

## African American Churches of Christ Salutes the President “Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Jack Evans, Sr.”

Gospel preachers and many others were in attendance November 15th and 16th in Terrell, Texas, to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Jack Evans, Sr.

Dr. Evans who served as the first African American president of Southwestern Christian College passed away November 1, 2019, having experienced a prolonged illness. Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., was not only president of SwCC for over fifty-years, but he was also a resolute “Defender of the Faith” and a distinguished debater for the Church of Christ across the world.

A native of Houston, Texas, Dr. Evans was baptized into the body of Christ in 1953 at the age of fifteen and accepted the call to preach the gospel one year later at the age of sixteen. After attending public school in Houston for nine years, he transferred to Nashville Christian Institute where the late Marshall Keeble was president.

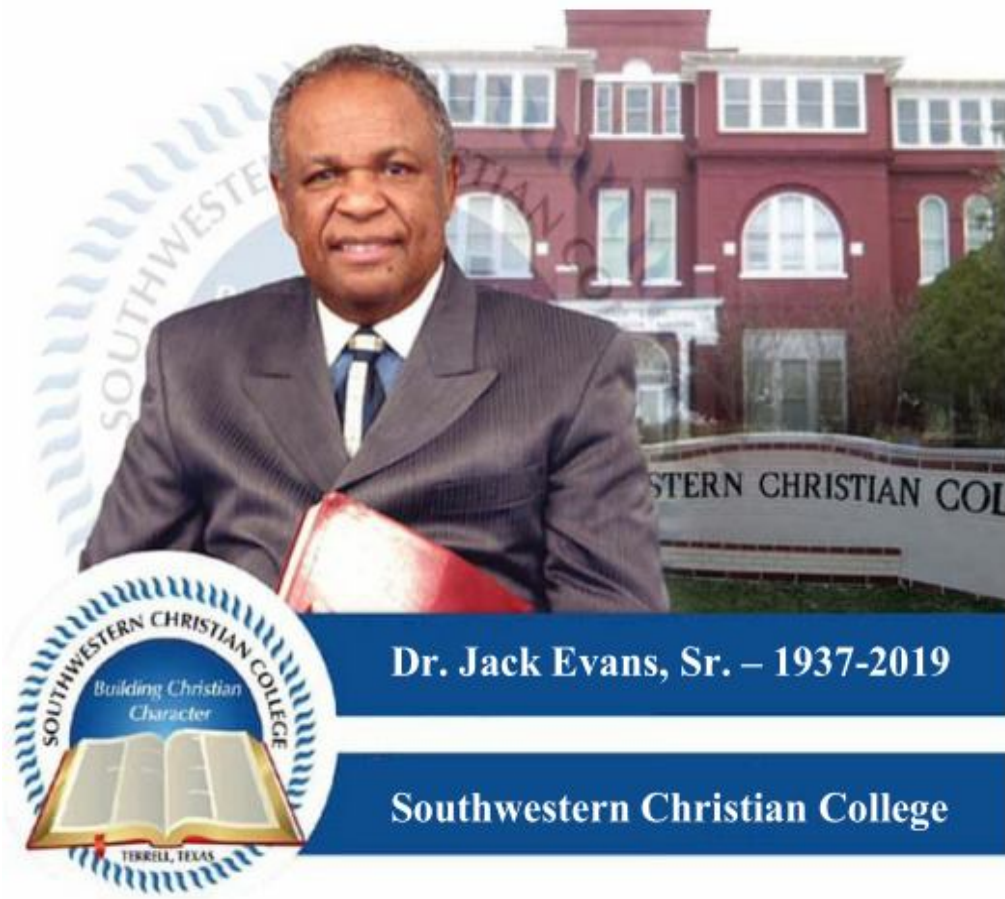
In 1957, he graduated from Nashville Christian Institute and enrolled at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas. While completing his studies at SwCC, he served as Associate Minister of

the College Church of Christ. Upon matriculating from SwCC in 1959, he married the one and only love of his life, Patricia E. Officer and they relocated to New Mexico, where he enrolled in Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico, majoring in History and Religion.

