

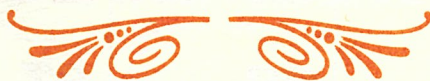


William Roberts was born May 10, 1876 as the fourth child to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Roberts in Okalona, Mississippi. At the age of twenty three, William was married to Mamie Hill, a girl of fifteen years. One year after his wedding, he and his wife moved to Memphis, Tennessee. There in 1904, W. Roberts was saved. As a church member, he served as deacon and later as assistant pastor. Elder C. H. Mason was the pastor of the flock.

While Elder Roberts was serving as assistant pastor, he was invited by a group of women to come to Chicago to establish a ministry of the Church of God in Christ. Those who invited him were Sister Lillian Brooks (later Coffey), a former Memphian, Sister Anna Davis, Sister Mary Duncan (later Davis), Sister Mary Pierce, Sister Olina Leige, and others. The group extending the invitation numbered thirteen. These saints had at times worshipped with an Apostolic church in Chicago, but wanted to have a Church of God in Christ. They met for a prayer ministry at 29th and LaSalle.

Elder Roberts accepted the invitation. He took his son, Isaiah with him on the trip. While there, he agreed to serve them as pastor. The following year, 1917,

# JANUARY 1982



**BISHOP WILLIAM ROBERTS**

accompanied by his wife and nine children, Elder Roberts moved to Chicago.

Prospects were dim in this new field. Opposition against holiness was forceful. In spite of severe difficulties, however, the church prospered. The church was at one time located at 31 and LaSalle, and at 37 and Federal. In 1925, Elder Roberts and the saints acquired two lots at 40 and State, and built a church there. The building accommodates one thousand persons.

In addition to being the pastor of this assembly that was the first Church of God in Christ in Illinois, Elder Roberts was the first of the denomination in Illinois to broadcast. He served as overseer of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa, Arkansas, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin. He was consecrated to the bishopric by Bishop Mason as one of the first five bishops of the Church of God in Christ.

Outside of the denomination, Bishop Roberts served as treasurer of the Board of Education of the Council of Negro churches. In 1941, he was among the Negro leaders who went to Washington to settle a dispute on behalf of thirteen million Negroes.

Bishop Roberts also demonstrated great concern for his leader, Bishop

*Continued on Back Page*

**WILLIAMS MEMORIAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT**  
**4495 SACRAMENTO BLVD. SACRAMENTO, CA.**

*Youth With A Heavenly Vision And A Earthly Task*

BUILDING PROJECT  
 ELDER RUBEN C. MEEKS JR., PASTOR



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28				<b>1</b>  NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b>
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<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						