daily in our Christian walk will only come if we choose to believe God's word and promises towards us.



On Wednesday night a number of young people from local churches in our jurisdiction were recognized for their outstanding achievements in their education and services rendered in their local churches. As the list of accomplishments was read off, we listened in amazement and thanked God for endowing our young people with tremendous talent, intelligence and humility. The highlight of the evening was a powerful and explosive message delivered by our State Minister of Music Pastor Kenneth Lockhart. Pastor Lockhart was simply phenomenal. Pastor Lockhart approached the podium ready for service. He directed our attention to Acts 1:8 and suggested a proven strategy to help us revolutionize and transform ministry. His subject and his suggestion was "All You Need is the Holy Ghost". The power of God's presence swept through the room as we repeated the subject with excitement and conviction.



Pastor Lockhart emphasized the need to be filled and empowered by the Holy Ghost to be effective in ministry. He indicated that gifts and talents are good, but are not enough in themselves to transform lives. If we are serious about changing and transforming lives, we must be filled with the Holy Ghost. Pastor Lockhart allowed God to use him in a tremendous way to deliver this timely and relevant message that is applicable to all. It was informative, insightful, inspiring and convincing. Many came to the altar in response to his appeal to be filled and refilled with the Holy Ghost.



Thursday night yours truly was the messenger. I directed the audience to the six chapter of Joshua, where we find the very familiar story of Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho. I spoke from our theme "Bold Strategies to Revolutionize and Transform ministry" I emphasized the need for the church to be strategic in ministry because our adversary, the devil is strategic. If we want to be effective in our war against our adversary we must also be strategic. After sharing many strategies that God initiated for our salvation and for our betterment, I concluded by highlighting the bold strategies that Joshua implemented during his

AIM: continued on page 6

The Emanuel C.O.G.I.C. Sons and Daughters of Promise

Presents Our

Annual Youth Explosion

Theme:

Determined and Aware; No Compromise

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2012 @ 11:00 AM AND 4:00 PM

11:00 AM



MISSIONARY ALAYNA JOHNSON
EMANUEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
YOUTH LEADER

4:00 PM



MISSIONARY IRIS CALLOWAY-THOMPSON
GREATER HOLY TEMPLE COGIC
YOUTH EVANGELIST

S
P
E
A
K
E
R
S

PLEASE COME OUT! BE OUR GUEST AND WORSHIP WITH US!

Msn. A. Johnson, President

Elder. M. Richardson, Pastor

3058 W. Van Buren Chicago, IL 60612 – (773) 722-8391

FORGIVENESS
is not something
we do for OTHER PEOPLE.
We do it for OURSELVES
-to GET WELL and
MOVE ON.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, August 11th – 3:00 PM
Emanuel Will Celebrate
Mother Elvie Owens (Founder's Wife)

90th Year
Birthday
Celebration

@Zion Temple
COGIC
1414 S. Pulaski
Chicago, IL



Sunday, August 19th – 4:00 PM
Emanuel's Annual Women's Day
Guest Speaker:

District
Missionary
Caberia Showers
(Bishop Shepard Little)



AIM: continued from page 5

first conquest to defeat Jericho, I spoke from our theme "Bold Strategies to Revolutionize and Transform ministry".

As the AIM Chairman, I wish to thank all of you who supported this great conference with your prayers, presence and finances. Because of your support we were blessed to experience one of the greatest AIM Conferences in the history of our jurisdiction. I admonish you to continue to support the AIM family of First Jurisdiction, IL as we endeavor to implement Bold Strategies to Revolutionize and Transform Ministries.

For more information about this wonderful conference, please visit the First Jurisdiction Illinois Website (www.fjicogic.org).

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 1st – 9:00 am
1st Sunday Pastoral Prayer

Sunday, July 1st
Annual Youth Day Explosion

11:00 AM Speaker: Msny. Alayna Johnson
 4:00 PM Guest Speaker: Msny. Iris Calloway
 (See page 6 for more information)

July 2nd – July 6th
National AIM Convention
 Birmingham, Alabama



July 4th

Independence Day

Sunday, July 8th – 4:00 pm
 We will be fellowshipping at:

Zion Temple COGIC
Pastoral Anniversary Service
 1414 S. Pulaski Road – Chicago, IL
 Pastor Robert Booker

Monday, July 9th – 6:30 pm
State Fellowship Meeting

@ New Original COGIC
 9101 S. Jeffery Street - Chicago, IL
 Admn. Asst. Supt. Thomas Jackson, Host Pastor

Monday, July 11th – Friday, July 13th
D. A. Reed Sr. District AIM Convention
 8608 S. Summit Ave. - Chicago IL 60643
 Pastor Kurt Swan, Host Pastor

Saturday, July 14th – 12:00 Noon
FJI Minister Wives Alliance

@ King of Glory Tabernacle COGIC
 2314 East 83rd Street - Chicago IL 60617-1914

Sunday, July 15th – 5:00 PM
D. A. Reed Sr. District Meeting
 @ Zion Temple COGIC
 1414 S. Pulaski Road – Chicago, IL

Sunday, July 22nd – 4:00 PM
 Emanuel will fellowshipping at:
Restoration Ministries Church Anniversary
 6043 S. Hohman Ave - Hammond IN 46320
 Pastor Tyrone Gaston, Host
Our Pastor is the Guest Speaker



- 6th Pastor Michael Richardson
- 6th Sis. Katherine Brookins
- 11th Mother Martha Hardy
- 14th Bro. William Brookins
- 14th Bro. Holland Neal
- 18th Sis. Dewana Hardy-Holston
- 18th Sis. LaCole Murray
- 23rd Mother Lorraine Gipson.
- 24th Msny. Crystal L. Willis
- 26th Bro. Stanley Banks
- 27th Timothy Johnson



- 12th Bro. William & Sis. Katherine Brookins (5 Years)
- 17th Pastor Michael & Msny. Anastasia Richardson (30 Years)

Visit us at www.emanuelcogic.com

EMANUEL COGIC

3058 West Van Buren Avenue

Chicago, IL 60612

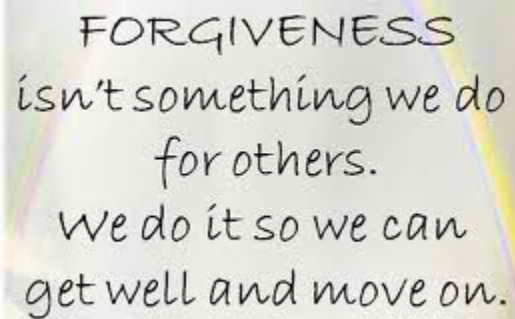
773-722-8391 phone

Sunday School 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Class 7:00 pm

“BUILDING UPON A SOLID FOUNDATION”



FORGIVENESS
isn't something we do
for others.
We do it so we can
get well and move on.