

The Christian Courier

Published by the Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship

"Literary Voice of the National Lectureship"

www.africanamericanchurchofchristministerslegacy.org

VOL 12 Number 2 – Post-Orlando

November 2022 – Whitepaper Edition

Churches of Christ 76th Annual “Historical” National Lectureship “Look for me in the Whirlwind or the Storm”



Samuell Pounds
Hilltop Church of Christ
Winter Haven, Florida



Wesley T. Leonard
Southside Church of Christ
Orlando, Florida



Xerxes M. Snell
Ninth Street Church of Christ
Winter Garden, Florida

Marcus Mosiah Garvey the celebrated leader of Black Nationalism and Pan Africanism, founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in the year 1914 in Jamaica, West Indies.

However, its main influence was felt in Black communities of the United States after his arrival in Harlem, New York City, in 1916. In spite of certain events beyond his control, Garvey was indicted and convicted by the U.S. government in 1923 for allegedly mishandling the financial affairs of his organization.

He served two years of a five-year prison term in Atlanta State Penitentiary with the agreement

that he would be deported back to Jamaica after his release.

On February 10, 1925, while in prison, Garvey wrote to his loyal supporters saying: *“Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm, look for me all around you... If I die in Atlanta my work shall then only begin. Cheer up, for better days are ahead...”*

The Churches of Christ “Historical” National Lectureship which recently took place during September 24-29, 2022, in the city of Orlando, Florida, proved to be a total success by all accounts.

Those who were in attendance endured one of the most devastating hurricanes and storms in the entire history of Central Florida.

We give thanks to God for keeping us safe while in Orlando, Florida. If you listened carefully you could almost hear the Lord saying to us as well: *“Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm, look for me all around you...”*

Those who were in attendance endured one of the most devastating hurricanes and storms in the entire history of Central Florida.

We congratulate the coordinators Samuell Pounds, Wesley T. Leonard, and Xerxes M. Snell for their efforts in relation to the 76th Annual “Historical” National Lectureship.



“One Lord.... One Faith... One Baptism”

“It’s Not Coming to a Hear Lecture... It’s Coming to an Event!”

Those who were not in attendance at the 76th Annual National Lectureship on Wednesday evening, failed to hear the greatest “living” gospel preacher still walking among us.

Dr. W. F. Washington of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, electrified and enthralled the entire audience as he preached from the Lectureship theme “God’s Eternal Purpose” taken from Ephesians 3:1-11.

When compared to the 1967 Lectureship held in Newark, New Jersey, Dr. Washington closed the 2022 Orlando Lectureship in a way that will always be remembered.

His message in Newark was so mesmerizing and captivating that Franklin Florence, Sr., said to everyone present “Coming to hear Prince is not coming to hear a lecture, it’s coming to an event!”

In spite of weather conditions imposed by Hurricane Ian which prompted many to depart from the Lectureship early, Dr. Washington did not disappoint. He walked the stage waxing eloquent as if he were preaching in a tent meeting revival.

“Coming to hear Prince is not coming to hear a lecture, it’s coming to an event.”

One of the important aspects shared by Dr. Washington was his emphasis on our “core beliefs” as the New Testament Church. In the words of Washington: “We who are members of the Lord’s Church must know what we believe and why we believe it.”

We thank God for the life and ministry of Dr. W. F. Washington. We are also thankful for his longevity in the visible kingdom of Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

Additional Gospel Preachers Who Have Recently Passed Away Since 2019

In our September Edition of the *Christian Courier* the names of twenty-two gospel preachers were listed that have passed away since the last Lectureship in 2019. However, those mentioned below should be added to this list and remembered as well.

These men were not purposely or intentionally overlooked. It is only because we had not received notification or their deaths occurred after the *Courier* was published.

Therefore, we acknowledge the memory and ministry of the following soldiers who have been called from labor unto reward:

- **Dr. David Perkins**
(Indianapolis, Indiana)
- **Merlon “Mack” Thompson**
(Phoenix, Arizona)
- **Mike L. Jackson**
(Brunswick, Georgia)
- **Dr. James Mark Thompson**
(Detroit, Michigan)

“What We Believe and Why We Believe It”

In his message on Wednesday evening in Orlando, Florida, Dr. W. F. Washington mentioned several “core beliefs” we believe and affirm as members of the Church of Christ.

According to the Scripture, we believe in the following tenets:

- The essentiality of water baptism is necessary for one to become a member of the New Testament Church (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; 8:36; 10:47; 16:33).

- One Lord... One faith... One baptism (Ephesians 4:5).
- The efficacy and sufficiency of Scripture which is the inerrant Word of God. The New Testament contains all we need to know about how to worship God in the manner which He has prescribed (John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16).
- Acapella singing in corporate worship is the **ONLY** method of singing authorized by the New Testament Scripture (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
- Using mechanical instruments of music in relation to corporate worship violates New Testament teaching and it is therefore a sin (Romans 10:17; 14:23).
- Partaking of the Lord’s Supper **EVERY** first day of the week [Sunday] (Acts 20:7).
- The three-fold personhood and character of God. God the Father implemented the plan of salvation. God the Son (Jesus) executed the plan of salvation. God the Holy Spirit affirms the plan of salvation. (Ephesians 1:4, 13, 14; 1 John 5:7).
- The universal priesthood of all baptized believers. Every New Testament Christian has equal access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 5:10).
- New Testament Christians are saved by grace and justified by obedient faith (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8).
- The visible kingdom of God according to Scripture is the New Testament Church of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 3:14, 15).