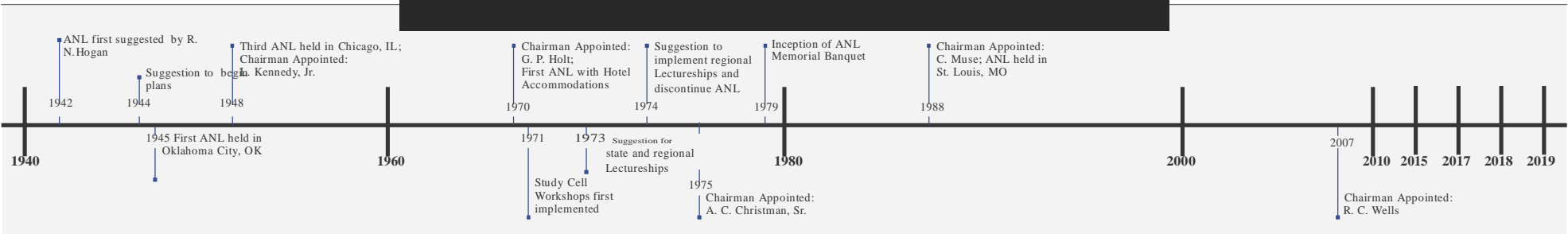
While living in New Mexico, he preached for a small congregation in Hale Center, Texas, until he graduated in 1961. After graduating, he began graduate work in History and English at the University of Texas at El Paso (Texas Western College at the time) receiving his Master of Arts degree in 1963. His M.A. thesis was felicitously entitled “*The History of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas.*”

*In 1957, he graduated from Nashville Christian Institute and enrolled at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas.*

At this juncture he was Minister of the Cebada Street Church of Christ in El Paso and the couple was blessed with two precious sons; Jack, Jr., and Herbert Raye (continued on page two).



*Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., was not only president of SwCC for over fifty-years, but he was also a resolute “Defender of the Faith” and a distinguished debater for the Church of Christ across the world.*





## “In Remembrance of Dr. Jack Evans, Sr. – Global Evangelist” President Emeritus of Southwestern Christian College – Terrell, Texas

(EVANS... continued)

In 1963, the young Evans family returned again to Texas, where Dr. Evans served as Minister of the Victory Boulevard Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas. At this time he was also appointed Dean of his beloved alma mater Southwestern Christian College. He served in this capacity and as a History instructor for a period of four years – 1963-1967.

*Under the administration of Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., SwCC not only became fully accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), it has also maintained its accreditation and experienced phenomenal success during his tenure.*

In 1967, he was appointed President of SwCC becoming the first African American president of the only predominately Black Christian College in the United States among Churches of Christ. He served in this position for an unprecedented fifty years with SwCC receiving its full regional accreditation status in 1973.

Under the administration of Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., SwCC not only became fully accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), it has also maintained its accreditation and experienced phenomenal success during his tenure. In January 2017, Dr. Evans retired as President of Southwestern Christian College.

A Doctor of Laws (LL.D) was conferred upon Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., from Abilene Christian University, Harding University, and Pepperdine University. He is listed in “Who’s Who in Texas Today” along with “Who’s Who in American College University Administration.” He was a former member of the Board

of Directors for Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Evans spoke on all of the major lectureships held by Christian Colleges including meetings or seminars on other college campuses.

For over sixty years he conducted gospel meetings for Churches of Christ across the United States and abroad. He will be remembered as a notorious trustee of biblical truth by his opponents in religious debates.

A few of the accomplishments and accolades bestowed upon Dr. Evans are as follows:

