

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Presiding Prelate

THE BISHOP'S COMMENTARY

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VOTE FOR HOPE



His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...

Eph 3:10 NIV

Greetings in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ!

This November we have a call and responsibility as African Americans and the people of God to rise as the moral leaders in our nation and vote in the General Election. Our nation and world is spiraling in a cyclone of misrepresented intentions and an uncertain future. We as CMEs must assert ourselves in our calling to be prophets to this generation. In these darken times of despair, we must take the mantle and lead our communities to "Vote for Hope."

You, pastor, are the key to our success. I call you to lead your church and community in the process of voter education, registration and transportation. We must educate our church and community. We must know the rules of the game. We must train and inform our people about the voting process, from primaries to general elections. Inform your people about the special measures on the ballot, what they mean and how they can affect our communities. Isolate major issues in your area and have your youth group debate them. Inform people of their rights as citizens and as registered voters. Keep a count of how many people your church has registered and celebrate this.

We must call all our people to register themselves, their families, neighbors and friends for the

THE HOMEGOING OF BISHOP RICHARD O. BASS, SR.

CME's around the world mourn the passing of one of our beloved Reverend Fathers, Bishop Richard Oliver Bass. Bishop Bass was the 47th Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, elected in Birmingham, Alabama, 1986. Born a son of the parsonage on June 24, 1923 to the late Rev. and Mrs. D. W. Bass, he would start his ministry at the tender age of 14. Upon his retirement in 1998, he spent 51 years in active ministry in the Church.

Bishop Bass served churches in Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Indiana, Texas and California before being elevated to the Episcopacy in 1986. During his time in the Ninth, he served Lewis Metropolitan CME Church in Los Angeles from 1962-

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 29, 2004
Mrs. Williamson's Birthday

August 16 - 20, 2004
Northern California
Region Annual Conference
Walnut Creek Marriott
2335 N. Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA
(925) 934-2000

August 23 -27, 2004
Southern California
Region Annual Conference
Riverside Marriott
3400 Market Street
Riverside, CA
(909) 784-8000

September 28-
October 1,2004
CME Convocation
Birmingham, AL

October 21 -22, 2004
OCOS Conference
Oak Lawn, IL

"Together we can refocus and renew the local church."

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 9 AM - 5 PM
Office Coordinator:
Mrs. Jacqueline Hicks
Office Clerk:
Ms. La Tonya Kemp
Please call them for information, dates, etc.

Attend the One Church One School Conference!

Theme: Brown v. Board of Education: Where Do We Go from Here?

Thursday-Friday, October 21-22, 2004 - Oak Lawn Hilton, Chicago, Illinois

Call Conference HQ (773) 651-0071 to Register

Honorees: Bishop William H. Graves, Rev. Dr. Clay Evans

Awards Banquet Speaker:

Mr. Danny Glover

Plenary Speakers:

Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart

Bishop Othal H. Lakey



**READING
FOR THE
MONTH**

Read Rick Warren's
Purpose Driven Church

VOTE FOR HOPE Continued

upcoming election. There are currently 8 million eligible but unregistered African Americans. That makes up a fourth of our total population and nearly half of our eligible adults. Registration is easy and most of our churches can and should become voter registration centers. You can and should have voter registration days every month at your church. You can and should procure registration materials when available and disseminate information on how to become registered. You can and should host registration rallies at your church for your community. You are charged to do need-oriented evangelism as you help your neighbor and community become empowered.

Come November we must move our people from activity to action. Organize your van ministries to get people to the polls. Mobilize members to carpool with others.

BISHOP BASS CONT.

1975 and the Beebe Memorial CME Church from 1975-1982. Upon becoming a Bishop in the Church he lead the Fifth Episcopal District for twelve distinguished years. The Bishop was admired for his grand intellect and erudition, as was he greatly endeared to his people for his sensitive, compassionate nature.

The Bishop was married to his beloved Mrs. Edith F. Bass until her untimely passing, and the couple had two sons: Claude Andrew and Richard Oliver, Jr.. Bishop Bass would later remarry, wedding Rev. Dr. Debra Moody, who has made his life very joyful. To this second marriage, Joshua Daniel was born.

The CME Church and the Ninth Episcopal District in particular will truly miss this great giant, but in joyful faith rejoice in his passage from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant.

JUST A REMINDER...

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

VOTE TO BE HEARD!

CME Church partners with

- NAACP Membership and Voter Registration - Education and Get-Out-the Vote Community Campaign www.naacp.org
- Rock the Vote - Coordinates voter registration drives, get out the vote events and voter education efforts aimed at the young people. (See www.rockthevote.com)

Select monitors to visit and examine various polls to record and report fair/unfair voting practices. Have the appropriate telephone numbers to Election officials and television and radio stations in case of any problems.

As we move to empower our people through voter education, registration and transportation, we must follow through by supporting our national Civil Rights organizations. You should hold membership drives for the NAACP, SCLC, National Urban League and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. Our nation must climb to a high level of fairness and integrity in our great democratic process. The struggle continues. Let's get out and vote for hope!



Special Prayers

Mrs. Elnora Hamb, National President of Women' Missionary Council upon the loss of her son.

Rev. Joseph C. Gardner, Hayes Tabernacle CME Church, upon the loss of his sister.

The family of Bishop Richard O. Bass, Sr. upon his passing.

Rev. Charles Cole, Phillips Chapel upon the loss of his mother.

SPECIAL NOTE:

All Pastors should acquire and send in the name of the principal and school nearest their church and/or provide you District and Annual Conference One Church One School Coordinators with the information of the school with which your church has developed a partnership as soon as possible. **ALL CHURCHES IN THE NINTH DISTRICT ARE TO HAVE VIABLE PARTNERSHIPS WITH A SCHOOL IN THEIR COMMUNITY.**

We want to pray for and support the following:

- CME Convocation in Birmingham, AL - September 28-October 1, 2004;
- National One Church One School Conference in Chicago, October 21&22, 2004.