Bible Worship and Denominationalism Contrasted

When Jesus Christ established His Church on the earth, it continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers (Acts 2:42).

Although the primitive Church encountered persecution from without along with imperfections from within, it did not experience divisions produced by religious denominations.

The aim of "restorationists" was to bring men back to the teaching of the New Testament.

However, in Acts 20:28, Paul warns the Ephesian elders of the danger that was soon approaching. He says that after his departure grievous wolves would enter into the Church of Christ not sparing the flock and they would speak perverse things attempting to draw disciples after themselves.

The great apostasy predicted by Paul did in fact come upon the Church and one corruption was followed by another until the Church was led into darkness.

From a historical perspective, the "Reformation Movement" should never be confused with the "Restoration Movement." Whereas the former attempted to "reform" existing denominations, the latter sought to "restore" the principles of New Testament doctrine.

The aim of "restorationists" was to bring men back to the teaching of the New Testament. Their purpose was to discover how first century Christians worshipped the Lord in that day

and then follow the same pattern of worship today.

Unfortunately, there are some congregations in this age who purport the name "Church of Christ" but have "left the old landmark" for the lack of better terminology.

The great apostasy predicted by Paul did in fact come upon the Church and one corruption was followed by another until the Church was led into darkness.

Everyone must admit that the Church of Christ during the first age of its history when everything both in faith and practice organically, was given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was a Church as God would have for it to be.

Not only was this true for that age, but for all age. God saw the end from the beginning and He constituted His Church to meet the wants of His cause in all times and in all generations.

Since the Church of God in the apostolic age did not encounter denominationalism such as now, it follows that whenever the body of Christ worships according to New Testament doctrine, it should be divested of all denominational peculiarities. For example, let us observe the following in contrast:

1. The Bible Church preached the gospel in public worship and this was done by men (1 Tim. 2:12; 2 Tim. 2:2). Some denominations use women and preach a perverted gospel.
2. The Bible Church communed

every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Denominations commune as they please or not at all.

3. The Bible Church gave as God prospered them (1 Cor. 16:1-5). Denominations use any scheme or methods they desire.
4. The Bible Church is called the Church of God (Acts 20:28); the churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16); the Church of the first born (Heb. 12:23). Denominations wear human names for churches not found in the Bible.
5. The Bible Church teaches men to hear and believe the gospel (Acts 15:7); to repent of their sins (Acts 17:30); to confess Christ before men (Rom. 10:9, 10); to be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21). Denominations teach several unscriptural ways to come to Christ such as by praying the sinner's prayer, votes, accepting human creeds.
6. The Bible Church does not use mechanical instruments of music in corporate worship on the Lord's Day and in the Lord's house. The Church of the Bible is instructed to sing and make melody in your heart (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15).



The above lecture was given by the late Dr. G. P. Holt in Kansas City, Missouri, at the 21st Annual National Lectureship.

