

Whitehead Memorial

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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Bishop James L. Whitehead, Jr., Pastor

My Dear Fellow Workers in the Ministry,

I have been blessed to serve you as Editor-and-chief of the YPWW topics for the past forty-three years. I have written, or caused to be published during that time a total of 6,240 bible lessons covering almost every area of ministry and doctrine.

Never could I have imagined I would one day have to write a letter like this. The disciples of Jesus were happy supporters until the crowd turned against him. **Please be mindful of the ability of a few jealous men to turn public opinion so successfully against Jesus until many of the people who were blessed by him became a part of the crowd that shouted “crucify Him”.** **What was worse was how the disciples abandoned their Savior for fear of their own safety. For this reason I write this letter.**

I have watched people make evil insinuations about the moral character of Bishop Charles Blake too long for me to sit idly by and not speak about what I have been an eye witness to for the past **fifty-two years.**

I met Charles Blake in September, 1962 at the Hensley Temple Church of God In Christ, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was twenty two and I was twenty. He was beginning his first year at the Interdenominational Theological Center(I. T. C.), and I was starting my first year at Morehouse. We became immediately very close friends and that friendship has lasted until this day. I was appointed by Bishop Hensley to be Youth Minister at his church in Atlanta, and Charles was appointed assistant pastor at his church in Marietta, Georgia. He was **never Bishop Husbands Youth Pastor.**

During the 52 years I have known Bishop Blake, I have never, never, never, seen the slightest indication that he had any inclinations other than being 100% male. While we were students in Atlanta, we both tried to make full use of our single status and date the most beautiful young ladies we could meet. After he met in 1963 the love of his life, he would come to Detroit and stay at my parents home so he could more conveniently court Mae Lawrence.

I, too believe the homosexual agenda we are facing today is a problem for the future of our nation. And any inference that our Presiding Bishop is not equally concerned is a serious misrepresentation of his character.

I have considered Bishop Charles Blake my best and most trusted friend for over **fifty years**. And what has been one of the bonds that has kept that friendship strong is both our mutual and firm belief that sin, in whatever form, has no place among the clergy of the COGIC. We cannot always control who sits in the pew but we can try to control who stands behind the pulpit. **It was Bishop Blake who instituted the new requirement that nobody will be given a credential without first passing a thorough background check. What more can a leader do?**

I have watched Bishop Blake prepare for this time in his life for fifty-two years. I observed him reading hundreds of books on management and administration as well as those books that prepared him theologically. **We are blessed with the most productive leader this church has ever known.** I close with some of the words of the rich young ruler. If a man can build a church from 39 members to 26,000, lead his congregation in the purchase of 100 million dollars worth of property for kingdom work, successfully preside over 300 churches, sponsor and chair a ministry like Save Africa's Children, preside over a denomination 6 million strong, and yet successfully raise three children and eight grandchildren with his wife, who respects him highly, to become outstanding servants of the gospel, **"surely no man can do these things except God be with him"**.

It seems to be the price all great leaders pay is undue criticism and sometimes hatred. Moses missed out on the promise land because of the ingratitude of people. Let us pray that our Bishop doesn't allow his critics to push him to a point of complete discouragement. Let us instead, stand by our leader like the disciples should have stood by Jesus during the time he needed them the most.

Your servant in Christ

Bishop J. L. Whitehead, Jr.

Editor- in- Chief of the YPWW Topics

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