

PENTECOST AT AIM

The International AIM Convention Newsletter

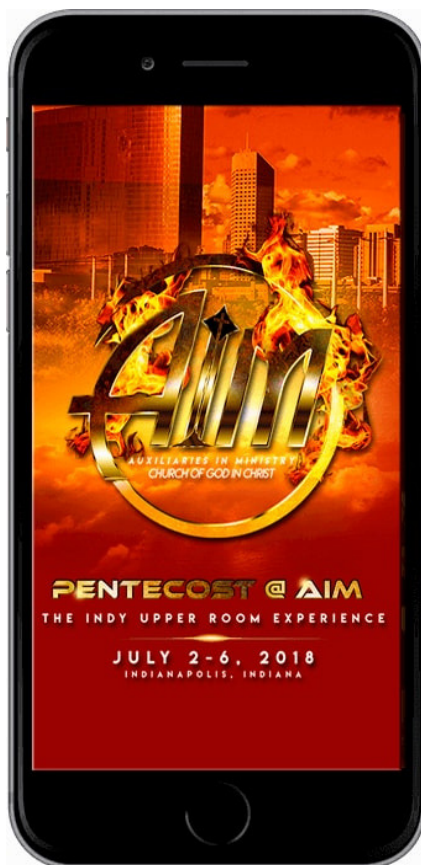
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Linwood Dillard

Each year I look forward to the first week in July. As Chairman, I have the unique perspective of witnessing the joy of the saints, as well as the hours, weeks, and months of preparation that the AIM Staff undertakes to ensure the convention is enjoyable and edifying for all. This year delegates to the AIM Convention will experience the pentecostal fervor that has become a staple at our meetings, as well as training and empowerment sessions for the whole family. From entrepreneurship, to medicine, to academics, to college preparation, AIM will have it all!

The AIM Convention is a ministry training ground, and each of the sub-conventions will offer a vast array of opportunities for ministry workers to return home more equipped to build their local churches, and win souls in their communities.

Come ready to experience Pentecost at AIM! Each service will offer power-packed worship, and dynamic preaching. It is my sincere desire and earnest prayer that you enjoy your time at the convention, and take advantage of all AIM has to offer.



STAY CONNECTED!

**FOR THE COMPLETE
AND COMPREHENSIVE
SCHEDULE OF
CLASSES AND ALL
WORSHIP SERVICES
VISIT THE
CONVENTION
WEBSITE OR MOBILE
APP**

www.cogic.org/aim

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

As AIM approaches, the International Department of Evangelism (IDOE) is eternally grateful to Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Department President Bishop Elijah Hankerson, and Elect Lady Dr. Dorinda Clark-Cole for the incredible opportunities allotted to us. We're looking forward to a powerful evangelistic experience in Indianapolis. The birth of the College Campus Ministries (CCM) was charged to Chairman Elder Andy Beaugard a year ago with the goal of evangelizing and encouraging college students throughout the U.S. and abroad. College years are pivotal for youth in their transitional phase, and it is essential that the presence of God prevails on campuses across the globe.



CCM extends from the west coast to the east coast, and across the seas to the shores of Zambia, and South Africa. Additionally, the team offers excellent resources on campuses by providing meals to sports teams over their breaks. We have hosted evangelistic services on colleges, and through these efforts over 80 souls have committed their lives to Christ. In its inaugural year, the CCM team has reached students and young adults in ways that edify God and advance His Kingdom. The IDOE intends to continue this momentum. According to Merriam-Webster, momentum is the "strength or force gained by motion or by a series of events." The energy CCM has experienced increased further after an impassioned speech by Chairman Beaugard during the IDOE General Body meeting in April 2018.

Through that event, General Board Member Bishop Brandon B. Porter became aware of CCM's efforts to reach students around the world. Bishop Porter facilitated collaboration with the International Youth Department. This action maximized the opportunities for ministry and the likelihood of success by meeting the full needs of college students around the globe.