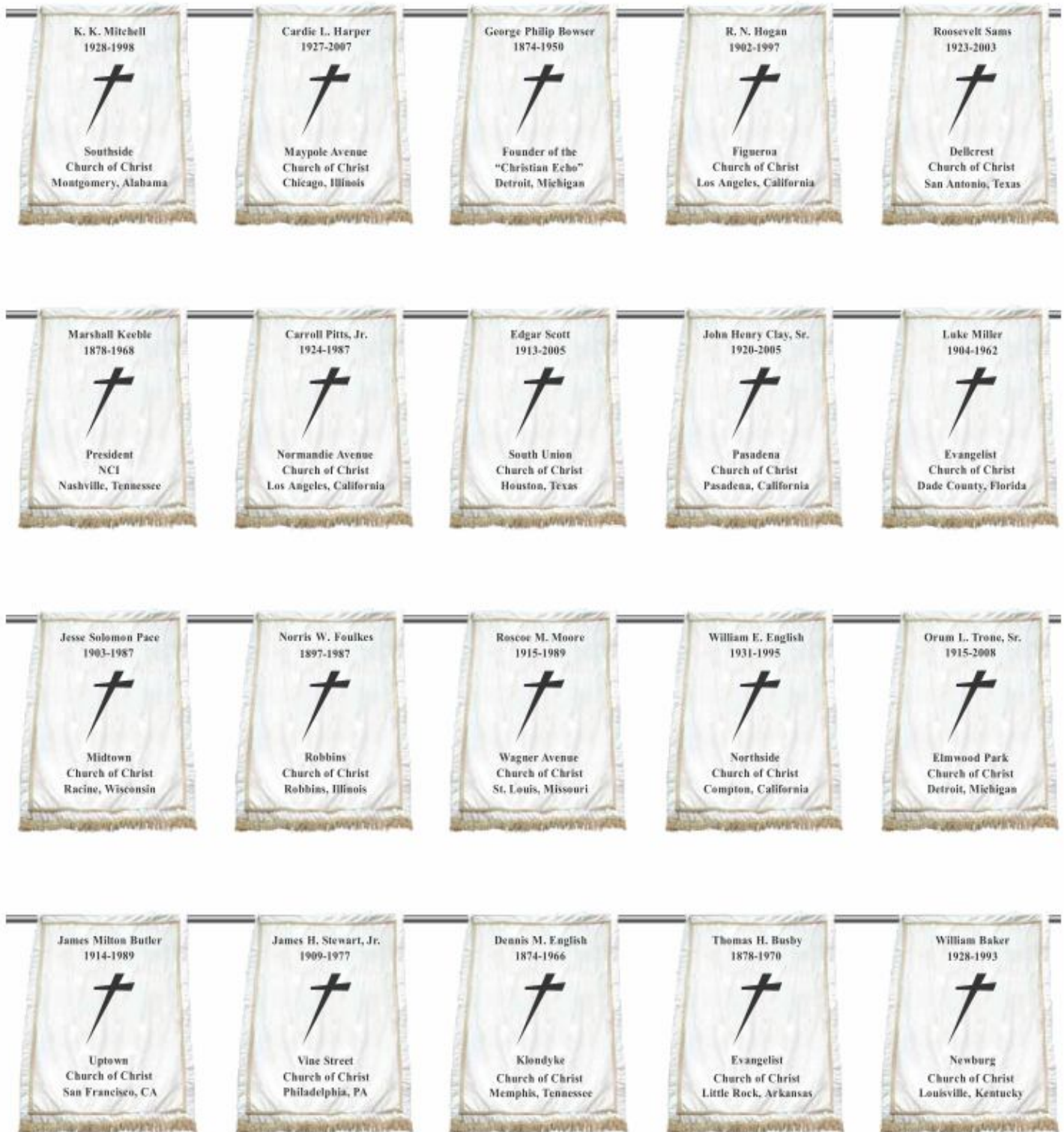
"Bible faith is not seeing to believe... it is believing to see."

“And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”



Previous Annual National Lectureship Cities



1945	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	1985	Chicago, Illinois
1946	Houston, Texas	1986	Jackson, Mississippi
1947	Los Angeles, California	1987	Little Rock, Arkansas
1948	Chicago, Illinois	1988	Saint Louis, Missouri
1949	Philadelphia Pennsylvania	1989	Cleveland, Ohio
1950	Cleveland, Ohio	1990	Houston, Texas
1951	Detroit, Michigan	1991	Denver, Colorado
1952	Indianapolis, Indiana	1992	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
1953	Wichita, Kansas	1993	Augusta, Georgia
1954	New York City, New York	1994	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1955	Birmingham, Alabama	1995	New York City, New York
1956	Los Angeles, California	1996	San Antonio, Texas
1957	Houston, Texas	1997	Sacramento, California
1958	Chicago, Illinois	1998	Baltimore, Maryland
1959	Memphis, Tennessee	1999	Kansas City, Missouri
1960	San Francisco, California	2000	Dallas, Texas
1961	Detroit, Michigan	2001	Miami, Florida
1962	Denver, Colorado	2002	Los Angeles, California
1963	Dallas, Texas	2003	Detroit, Michigan
1964	Toledo, Ohio	2004	Seattle, Washington
1965	Kansas City, Missouri	2005	Nashville, Tennessee
1966	Indianapolis, Indiana	2006	Chicago, Illinois
1967	Newark, New Jersey	2007	Cincinnati, Ohio
1968	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	2008	Birmingham, Alabama
1969	Houston, Texas	2009	Jackson, Mississippi
1970	Augusta, Georgia	2010	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1971	Cleveland, Ohio	2011	New York City, New York
1972	Portland, Oregon	2012	Louisville, Kentucky
1973	San Antonio, Texas	2013	Houston, Texas
1974	Louisville, Kentucky	2014	Atlanta, Georgia
1975	Saint Louis, Missouri	2015	Chicago, Illinois
1976	Tulsa, Oklahoma	2016	Memphis, Tennessee
1977	Chattanooga, Tennessee	2017	Atlanta, Georgia
1978	New York City, New York	2018	Greensboro, North Carolina
1979	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	2019	Saint Louis, Missouri
1980	Muncie, Indiana	2020	Cancelled – COVID-19
1981	Dallas, Texas	2021	Cancelled – COVID-19
1982	Los Angeles, California	2022	Orlando, Florida
1983	Memphis, Tennessee	2023	Houston, Texas
1984	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	2024	TBD

76th Annual “Historical” National Lectureship

Preachers From Across the Brotherhood Gather Together in Orlando, Florida



Celebrating Our Return to In-Person Fellowship

Over Seventy-Five Preachers Including Those in This Photograph Were Present

“One Lord.... One Faith... One Baptism”