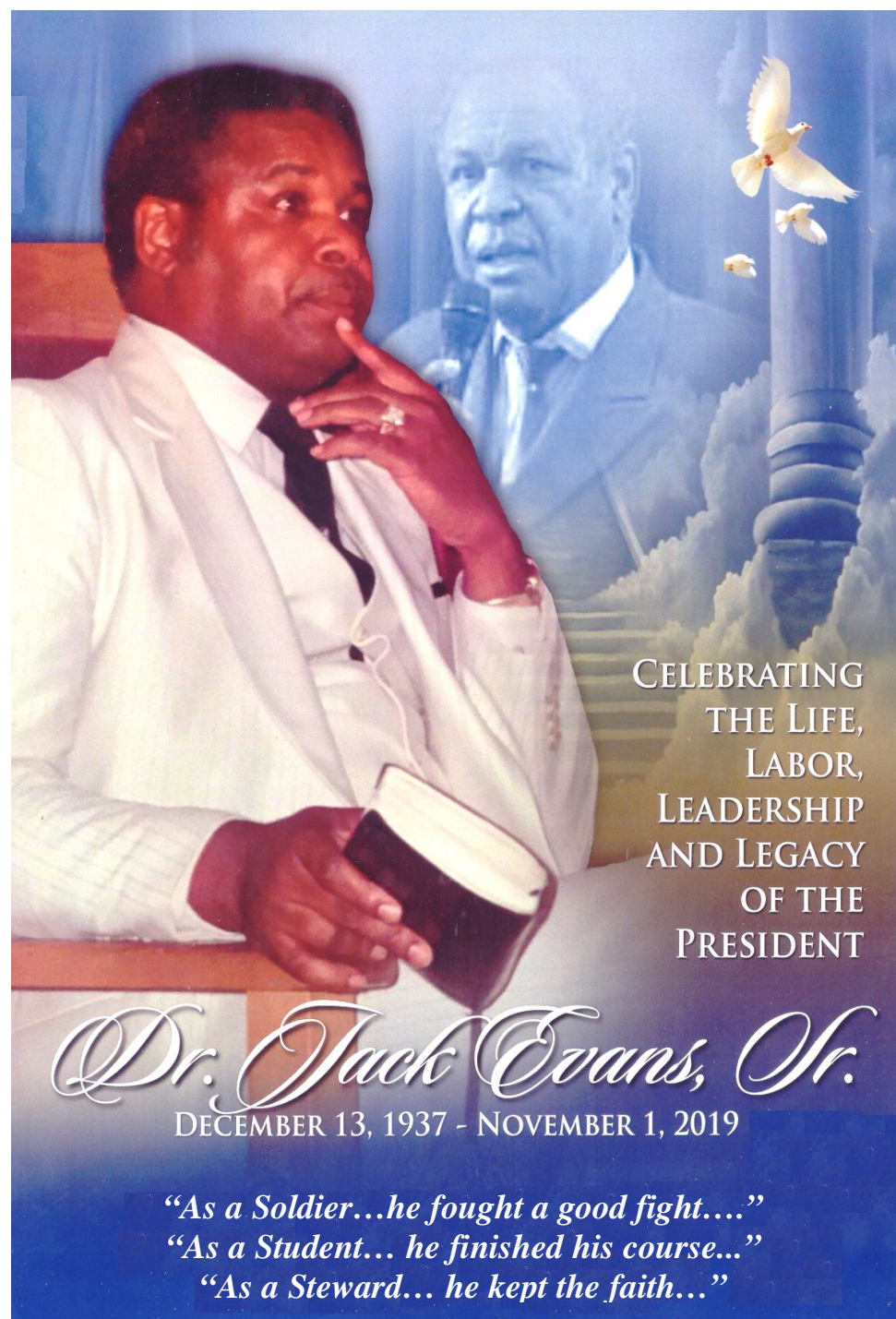
- 2010 W. F. Washington Theological Institute “Living Legend” Award
- Mentor and Counselor
- Distinguished Author
- Church of Christ Global Evangelist
- Prolific Debater
- Educator and Missionary
- Church Historian and Curator
- Biennial Crusade for Christ Speaker (1981-2015)

*A Doctor of Laws (LL.D) was conferred upon Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., from Abilene Christian University, Harding University, and Pepperdine University.*

The literary writings of Dr. Evans include the following published works:

- “The Two Covenants”
- “Sinai or Sion?”
- “The Evans-Barr Debate”
- “Sermons That Save”
- “The Curing of Ham”
- “Whose Idea is This?”
- “The Cross or the Crescent?”
- “So What’s the Big Issue?”
- “Christian Response to the Muslim Challenge”

Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., was indeed a “gallant guardian of the gospel” and the “faith once delivered.” The impact of his preaching, writing, and five decades of work at SwCC will never fade from our hearts. Before the decline of his health, he was in the process of writing his final book and his personal memoir entitled: “Strength for the Journey.”



“Go Down Death” – James Weldon Johnson

*“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The Apostle Paul – (1 Corinthians 15:53-57 – ESV)

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



# "Protecting and Preserving Our Historical Past"

## African American Churches of Christ "Historical" National Lectureship

### Serving the Brotherhood Since 1945

According to the late Dr. J. S. Winston, the "Historical" National Lectureship among African American Churches of Christ was first suggested by the late Dr. R. N. Hogan in 1942, during his ministry with the Stonewall and Waco Street Church of Christ in Houston, Texas. Dr. Winston stated that Hogan called a meeting with the local preachers of Texas and suggested to Levi Kennedy, G. E. Steward and himself, the need for having a National Lectureship among African American brethren of the Church of Christ similar to that of the white brethren.

It was the belief of Hogan that a Lectureship would help synchronize our preaching and teaching of New Testament doctrine, along with fostering a means of fellowship for those who would attend. Everyone agreed with Hogan that a Lectureship would serve a great need in our brotherhood.

In 1944 at the Bowser Christian Institute Annual School Meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Steward said to Hogan, Winston, and Kennedy, they should begin to prepare for the Lectureship which had been discussed in Houston, Texas, two years earlier. G. P. Bowser was very inspired by this idea and he also agreed there was a vital need for such an event.



Bowser encouraged them to begin making plans for having a Lectureship the following year. As a result, in 1945, Levi Kennedy, J. S. Winston, R. N. Hogan, and G. E. Steward agreed for the first National Lectureship to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with the East Seventh Street Church of Christ as host congregation where G. E. Steward served as Minister.

The dates of the first Annual National Lectureship among African American Churches of Christ were March 22-24, 1945, with a total of thirty-six Ministers in attendance. Due to the success of the Lectureship, it was recommended that it should be held every year. The suggestion was agreed upon unanimously by those who were present and it has been held annually since that time.