CCM stands pleased to announce that our fellow AIM departments have agreed to join forces in this mission. Together, the departments will look to maintain momentum going into our 2018 convention! We hope that this unified front will unleash the power of God in miraculous ways. Make sure you connect with IDOE at AIM 2018, it's going to be an excellent opportunity for young people to immerse themselves with what God has been doing through CCM!

SPECIAL THANKS CONFERENCE SPONSOR



Indiana Wesleyan University is an evangelical Christian comprehensive university of The Wesleyan Church committed to global liberal arts and professional education. IWU-Marion represents nearly 3,200 students who are enrolled in traditional programs on the residential campus in Marion, Indiana. IWU-National & Global represents 10,000 adult learners who study at education centers in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, and online. Wesley Seminary is an embedded institution within Indiana Wesleyan University more than 450 students. IWU also has a sister institution in Sydney, Australia, and serves students in 30 countries.

THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT

DR. BENJAMIN STEPHENS III, IYD PRESIDENT
EVANGELIST JOYCE L. RODGERS, IYD CHAIRLADY

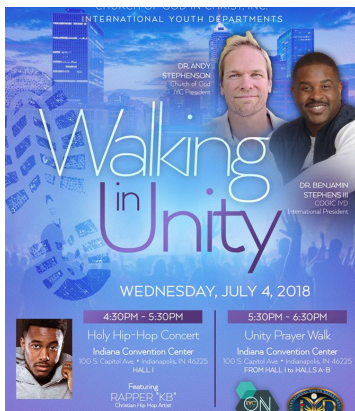
This year, the International Youth Department is excited to bring to the city of Indianapolis, Indiana a diverse array of empowerment sessions designed to strengthen youth leadership and development on the local, jurisdictional, national, and international level. Through the IYD

Education Commission, led by Evangelist Jeana Adams, Dr. Dorothy Langley, and Evangelist Gwendolyn Walter, youth leaders and youth will be exposed to curriculum that focus on the tenets of holistic youth ministry. Classes are designed to promote existing youth leadership across all jurisdictional lines as well as embrace new ideas.

The YD is also pleased to highlight the new COGIC Doctors Coalition.

The CDC is an organization of doctors that aim to provide knowledge and support to students/ youth interested in medical careers. The CDC class will explore career paths in the field of health care. It will consist of personal stories of success and failures, with advice from experienced professionals. The CDC will no doubt foster beneficial relationships amongst healthcare professionals. Dr. Clemea J. Donaldson is the coordinator of the COGIC Doctors' Coalition.

IYD IS BRINGING #FLAVA



In keeping with past years, IYD will also offer the regular compliment of other classes including YMV (Young Men of Valor), YWE (Young Women of Excellence), IYD Fine Arts Camp, The Locker Room, Moms of Warriors, Young Preachers' Network, College Student Network, Young Women in Ministry, Sister to Sister and much more. Under the leadership of President Dr. Benjamin Stephens and Chairlady Evangelist Joyce Rodgers, the IYD leadership remains dedicated to supporting youth ministry that is relevant to this generation, and that helps build youth ministry for the future!



INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

"A child saved is a soul saved, plus a life"

International Sunday School Department | Church of God in Christ Inc.
Bishop Alton E. Gatlin - International President
Supervisor Cleolia Penix - International Field Representative

2018
July 2-6
Sunday School Convention
AIM | Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Convention Center | Speedway 500 Ballroom

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018

9:00am Pastor **Terry Ellison**
New Life COGIC
Birmingham, AL

12:00pm Bishop **J. Drew Sheard**
General Board Member
Church of God in Christ

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018

9:00am Supervisor **Vanessa Wimbush Gatlin**
Louisiana First Jurisdiction

12:00pm Bishop **Willie J. Campbell**
St. James Ministries
Chicago, IL

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018

9:00am Bishop **Alton E. Gatlin**
International Sunday School Department

12:00pm Bishop **Joseph W. Walker, III**
Presiding Bishop
Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2018

