

In Defense of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

*Bishop Joe L. Ealy, Prelate
First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southern California*

Dear Fellow Laborers,

I serve as the Prelate of the largest jurisdiction in the brotherhood, the resident jurisdiction of our Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake. Having known Bishop Blake since we were both young preachers in our teens, over sixty years ago, I can speak to his Godly and upstanding character in various areas of his life and ministry.

Bishop and I began working together in the State Youth Department of First Jurisdiction, and even then, his leadership skills were such that it was evident that the hand of the Lord was upon his life. Later, as he became the Prelate of First Jurisdiction, I would serve as one of his Administrative Assistants. He has always possessed a spirit of humility and been approachable.

He has a strong love and commitment to his wife, Lady Mae Blake, and family. Promoting family values is one of the central elements of his ministry as Pastor of West Angeles Church. Also, preaching and exemplifying a lifestyle of holiness have been his steadfast conviction.

As a member of the Church of God in Christ all of my life, I have never witnessed such reprehensible disrespect for leadership such as Pastor Earl Carter has displayed. The world's system of engaging leadership should not be condoned in our church. **Hebrews 13:17** teaches us to **"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."**

The General Assembly has established the process to select the leader of your choice, the quadrennial election. There is a level of reverence we must maintain for the highest office of our denomination. If we are not diligent, allowing blatant and derogatory attacks aimed at our leader will create a new "norm," which in addition to being uncivil, is ungodly.

In summation, I support Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake as my esteemed leader without hesitation, and wholeheartedly believe he is above reproach.

Respectfully yours,

Joe L. Ealy

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