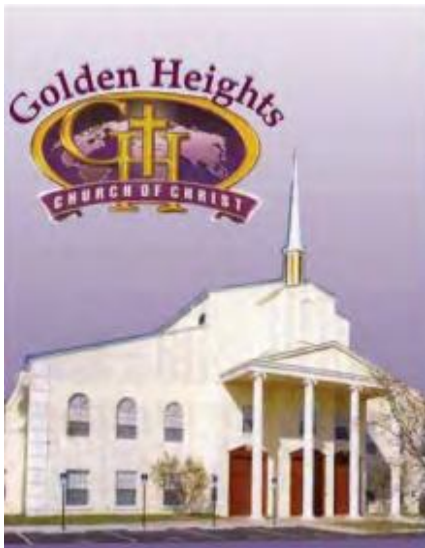
Although each of the preachers who attended the first "Historical" Annual National Lectureship have passed from this life since its inception in 1945, the National Lectureship continues to serve as a vital link for brotherhood fellowship among Ministers of the gospel and members of the visible kingdom of Christ across the entire nation.



## African American Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship

### Orlando, Florida – 2020

"One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism"



## Ministers' Institute Conference USA “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” [www.ministersinstituteconference.com](http://www.ministersinstituteconference.com)

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Harvey M. Jackson, Ph.D., National Coordinator  
Gloria Butler, National Women's Conference Coordinator  
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*“The Case for the Holy Spirit Part 2”*



*W. F. Washington, Ph.D.  
President and Founder*

### Practical Intent and Guidance

- Participate in Plenary and Fiat Lux Workshops and Seminars
- Gain Insight into 21st Century Church Administration
- Network with Men of God from Across the Nation
- Engage in a Christian Atmosphere Where the Bible is Respected
- Interactive Seminar Sessions for Ministers Only
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### Standard Features of the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute”

- Evening Vespers with Powerful Gospel Preaching
- Enhancing Women’s’ Division Program
- Wednesday Evening “Honor Banquet” and Ministerial Awards
- Daily Theme-Based Inspirational Chapel Services

### “Emphasizing Truth and Exposing Error”

The “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” and Ministers’ Institute Conference is hosted by the New Golden Heights Church of Christ in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Institute convenes annually during the third week of January each year to further the cause of Jesus Christ and to encourage gospel preachers in their respective work.

We firmly believe in the force of Matthew 16:18 to be as poignant and powerful in its application today as it was when spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer and Sovereign Savior. As a result, three imperative and indispensable truths emerge from this divine declaration:

- 1) Revelation
- 2) Identification
- 3) Authorization

In Matters of Doctrine... UNITY  
In Matters of Opinion... LIBERTY  
In ALL Matters... LOVE

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



## “Protecting and Preserving Our Historical Past”

The late Dr. Roosevelt C. Wells attempted to name each of the preachers below who attended the first “Historical” National Lectureship. Our research has enabled us to identify twenty of the thirty-two men shown in this photograph. Can anyone today name the other individuals?



Bottom Row L-R John O. Williams, E. W. Anderson, Luke Miller, Levi Kennedy, T. H. Busby, G. P. Bowser, G. E. Steward, Unknown, J. S. Winston, H. H. Gray, Jr., W. D. Booker  
 Middle Row L-R Alonzo Patterson, Unknown, Roscoe M. Moore, L. M. Jones, Unknown, Cathey C. Locke, Leroy Durley, Unknown, Unknown, R. F. Nunley  
 Top Row L-R Preston Gray, Unknown, Elcue Wright, Paul S. Settles, Unknown, Unknown, Robert Butler, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown

### First Annual National Lectureship – March 22-24, 1945 East Seventh Street Church of Christ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma G. E. Steward, Host Minister

The *Christian Courier* is a bi-annual publication established in the year 2012 by the Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship. The fundamental objective of the *Courier* is to share relevant information which pertains to the National Lectureship in particular, the Ministers' Institute Conference, and the African American Church of Christ in general. It is the visionary intent of the *Christian Courier* to publish articles that reflect sound biblical doctrine and those which emphasize the following frameworks:

- Theological foundations impacting New Testament doctrine and biblical interpretation.
- Historical perspectives pertaining to selected individuals and current issues in Christian ministry.
- Empirical and quantitative research that furthers our understanding of sound ministry practice.
- Acknowledgment of past and present ministerial contributions on behalf of the visible kingdom.
- Compassionate efforts performed by various individuals to help heal the hurts of humanity.

Let it be understood that the *Courier* does not promote any specific policies or ideologies that conflict with the inspired Word of God. The Bible is our only standard of measurement in matters relating to religious faith and practice. Therefore, all articles submitted to the *Christian Courier* for publication should be thought-provoking, original, trustworthy, insightful and engaging. The editorial staff of the *Christian Courier* reserves the right to refuse any information or articles for publication that does not meet this stated criterion which has been set forth.