12:00pm Bishop **J. Louis Felton**
Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ
Philadelphia, PA

Bishop **Charles E. Blake, Sr.**
Presiding Bishop & Chief Apostle

Superintendent **Ligon Duncan, Jr.**
AIM Convention Chairman

Connect with us [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [s](#) [y](#) [t](#) [w](#) [h](#) [u](#) [s](#) @COGICSSD | www.cogic.org/sundayschool

Get your day started off right with the ISSD every day, July 3-6, for Morning Glory and Midday worship! You will hear anointed men and women of God preach the Word of God! You don't want to miss this moment. You'll listen to the voice of leaders within our Church and other denominations. We are looking for a high time in the Lord. You don't want to miss it!

ADV. TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE

Are you interested in learning from trained academic Theologians? Do you desire to dig deeper into God's Word? The Advanced Teacher's Training Institute is the place for you! You don't want to miss these excellent courses with world-class professors. We are pleased to announce that the International Sunday School Department now offers Teaching Certificates! Get Your Teaching Certificate for just \$100. Certifications will be granted pending Security/Background Check and attendance at all sessions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNIVERSITY

Looking to learn more about Evangelism, Prison Ministry, Men's and Women's ministries, working with people who are disabled or even community policing? The International Sunday School Department has something for you at AIM! Join us for Sunday School University at AIM 2018 in Indianapolis, ID. You don't want to miss it!

CHURCH GROWTH ACADEMY

The Academy is an initiative for persons who are interested in learning and training for church growth through the International Sunday School Department. The vision for SSCGA is to provide an educational resource for the members of the Church Of God In Christ that enhances their ministry, provide leadership skills, and prepares them for ministry in the 21st century. If you are interested in church administrative best practices you don't want to miss this!

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The Church Of God In Christ is blessed by the music of the church. An authentic worship experience plays an essential role in the the growth of ministry. For nearly seven decades, the rich, vibrant sound of the International Music Department (IMD) has given a signature identity to Church Of God In Christ, and to the gospel music genre at large. Led by world renowned recording artist and the “First Lady of Praise and Worship” herself, Dr. Judith Christie McAllister, IMD continues to raise the bar with a myriad of events and activities offered during the 2018 International AIM Convention.

Beginning Tuesday, July 3rd, IMD will present its Applied Studies Institute, the educational arm of the department, featuring instructors at the top of their fields, and a specialized curriculum designed to enhance and perfect the skills and effectiveness of music ministry workers. We will also be supporting our leader as she brings forth the word of God during the Wednesday evening worship celebration of the AIM Convention. On Thursday, July 5th we'll celebrate our love, honor and respect for our International Minister of Music during International Music Day, and welcome special guest Evangelist Marris Farrow.

Known for its legendary Late Night Musical Celebrations, featuring some of the biggest names in gospel music, IMD welcomes national recording artists, JJ Hairston, the Walls Group, JudahBand, the William Singers and a host of others for the musicals on Wednesday and Thursday. This year, the greatest aggregation of youth and young adult singers in the world, the International Youth Choir, will have their amazing sound committed in a LIVE recording on Friday night, July 6th. This historic moment will be the first time the IYC has ever recorded, and expectations are high for what promises to be an incredible night of praise and worship!

Carrying on the tradition of introducing new talent to the church, IMD hosts, “Bring It!,” a unique platform where hopefuls will minister in front of a seasoned panel of gospel industry veterans for an opportunity to make it to the main musical celebration stage. This year, we see the launch of another new initiative entitled, "Who's Got Next!" This in-person, OPEN CALL FORUM has been designed for interested parties to present before various leaders within the IMD to showcase their skills and abilities with the intent of serving on a national level, within their respective areas of expertise. Please note, interested persons must be active and in good standing on the local, district, and Jurisdictional levels.

For a complete listing of events and activities or for more information about the International Music Department of the Church Of God In Christ, please contact the Office of Public Relations at rbriggs@cogic.org or visit www.cogic.org/imd.



