

A Series: THE BLACK FAMILY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80's

By Maudra Jones

Author's note: In a year in which the President of the United States issued a proclamation designating 1983 as the "Year of the Bible" and established a national day of prayer committee to launch a major campaign to insure that millions of Americans "Take 5 at 12" on May 5, 1983 to pray for the leaders of our country and the healing of our land; and in a decade which has given us the "1980 White House Conference on Families", "The National Association of Family and the Religious Community, the Congressional Black Caucus Salutes to the Black Family and the Black Church and a "Family Plan for Black Unity, Survival and Progress" - in a year which the importance of the family is receiving nationwide focus and attention and our own Clark County Commission has joined other principalities in proclaiming the 1980's "The Decade of the Family" - the recent 35th Annual Holy Convocation of the Churches of God in Christ, by virtue of its doctrine and programs cannot be overlooked as a vital and moving force in giving concrete substance to the purpose of these efforts to "reaffirm the family and the religious community as resources for developing inner strength; to provide information that can assist the family and religious and community institutions in serving the needs of individuals and groups more effectively; to explore ways of mobilizing the resources of the family and the world; to involve children, adults and senior citizens in the full participation of the family and the church; to assist communicants in becoming more sensitive to their own internal and external resources for improving the quality of their lives and the lives of others who are touched by them; to acknowledge God as our inner source for strength in "The living of these days - and, in all of this, to do what God intended for all his children" (ob-



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jectives of the National Association for family and the religious community).

Ossie Davis's spirited appeal for the Congressional Caucus "Family plan was: "Give us a plan...a 10 black

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commandments, simple, strong, that we can carry in our hearts, and in our memories no matter where we are, and reach out and touch and feel the reassurance that there is behind everything we do a simple, moral, intelligent plan that must be fulfilled in the course of time..." The first rule of the plan is to support the church, signalling the overriding statement of God's plan of salvation.

The President's "National Prayer Reminder exhorted all americans to: "Pray for a moral and spiritual awakening in the entire country, acknowledging God's mercy and forgiveness; II Chronicles 7:14 pray for the leaders of our country by name, that they might have wisdom, guidance, protection, and awareness of God's presence in mind and heart, and that they might practice integrity: I Timothy 2:1-6; I Samuel 12:14; pray for leaders of your state, province,

county, district and city: (Psalms 127:1; Romans 13:1-5); pray for those undergoing persecution, imprisonment or privation: (Psalms 91:14-16; John 8:36; Philippians 4:19); pray for the church and for church related organizations, local and nationwide: (John 17:11, Acts 4:29; I Timothy 2:4); pray for greater christian impact in mass media and cultural or social service: (Colossians 2:8; Proverbs 1:7); Pray for each other; (Psalms 139:23,24; Phillipians 4:6, 7).

Finally, on February 3, 1983, in President Reagan's speech before signing the official proclamation of 1983 as the "Year of the Bible" he said, "Inside the

Bible's pages lie all the answers to all the problems man has ever known". The "Year of the Bible" is proclaimed "In recognition of both the formative influence the Bible has been for our nation and our national need to study and apply the teachings of the holy scriptures". The proclamation reads: I encourage all citizens, each in his and her own way, to re-examine and rediscover its priceless and timeless message". The "Year of the Bible is already being heralded as one of "The most significant movements of its kind in our nation's history". Thank God for his messengers of this decade - thank God for an enlightened and serving church community.

In recognition of the leadership that the Nevada Jurisdiction of the churches of God in Christ, giving meaning and experience to the christian community, in the foregoing and all other ways in which the 35th Annual Holy Con-

vocation has served to remind us of the spiritual origins and commitment of the Black church - combining the "Historic formula for the salvation of the soul and the liberation of the body - one for tomorrow, the other for today...", the regional office of the National Association of Family and the Religious Community salutes the Nevada Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ in this issue of "The Black Family and the Challenges of the 80's."

My sisters and brothers, feast, now, on the word made manifest through an historical event which took place right here in our own community. Let us "carry these words in our hearts and in our memories"; let us pledge ourselves to a "new and creative relationship" with our families and our churches as we strive to heal our community and our nation of the ills that plague our society - and move, grounded in Christ, toward "God's kindom of love in the twenty first century.

over by Bishop E.N. Webb, Pastor of Las Vegas' Pentacostal Temple; at which the State Headquarters are located. Mrs. Sweetie A. Porter is State Supervisor of the Nevada Jurisdiction of Churches of God in Christ.



BISHOP E. N. WEBB
Jurisdictional Bishop

The assembly, hailed as the largest ever held in the Nevada Jurisdiction's history, was welcomed by John Edmond, President of Nucleus Plaza, Inc. at the Pre-Convocation Musical, June 13. This glorious our-pouring of the Holy Spirit, in song and praise was conducted and directed by Madam Loyce Hall, State Minister of Music. Madam Hall was assisted by Mrs. Margaret Drummond.

Vibrant with the joy and confidence of the true Christian believer, the spirit and demonstration of love prevailed throughout the week's activities, in song, prayer, praise, testimony and fellowship. Each day's program was filled with vivid manifestations of the Gospel at work, See FAMILY, Page 14

OVER 3,000 CELEBRATE 35TH ANNUAL HOLY CONVOCATION AT HERITAGE HALL IN NUCLEUS PLAZA

"...THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST...AN ESOTERIC DOCTRINE, BASED UPON AND SUPPORTED BY BIBLICAL TRUTH. AS IT PROCLAIMS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, IT MUST RELATE TO THE SECULAR WORLD OF WHICH IT IS A PART..."

J.O. PATTERSON,
PRESIDING BISHOP,
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The 35th Annual Holy Convocation of the Nevada Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ held in Las Vegas June 13 thru 18, will be recorded in the annals of history as a memorable milestone in the journey of the "progressive" church, in which the spiritual commitment of these congregations was manifested in their substantive involvement in the real life issues of our times - indeed, a church and a ministry for the living of these days - "another unique and dramatic moment in the colorful history" of this union of churches.

Over 3,000 communicants, representing twenty-five member churches and seven districts in the Nevada Jurisdiction, were joined by residents of Reno, Las Vegas, Memphis, New York City and parts of California to celebrate the theme, "God So Loved The World" and to reaffirm the church's doctrines and disciplines in contemporary terms.

This year's Convocation was held at the recently dedicated "Heritage Hall" in the Nucleus Plaza, located at Owens and "H" Streets in West Las Vegas. The Nevada Jurisdiction is presided

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