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

## Acknowledging the Ministry of Evangelist Isaac Young Capital Street Church of Christ – Jackson, Mississippi



**Senior Minister Isaac Young  
Capital Street Church of Christ**

In concert with the celebration of life observance for Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., in Terrell, Texas, on November 16, 2019, funeral services were conducted at the same time for Isaac Young, Senior Minister of the Capitol Street Church of Christ in Jackson, Mississippi.

Isaac Young was born to the late John and Ernestine Young on November 14, 1940, in Tulula, Louisiana. His family relocated to Memphis, Tennessee, where he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1950 as the star football player.

While attending Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, he met the love of his life Martha Craine, who attended Rust College in the same city. Minister Young was united in matrimony to Martha Craine on June 15, 1963, and they settled in Memphis, Tennessee. During the welcoming of their first four daughters, Jana, Sonya, Patrice and Ilisha, he knew he had to provide for his family and as a result, his entrepreneurial spirit was born.

At one point he owned a gas station, a modeling agency, a record shop, and went from door to door selling encyclopedias. Although he was quite successful, he was concerned for the safety and welfare of his family. With this in mind, they decided to relocate to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1973.

Upon settling in, they welcomed their two youngest children, Ivy and Isaac, III. He continued to sell encyclopedias and specialty cookware initiating yet another business, C. E. Standard Enterprise, Inc.

Even with the safety of his family and growing clientele, he felt that something was missing and knew he was called for a greater purpose. In 1974, Isaac Young was baptized by the late W. J. Braddock. He and his family attended North West Church of Christ. Young, along with two other servants recognized the need for a Black congregation.

Thus, the West Jackson Church of Christ was established the third Sunday in August 1979. On this eventful day, the West Jackson Church of Christ held its first service and the congregation met at the C. E. Standard Enterprise building which was located at 320 Foley Street.

By March 1980, the congregation had acquired its own building without the aid or support from any other source but itself. The congregation moved to 4213 Wainwright Street and the building was dedicated in April 1980. In January 1985, the congregation moved to the present location at 1917 West Capitol Street.

On a cold Sunday morning in February 1985, as old and young marched to the new location, this body of believers became known as the Capital Street Church of Christ. That day was recognized as “Marching for Christ Day” and the building was dedicated in the month of September 1985.

The leadership of Isaac Young in areas of church development, especially evangelism, was highly respected across the brotherhood. He began the Emmanuel Club at Jackson State University to form a liaison with youth and the church.

The National Lectureship held among churches of Christ as well as local youth conferences and the Mississippi State Lectureship are

several events that have been hosted by the Capital Street Church of Christ in Jackson, Mississippi.

Minister Isaac Young devoted his life to preaching the gospel of Christ and saving the souls of men. He made his transition on Sunday afternoon, November 10, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

*He began the Emmanuel Club at Jackson State University to form a liaison with youth and the Church.*

As a church builder, businessman, gospel preacher, church administrator and family man, he will be missed by all of those who knew him well. In the words of Jonathan as he spoke to his

dear friend David in 1 Samuel 20:18: *“Tomorrow is the new moon and you shall be missed, because your seat will be empty.”*

*In the year 1974, Isaac Young was baptized by the late W. J. Braddock.*

Minister Isaac Young leaves behind to cherish his memories his loving and devoted wife, Martha Young; children, grandchildren, one brother, one sister, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, a great galaxy of friends, and his dearly beloved Church family; the Capital Street Church of Christ.

They are requesting the prayers of everyone during this heart-felt season.

It was the desire of Isaac Young that we continue to eagerly and joyfully work for the Lord in the image of Christ; our perfect example of love, forgiveness and service.

Fervently pray for each other that you be unified in one spirit and in one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel. Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

*In January 1985, the congregation moved to the present location at 1917 West Capitol Street.*

*“Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art no so...” (John Donne)*

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





*Forty-Fourth Annual Ministers' Institute Conference, USA*  
*"W. F. Washington Theological Institute"*

The "W. F. Washington Theological Institute" and "MIC"  
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W. F. Washington, Ph.D.



Dr. Roosevelt C. Wells

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 Dr. Roosevelt C. Wells in Matters Pertaining to New Testament Doctrine"



*"Washington-Wells Lecture Series"*

"One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism"

*"Protecting and Preserving Our Historical Past"*

*"Protecting and Preserving Our Historical Past"*





*The W. F. Washington Theological Institute  
Ministers' Institute Conference USA  
Extends Words of Consolation and Comfort*

**To the Family of the Late Evangelist Dr. Jack Evans, Sr.  
President Emeritus of Southwestern Christian College – Terrell, TX  
January 19, 2020**