International Missions Department Adventure Camp

Saints Adventure Camp has been on fire since God released the vision to Bishop Vincent Mathews last year! The Grand Opening was a Uber success this past May and it was truly a joy to make God smile! With the blessing of Our Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr., doors opened Sunday, June 17, 2018 to dozens of young people ages 8-18!

The Adventurers have had the opportunity to be trained in Apologetics, Christian World View and Aviation. Other classes including Self-Esteem, Sexuality and Team Building! Students had the opportunity to fly in airplanes all around Northern Mississippi, for many it was their first time!

The Saints Adventure Camp hosted Praise in the Park where the campers independently led nine souls to Christ! This past Sunday, the campers had the opportunity to minister at The Mother Church of the Church of God in Christ!

With the first cycle ending this Thursday 6/28, we are so sad to see our historic first leave but we know that the life changing experience at Saints Adventure Camp will resonate for a lifetime! Camp will be closed during the week of AIM and will resume July 8, 2018 with cycle two.



**Cycle Two:
July 8, 2018**



SCHOLASTIC MOTIVATION MINISTRIES

It is important to have an activate SMM because it provides a platform for youth and young adults to use their natural abilities and developed skills to enhance themselves personally and professionally. When ones personal and professional skills are developed through the vehicle of the Church of God in Christ, that person sees the unanimity of purpose; and will use his/her gifts not only for personal development but also for the development of church. This will result in the individual understanding the necessity of being Holy and professional.

Scholastic Motivation Ministries coordinates the academic, personal and professional development ministries for youth and young adult in the Church of God in Christ. With a national staff in place, SMM is poised to continue its mission of preparing today's generation to be tomorrow's leaders.



JULY 6
7:30 AM
CONVENTION CENTER
(Main Floor), Indianapolis, IN

SMM HONORS
LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

Bishop Lawrence Wooten
General Board Member
Special Guest Speaker

Superintendent David Todd Whittley, National Director
Superintendent Linwood Dillard, II, AIM Chairman
Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., Presiding Bishop

CELEBRATED HONOREES

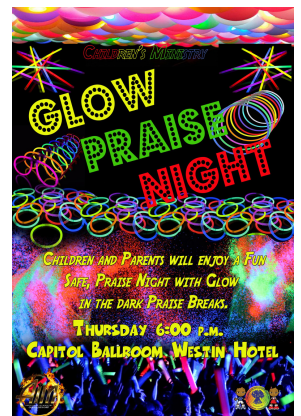
 Administrative Assistant A. Wendell Brown	 Mother Goldie Wells	 Elder Ulysses Henderson	 Deacon Darin Burns	 Missionary Christine Smith
--	---	---	--	--

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Here's what's going on in Children's Ministry this week. Every morning breakfast is served at 8:30 am, followed by our Morning Mania. Each day there are special activities: Boy/Girls Scout presentations, Wear-A-Scrub, STEM- Project, Drum Clinic and more. Free Lunch is served to those in attendance (children only), then Children's Church will be turned! Now don't forget the Rising Stars Talent Showcase and the BIGGEST Puppet Show you have ever seen! We suggest you make room on your schedule for the many activities and events.

Parents sign your children up early on Tuesday so they don't miss any of the activities which begin first thing in the morning. Are you taking part in the Coloring Book Challenge?



YOUTH CHURCH

The AIM Youth Church team, under the leadership of Elders Paul Gatlin and Marcus Golden, has stepped it up again, and this year Youth Church will offer youth and young adult delegates a unique experience that promises to be one of praise and pentecost!

On Tuesday evening, one of COGIC's rising young leaders, Eastern New York Jurisdiction AIM Chairman Elder Joseph Thompson, will bring the word. On the following evening, the one and only Bishop Todd Hall will return for what promises to be a second evening of Youth Church

excitement. Finally, on Thursday evening, for the first time Youth Church will welcome a General Board Member, 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop Jerry W. Macklin, who will engage in a time of sharing and impartation with the young people of the church.

