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EDUCATION ♦ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ♦ CRIME REDUCTION ♦ FAMILY ♦ FINANCIAL LITERACY

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

I am writing to add my voice to those who speak in defense of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ.

In Bishop Blake, I have seen the best of holy leadership and righteous living. His devotion to God, to the Church of God in Christ, to his wife and to his family has been exemplary. He is a good man. I say that based on my own insight which I will not allow to be tainted by innuendo and unsubstantiated accusations.

I consider myself to be an excellent judge of character. Years of experience in the Church as well as in corporate America have honed that skill to a razor sharp precision. Most importantly, I depend on and fully trust in the leading of the Holy Ghost.

I have observed first hand in the countless conversations and meetings that I have held with him, that Bishop Blake has consistently promoted and defended holiness and relentlessly pursued God's will and direction so that he could lead the Church of God in Christ to higher heights of effectiveness in reaching the world for Christ. In moments of conflict, he has always counseled me and others to do what is right and to wait on God.

I believe that Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. is a global leader sent by God, for such a time as this, to promote the message of Jesus through words and deeds that exemplify His unremitting love for a sinful world.

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If, indeed, we believe that God can save anybody, and I do, then everybody must be welcome at the soul saving hospital (the Church) where even the most sin sick can be healed. Loving kindness draws. A hostile environment does not set the stage for deliverance. That does not mean we should not confront sin. We should, but always with loving kindness as Bishop Blake has consistently done over many years.

Whenever our leader is attacked, we who are spiritual must see it for what it really is—a spiritual attack on the Church. Currently all of us, not just Bishop Blake, are experiencing the execution of a satanic strategy intended to diminish or fully eliminate our effectiveness by fomenting dissension within the Church and staining our reputation amongst the watching world. Satan knows that if he severs the head, the body will die.

Once again Satan is in sifting mode. This is a time for us all to circle the wagons; advocating loudly and praying fervently for our leader and for our Church.

Prayerfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin C. Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and 'B'.

Bishop Edwin C. Bass
President, COGIC Urban Initiatives
Chairman, Jubilee Broadcasting Network