**Harvey M. Jackson, Ph.D., Mound Bayou, MS  
National Coordinator**

**Regional Coordinators  
Dr. Steven N. Thompson, Milwaukee, WI**

**David C. Penn, Ph.D. – Chicago, IL  
Minister Leroy Butler, Jr. – Valdosta, GA  
Dr. Orpheus J. Heyward – Atlanta, GA  
Minister DonBurnell Holly – Memphis, TN  
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**Dr. Luis R. Lugo, Sr. – Tampa, FL  
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Dr. Jeff Caruthers, Jr. – Winston-Salem, NC  
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*W. F. Washington, Ph.D. – Institute Founder/President*





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## The “Historical” Churches of Christ 76th Annual National Lectureship May 23-28, 2020 – Orlando, Florida

*“Protecting and Preserving Our Historical Past”*

76th Annual National Lectureship of the Churches of Christ  
May 23-28, 2020 in Orlando, Florida

Hosted by Bishop Church of Christ in Collaboration with Southside Church of Christ Orlando and the other Central Florida Area Churches of Christ



**The Eternal Purpose**

**Examining The Book of Ephesians  
For The Purpose, Plan, and Place of God**



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**Special Offer:** Register during the 2019 National Lectureship in St. Louis for a chance to win a free registration

Visit Us Online At [www.cocnl2020.com](http://www.cocnl2020.com) to Register, book hotel, or for more information

*“Protecting and Preserving Our Historical Past”*

One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”



## Reflections of a Past Pioneer in the African American Church of Christ

### Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell – “The Power of Innocent Blood”



**D**r. K. K. Mitchell was one of the most articulate and astute proclaimers of truth throughout the entire brotherhood. His capacious vocabulary coupled with the awesome ability to touch the hearts of those who heard him pontificate, enabled the legendary Dr. Kelly Mitchell to be regarded as a preacher among preachers.

The late Dr. R. N. Hogan said: “K. K. Mitchell is a dynamic and dedicated preacher in the Church of our Lord. He is an inspiration to all aspirant Ministers.”

The late Dr. Roosevelt Wells profoundly said: “K. K. Mitchell is one the most esteemed, energetic, and loved Ministers that I know.”

The late Dr. G. P. Holt stated: “I even like to hear Kelly Mitchell pray. He is truly a great Minister.”

The late Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., former president of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, said: “Brother Mitchell is truly an inspiration to the brotherhood as a Minister with outstanding ability to proclaim the Word of God.”

The late Dr. J. S. Winston also characterized Dr. K. K. Mitchell as being “one of our most capable and informed gospel preachers in the Church of Christ.”

Dr. W. F. Washington said in his memory of Dr. K. K. Mitchell: “Superlative is the adjective which properly defines Brother Mitchell and his preaching of the gospel.”

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*Superlative is the adjective which properly defines Brother Mitchell and his preaching of the gospel.*

W. F. Washington, Ph.D.

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Unfortunately, most preachers of this millennial generation have never witnessed or heard Dr. K. K. Mitchell elucidate, expound, and wax eloquent from the Scripture.

Furthermore, when the historical record of truth is correctly told it must be known that Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell was selected first by the Montgomery Improvement Association to lead the “1955 Bus Boycott” with Rosa Parks in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, “before” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

However, due to prior evangelistic commitments he was unable to fulfill this request. Yet, he offered assistance in the famous Bus Boycott Movement by providing transportation for those who were involved.

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*K. K. Mitchell is a dynamic and dedicated preacher in the Church of our Lord. He is an inspiration to all aspirant Ministers.*

The Late Dr. R. N. Hogan

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Dr. K. K. Mitchell was a native of Newman, Georgia. He was baptized in 1939 at the Simpson Street Church of Christ in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a student at Nashville Christian Institute and graduated from this institution in the year 1948. He later graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, where he received both a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees.

Dr. Mitchell continued his formal education at Alabama State College and also Alabama College of Religion where he was awarded a Th.D. degree. A Doctor of Divinity *Honoris Causa* was conferred upon him from the Missionary School of Religion in Houston, Texas. Academically, he held a Secondary Teaching Certificate

and was endorsed in the areas of English, French, and Social Studies. Dr. Mitchell was recognized as Alumni of the Year by the Alabama College of Religion and he was a member of the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Christian College.

Moreover, Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and his name is listed in “Who’s Who Among Black Americans.” In 1965, he was involved in the March from Selma to Montgomery, once again providing assistance for those who marched across Edmund Pettus Bridge. Because of his many years of devotion to the city of Montgomery, Alabama, Mayor Emory Folmar proclaimed August 4, 1996, as “DR. K. K. MITCHELL DAY.”

On August 8, 1996, Fob James the Governor of Alabama signed a certificate of appreciation recognizing Dr. Mitchell and his service on behalf of the Church and Montgomery. Before his death in 1998, he received a letter of praise from President Bill Clinton for his many years of religious service and for helping to create an atmosphere of compassion.