It's going to be pentecost in Youth Church and you won't want to miss it. Join us from Tuesday-Thursday for three services of power!



"..HAS THE CHURCH LOST MORE THAN HALF OF "THE FUTURE"?"

Across the country faith-based leaders and businesses alike are studying the habits and traits of a budding generation called "The Millennials". This is a group of young people between the ages 22 and 36. They make up the largest generation in the American workforce. Unfortunately, they have been labelled by many as lazy and narcissistic. Millennials in the church have not been spared from this negative viewpoint. New research concerning this group in the church is astounding. Nearly a whopping 60% of this generation would consider themselves, "CHURCH DROPOUTS". Many pastors, clergymen, and saints are pondering upon how to regain this group of young people. Has the church lost more than half of what they often refer to as "the future"?

Although the alarming data concerning Millennials is scientifically supported, there are many millennials throughout the church at large that are making a great impact on the world.

In the summer of 2017, the International Church of God in Christ decided to search for 20 individuals under the age of 40 who are making tremendous strides, not only within the church but in the world as well.

The response was incredible. With well over 100 different names submitted, the committee, under the leadership of AIM Chairman Linwood Dillard and Vice Chairman Kale Mann, 20 millennials were selected as the inaugural "Class of 2017 COGIC Achievers". This class of achievers are world changers. From Attorneys and Politician to Pastors and NBA Chaplains, this group is impressive. Aside from their business achievements, collectively they noted that they attribute much of their success to simply the favor of God, as well as the training they received from their local churches.



(cont.)

Each future edition of “AIM Updates” will feature a “COGIC Achiever”. Our first spotlight is dedicated to the daring explorer, inspiring author, and engaging speaker, Evangelist Karissa Johnson from Omaha, Nebraska.

At the age of 21, Johnson was afflicted with a stroke. It affected her speech, writing, and walking abilities. She was miraculously healed and continues to walk in her healing. She is a graduate of Oral Roberts University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Community Development with concentrations in Special Education and Teaching English as a Second Language.

Submitting to God’s will has taken Karissa to all seven continents and over 20 countries in less than four years. Upon receiving the call to serve abroad, Karissa moved to Hangzhou, China where she taught English at the largest language school in Hangzhou. While in China, Karissa was recruited as a model for a local clothing company. It was there that she made history as the first African-American and the first woman to model for the clothing company. Additionally, Evangelist Johnson held an “underground” Bible study and time of worship in her home through the support of her local church, Hangzhou International Christian Fellowship. While she ministered primarily to the Chinese, over 12 nationalities came through her door to hear the Word of God—some touching and seeing a Bible for the first time.

While living abroad, Miss Johnson was recruited to write for Gospel Today Magazine. The articles from her column, “Diary of a Travel-Diva” have been read by thousands of readers worldwide. Her blog, sevenby30.com has been viewed on six continents and in over 60 countries. A March 2016 article in Yahoo Finance featured Karissa’s story. It has reached readers world-wide. Her most humbling writing opportunities have been for the COGIC World Missions’ Voice of Missions Magazine, where her work was published in 2015 and 2016 articles. In 2017 she became the Editor of the Voice of Missions Magazine.

Her first eBook, “7 Steps to the 7th Continent: How I Planned for Antarctica and What Really Went Down,” has been read and reviewed from six continents. She looks forward to sharing her first full-length book, “7 X 30”. Her memoir will shed light on her journey to all seven continents by the age of 30. Johnson’s future speaking engagements include the “You Go Girl Omaha” conference in Omaha, Nebraska centered around girls empowerment as well as the Leadership Africa Summit, both in August 2018. Visit sevenby30.com for more information!



