

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Presiding Prelate

THE BISHOP'S COMMENTARY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

3844 West Slauson Avenue Suite One
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: (323) 294-3830 Fax: (323) 294-4167
Email: ninthhq@sbcglobal.net

FEBRUARY 2004

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY!



Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. — Deut 4:9

In 1915 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson established the *Association for the Study of Negro Life and History*, no one officially recognized our people's contributions in history. This eminent scholar, second Black to receive a doctorate from Harvard in 1912, recognized that people without a heritage were like a trees without roots. This is a good lesson for us as we consider the history and heritage of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Celebrate the CME Church

We're proud to be CME's! Christian Methodism has played not a little part in the overall contribution made by the Black Church to America and to the world since slavery. In 1866, not ten years following Emancipation, a stalwart cadre of 41 ex-slaves, leaders in the Methodist Episcopal, South, Church, called for a bold and pioneering step – the creation of a new, independent Church run, owned and operated by Black leadership. In 1870 the CME Church became one of the first intentionally national enterprises established by former slaves.

Here is a short list of accomplishments of the CME Church:

- First solely-owned publishing house set up by 1873
- First accredited college, Lane College, established by 1896; Along with Lane, Paine College, Miles College, Texas College and Phillips School of Theology educate more than 10,000 students each year.
- Foreign missions established in five nations: Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Haiti and Jamaica.
- Great leaders such as Dr. Channing Tobias, Atty. Donald Hollowell, Revs. J.W. Bonner, L. H. Whelchel and many other CMEs directed and lead in the Civil Rights Movement across the South
- CME's lead urban school renewal in cities across the nation through the One Church, One School Community Partnership Program.
- Now, ten active Bishops, eight General Departments, and more than 2,500 pastors serve more than one million members around the globe.

Our tremendous contributions have been made by faithful lay and clergy up from slavery, discrimination and injustice. Study our history and come to realize the great story in which you and I take part. We may truly say we are "Proud to Be CME!"

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 2-6 - Women's
Missionary Council
Executive Board
(Dallas, TX)

April 16—Spring Re-
porting for all Regions'
Presiding Elders

April 23 & 24—
Oklahoma- Muskogee
Region
Minister's Spouses

May 1 - 4—College of
Bishops,
(Memphis, TN)

May 4-6—General
Connection Board
(Memphis, TN)

***Ninth District
Special Fund
March Kick-off***

***"We're Counting
on You!"***

SPECIAL THANKS

Bishop Williamson thanks all pastors, church leaders and churches for their reports to their Elders for the 2003 Winter Council Sessions. Let's begin to get ready to make strong reports in the telecom Spring Reporting Meeting, April 16, 2004

BLACK HISTORY READING

Read and Re-Read Bishop Othal H. Lakey's *The History of the CME Church* during Black History Month.

REGISTER AND VOTE

The California Presidential and State Primaries will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2004.

California holds a modified closed primary. This means, only votes cast by registered party members count toward the official tally.

In order to register you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be an California resident
- Be at least 18 years old by the next election

Registration is easy. You can register at your local DMV or get registration form sent to you by calling (800) 345-VOTE. You must be registered 15 days before the election in order to vote.

General elections will be November 2. MARK THE DATE!!!



Special Prayer

Rev. Peris J. Lester, his family and the Lewis Metropolitan Church as he recuperates from major surgery.

Rev. Leotis Barnett in the loss of his father.

Bereaved Family of Rev. Curly Green.

HONOR YOUR ELDERS

Black History Month serves to remind us to stay connected to our heritage. We must not only study our history, we must honor it in its living representatives — our elders.

Each church should take a moment to give honor and respect to a senior members who's notable contributions have served the cause of Christ.

Set aside time in your services this month and appreciate an member of your church and/or community. Develop a Elder's Appreciation Sunday and give respect to your senior saints. Set up time for your children and youth to interact with a church "grandparent." Visit your local nursing home.

Black History Month is about bringing us together. "Together We Can!"

SPECIAL NOTE:

PASTORS, PLEASE HAVE ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS ATTENDING CME COLLEGES TO WRITE THE BISHOP'S OFFICE WITH A NOTE OF THANKS, ADDRESSED TO THE NINTH DISTRICT FOR THEIR \$500 SCHOLARSHIP. SELECTED LETTERS WILL BE USED IN THE ANNUAL SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT.

Suggested Reading for this Month

<i>The Joe Davis Story</i>		<i>ABC's of Natural Church Development</i>	
Rev. William C. Larkin	\$10.00	Christian A. Schwarz	\$3.00
<i>A Passion for Christ, A Passion for Souls</i>		<i>Leading Beyond the Walls</i>	
Rev. Kwesi R. Kamau	\$20.00	Adam Hamilton	\$20.00
<i>History of the CME Church (Revised)</i>			
Bishop Othal H. Lakey	\$20.00		
<i>Black Presence in the Bible (Vol. 1 & 2)</i>			
Dr. Walter McCray	\$15.00		
<i>Purpose Driven Church</i>			
<i>Purpose Drive Life</i>			
Rick Warren	Both \$20.00		



We want to support the following:

Women's Missionary Council Executive Board, Mach 2-6, 2004; District Conference; National Youth & Young Adult Conference in Greensboro, NC - July 5-9,2004; Annual Conference; and CME Convocation in Birmingham, AL - September 28-October 1, 2004.

JUST A REMINDER...

SEND YOUR CORRECT PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THE NINTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS FOR THE NEW DIRECTORY.