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*Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell was selected first by the Montgomery Improvement Association to lead the “1955 Bus Boycott” with Rosa Parks in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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The ministry of Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell spanned more than fifty years. His work expanded to several congregations in the state of Tennessee, including the Green Street Church of Christ in Nashville, and Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

His oratorical excellence and biblical knowledge were revered from the sunlit beaches of Florida and California to the Eastern shores of New England.

When Dr. Mitchell he first arrived in Montgomery, his ministry began with the Holt Street Church of Christ. The final twenty-six years of his illuminating and stellar career were spent as Minister of the Southside Church of Christ.

In 1951, Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell married Miss Audrea Martin of Nashville, Tennessee. From this union of forty-six years they were blessed with a daughter and a son.

Sister Mitchell was a graduate of Tennessee State University and spent her early teaching career at Nashville Christian Institute.

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*“K. K. Mitchell is one the most esteemed, energetic, and loved Ministers that I know.”*

The Late Dr. Roosevelt C. Wells

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Sister Audrea M. Mitchell was called home to be with the Lord on the afternoon of April 9, 2017.

On January 18, 1998, the Lord called Dr. Mitchell home to be at rest from his labor. The sacrifices made by Dr. and Sister Mitchell on behalf of the visible kingdom will be remembered in our hearts.

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*“I even like to hear Kelly Mitchell pray. He is truly a great Minister.”*

The Late Dr. G. P. Holt

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Finally, the apostle Paul shares with us in the Philippian letter: “For to me, live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

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*In 1965, he was involved in the March from Selma to Montgomery, once again providing assistance for those who marched across Edmund Pettus Bridge.*

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The discourse provided on the following pages was delivered by Dr. Kelly K. Mitchell during the 41st Annual National Lectureship hosted by Chicago in 1985 with two-thousand in attendance.

***“The Power of Innocent Blood”***

**One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”**



## “The Power of Innocent Blood” by Dr. K. K. Mitchell (1928-1928) 41st Annual “Historical” National Lectureship – Chicago, Illinois, 1985

Americans have always valued human life and we have attached a special significance to the shedding of innocent blood. The sad story of Emmett Till, a fourteen year old young man from the Southside of Chicago, Illinois, yet lingers in the hearts of millions. His bare and inflated body was found floating in the Tallahatchie River down in the Delta of Mississippi, after a few misguided men took the law into their own hands.

When some scoundrel in the city of Jackson, Mississippi, hid his hellish face in nearby bushes and cowardly shot Medgar Evers in the back, all good people bowed their heads in shame as his little children innocently stood by in their dying father’s blood crying, “Daddy, why don’t you speak to us?”

*Wiser than the human family, the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient eternal God has always placed a tremendous significance upon the shedding of innocent blood. He doesn't accept it as a trifle or with puny pettiness, but as appalling enormities.*

When indiscreet, perverted, abnormal egotists murdered three civil rights workers in the shadows of the night under the black clouds of hatred, the hearts of all loyal Americans were broken. When some hysterical psychologically mad man took that upward stumble to the book depository in Dallas, Texas, and punctured the body of President John F. Kennedy with hot bullets from a high-powered rifle, the whole world draped in black mourning.

When our newscasts became explosive volcanoes pushing the perpetual lava which scorched our veins with the story of a mentally deranged housewife from Florida,

who sought revenge against her husband by cutting off their baby's arms, legs, and ears while the child was yet alive and then cutting its head off depositing the bloody mass in a shoe box and putting it in the refrigerator to await the arrival of her husband. We first hoped it was a nightmare, but were made to face the cold facts of truth and were sunk in the depths of deep distress.

*The sad story of Emmett Till, a fourteen year old young man from the Southside of Chicago, Illinois, yet lingers in the hearts of millions.*

Wiser than the human family, the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient eternal God has always placed a tremendous significance upon the shedding of innocent blood. He doesn't accept it as a trifle or with puny pettiness, but as appalling enormities. In Leviticus 17:11 God said, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of life.”

God said that man’s life is in his blood. Medical science has marched onward like a raging torrent and has found a substitute for nearly every part of the human body. We have artificial legs, arms, eyes, kidneys, and even an artificial heart which pumps blood through the circulatory system of the body; but no artificial blood. For man's life is in his blood and when all his blood is gone his life is gone.

I John 1:7 states, “If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” Also, in Revelation 1:5 the Bible says to us “Unto Him that loved us and loosed us from our sin by His blood.”

What is known as the blood covenant is practiced in many countries throughout the world. The Scythians drank the blood of their foes and Arabian women fed

their children the hearts of lions hoping that the strength of the beast might be imported to their offspring.

The idea was held that through blood the individual would be able to communicate with God. The exercise of cannibalism was at first connected with the religious life of the people. Such views are undoubtedly echoes of the Bible’s teaching upon the question of sacrifice which culminated in the death of Christ.