Evangelist Karissa Johnson



**Bishop
Charles E. Blake, Sr.**
Presiding Bishop

**Superintendent
Linwood Dillard, II**
AIM Chairman

2018 CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - AUXILIARIES IN MINISTRY



Many of the delegates to this year's AIM convention may be familiar with the hit TV show Shark Tank. On the show, entrepreneurs from around the country meet with a group of potential investors – the sharks. The entrepreneurs are given a chance to pitch their businesses, and the sharks evaluate the proposals, offering deals to the ones that most impress them. Appearing on Shark Tank has helped many entrepreneurs at most gain valuable investment funds, and at a minimum, receive important feedback to help improve their businesses.

This year, In an effort to support entrepreneurs, AIM has tapped into its inner-Shark Tank and launched AIM KEYS: Kingdom Entrepreneurs Yielding Success. KEYS is an accelerated business training and technical assistance program with entrepreneurs in mind. AIM delegates who come with strong business proposals have the opportunity to receive up to \$100,000 in capital to accelerate their business ideas.

The concept for KEYS was born out of the need to support faith-based business lending. In an effort to offer training and assistance for all aspects of life, the AIM leadership has created a special opportunity for delegates who want to grow their businesses.

The competitive nature of the program mimics the competitive nature of business, and will give participants and opportunity to improve their ideas, and potentially launch their projects into success.

To create KEYS, AIM partnered with Aswani-Butler Investment Associates, LLC, and devised a platform for ambitious participants to get their businesses off the ground. According to AIM staff, "The ideal KEYS entrepreneur is a Christian, and AIM participant, has a viable business concept or plan, and may only have limited access to traditional funding streams."

For those projects that are approved, a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 in funds will be provided. There will be special consideration for even larger investments as well. KEYS will also be offering favorable lending rates for some proposals, and access to a professional management team to help entrepreneurs manage investments.

Anyone interested in participating in AIM KEYS should apply online as soon as possible at www.cogic.org/aim.

Kingdom Entrepreneurs Yielding Success



1ST TIME AT AIM?

BY D. PERRY

Not all conventions are alike. Some are massive events where thousands of people descend on enormous convention centers for day after day of constant activity. Others are tiny, laid-back affairs where you can see and do everything over the course of a few hours. AIM is one of those massive events. It's important that you are prepared for AIM before you get there. Unless you have an enormous amount of disposable income, you'll probably be doing this on a budget. That means every dollar you spend on tickets, travel, and lodging is a dollar you won't be spending on clothes, uniforms, reports and offerings. Take the less expensive flight. Register early, if you can stay with a friend or relative who lives nearby, that may be an option also. Putting together an itinerary for each day of the convention is easy. Making one that you can actually stick to is something else entirely. As a general rule, there is a line at registration, be pre-pared. Give yourself plenty of time to get from one class, meeting, service, rehearsal or practice, especially if they're far apart.

You should also be prepared to adapt on the fly, as no schedule is immune to sudden changes. AIM has great social media and a mobile app that you can get updates from all week. Check each option on your smart phone on a regular basis for new information.



It's physically impossible for one person to do everything. At any given moment, there will probably be at least three things going on that you want to be a part of. Everything sounds like fun and they all offer great ministry information. We suggest creating an account on the online schedule with all of the events and services you want to be apart of for the week. The schedule will send you an update daily of your specific task each morning. Whether you are a Sunday School, Mission/Evangelist, Youth or Music delegate.

Everyone goes to AIM Convention for their own reasons. Some are there to purchase items from the vendors, others want to go to all the musical events, some may actually want to attend the nightly services. No matter what convinced you to give the AIM Convention a try this year, remember this is a family convention and there's something offered for everyone ages 4 to 94. Have fun, and don't worry if you don't manage to cross off every item on your ambitious to-do list. Just getting there is half the battle.



**BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE, SR.
PRESIDING BISHOP & CHIEF APOSTLE**

**SUPERINTENDENT LINWOOD DILLARD
AIM CHAIRMAN**



The AIM Update is a publication of the Church of God in Christ International AIM Convention Media and Public Relations Team.

Writers and Contributors

AIM Departmental Staff

Editors-in-Chief

Kyle Boyer

Latoya Osborne
