



Eastern Missouri Western Illinois Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Church of God In Christ, Inc.

1500 North Union Boulevard

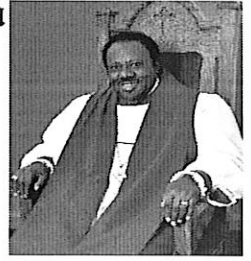
Saint Louis, Missouri 63113

Home: (314) 741-9056

Church: (314) 367-1500

Fax: (314) 741-9057

Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Ph.D., D.D., Prelate
Mother Rosetta Watts, Jurisdictional Supervisor



September 14, 2015

The Church of God in Christ is the greatest church in the world. I have been a member of our church for approximately 60 years. During this time, I have served our church at every level (local, district, jurisdictional, national, and internationally). As one who was personally anointed for ministry by our Founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason and who studied at the feet of many of our fathers; I am deeply saddened and grieved in my spirit by the lies, rumors and false accusations that have spread against our beloved leader, the Honorable Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

Satan using slander, gossip, and false accusations to attack the church is a not a new tactic, and we are not ignorant of his devices (II Corinthians 2:11). The Word of God commands us as saints to avoid gossip, slander, and backbiting (Exodus 20:16, Leviticus 19:16, Psalms 34:13, Psalms 101:5, Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 12:17-18, Proverbs 21:23, II Corinthians 12:20, Ephesians 4:29-32, Colossians 3:8, II Timothy 2:16, James 1:26, James 4:11). As believers, not only are we prohibited from spreading gossip, lies, and false statements, but we are also admonished not to even listen to gossip or slanderous statements (Proverbs 17:4).

I have known Bishop Blake for many years. I have known our leader not only as one who preaches and teaches holiness, but as a man of great integrity who lives a holy and sanctified life. Bishop Blake is an honorable man who loves God and loves the people of God with all of his heart. Bishop Blake has made many sacrifices for ministry. Specifically, he has made numerous sacrifices for the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Blake is a tremendous leader with a global vision. Through Save Africa's Children, Bishop Blake has supported more than 100,000 orphans, in 340 orphan care programs throughout the continent of Africa.

I have personally spoken with our leader and I can confirm that recent attempts to attack his character are founded upon lies. Saints be not deceived. Living a holy and sanctified life does not insulate one from being the victim of lies, slanders, and gossip. Even our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the victim of lies and slander. *"Many witnesses told lies against Jesus, but their stories did not agree. Then some men stood up and told this lie against Jesus."* (St. Mark 14:56-57 - Good News Translation [GNT]).

The Lord has greatly blessed the Church of God in Christ under the leadership of our anointed leader Bishop Blake. Under his leadership, the Church of God in Christ has obtained a plethora of great achievements. Listed below are just a few:

- Grown COGIC to over 6.5 million members;
- Expanded COGIC into 63 countries in the world;
- Acquired its own radio station;
- Renovated the Lee Building at COGIC Headquarters;
- Commenced renovations of the Leila Mason Building at COGIC Headquarters;
- Awarded in excess of \$100,000.00 annually in scholarships to deserving students;
- Provided humanitarian aid and assistance to earthquake victims in Nepal;
- Provided humanitarian aid and assistance to typhoon victims in the Philippines;
- Provided humanitarian aid and assistance to storm victims in the United States.

in closing, I remind everyone of the words of the Apostle Paul, *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints"* (I Corinthians 14:33). I humbly submit to you that if there is confusion in our great church, this confusion is not from God, but rather it is an attempt of Satan to destroy and bring reproach upon our church. But *"thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ"* (II Corinthians 2:14). Church of God in Christ we have the victory because *no weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord"* (Isaiah 54:17).

As our 108th Holy Convocation rapidly approaches, I admonish the saints to give no place for the devil (Ephesians 4:27). **But I beseech every member of our great church to unite and hold up the arms of our leader, for unity is the place where God commanded the blessing** (Psalms 133:3). *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* Philippians 4:8.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten

Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Sr. – Ph.D., D.D.
Prelate, Eastern Missouri & Western Illinois Jurisdiction
Church of God in Christ General Board Member