During the Old Testament period there was a great sea of bloodshed in the various sacrifices. The very first mention of blood sacrifices is in the account of the offering of Cain and Abel. “And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Jehovah. And Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Jehovah had respect unto Abel and his offering, but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect” (Genesis 4:3-5).

*We have artificial legs, arms, eyes, kidneys, and even an artificial heart which pumps blood through the circulatory system of the body; but no artificial blood. For man's life is in his blood and when all his blood is gone his life is gone.*

Abel gave of himself through the blood-offering while Cain merely gave a present unto God. The offering of Cain was rejected because it was not in harmony with the Divine Command of God. The Hebrew writer says to us “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain” (Hebrews 11:4). In Romans 10:17 the apostle Paul says “Faith comes by hearing God.”

After God had no regard unto Cain’s offering, he said to Abel his brother, “Let us go out into the field.” Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him in innocent blood.

Cain was not cognizant that there is power in innocent blood. God said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He replied and said, “I do not know, am I my brother’s keeper?” The Lord

asked Cain, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground, and now you are cursed from the ground which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hands. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain answered and said, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.”

*During the Old Testament period there was a great sea of bloodshed in the various sacrifices. The very first mention of blood sacrifices is in the account of the offering of Cain and Abel.*

The next time we read about blood in the Bible is in Genesis 8:20. In Genesis 6:5 the Lord saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth and it grieved Him to His heart.

So the Lord said, “I will blot out whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord because he was a righteous man and blameless although there was corruption and violence around all him. God directed him to build an Ark by divine specifications and Noah did all that God commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month on the seventeenth day of the month, all the fountains of the great deep burst forth and the windows of heaven were opened and rain fell upon the earth. The flood continued forty-days and forty-nights upon the earth and the waters increased greatly upon the earth. Yet, the Ark floated on the face (continued on next page)

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



(MITCHELL... continued)

of the water and all flesh died that moved upon the earth. When God landed the Ark on Mt. Ararat, Noah built an altar unto Jehovah and took of every clean beast and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar (Genesis 8:20).

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*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord because he was a righteous man and blameless although there was corruption and violence around all him.*

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According to the record, his offering was acceptable unto God because the next verse says that Jehovah smelled the sweet savor and said in his heart "I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake."

Since the offering of Noah was acceptable, Jehovah made a covenant with him and promised that "While the earth remaineth, seed, time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Many centuries have passed since days of Noah but God has kept His word with the human race. The contract was sealed in blood.

The observance of the Feast of the Passover is undoubtedly one of the most vivid portrayals of the significance of blood in the Bible. What a horrible night that was when the very lives of people depended upon the application of blood. Good intentions alone would avail nothing.

The Hebrew who intended to make necessary preparation but failed because of procrastination died just as the Egyptian. God said, "And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt" (Exodus 12:7-13).

The Law was given through Moses from Mt. Sinai only after

the sprinkling of blood took place for the purification of the people. They were pledged to keep the Law by a blood ceremony. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the Altar. And Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which Jehovah hath made with you concerning all these words (Exodus 24:6-8).

In all of the Jewish offerings, the requirement was blood, blood, blood. The burnt-offering is a picture of that scene described in the gospels as the crucifixion of Jesus when He gave Himself as ransom for many.

The peace offering was another bloody sacrifice. The word "peace" means "prosperity and happiness."

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*What a horrible night that was when the very lives of people depended upon the application of blood. Good intentions alone would avail nothing.*

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The price that was paid for the liberation and freedom of this nation from England was blood. The price that was paid for the liberation and freedom of slaves was blood. It took the shedding of blood to stop Hitler, who unified a nation and caused that nation state to become a menace and fountain of measureless woe to the whole world.

The sin and trespass offerings required blood due to the fact that "apart from the shedding of blood there is no remission." We were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, but with precious blood, even the blood of Christ.

The greatest day in the history of the Jewish people was known as the Day of Atonement. Upon this day sacrifices were offered for the priests and the people of the congregation. An important part of the ceremony was the selection of the two goats, one to be slain and the other with the sins of Israel typically laid upon him, to be sent away into the wilderness.

These offerings described in the Old Testament were merely types or pictures of what was destined to pass. They were all limited, for it is impossible that the blood of bulls

and goats should take away sin. Men's hearts were yet heavy. Men's hands were yet red with blood. Men were yet bending and bowing under the weight of guilt and sin. Without the enabling intervention of divine power, all of the blood shed during the Old Testament economy would have been in vain. Rivers of blood and oceans of blood was shed during the Old Testament period, but man was still in sin.

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*The price that was paid for the liberation and freedom of this nation from England was blood. The price that was paid for the liberation and freedom of slaves was blood.*

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As we open the New Testament we discover God's gift to the world. We read about the angels who sat in the balcony of heaven serenading the new-born Babe of Bethlehem and wandering shepherds who were the first worshippers of the Christ-Child. Matthew chapter two relates the fury of Herod's jealousy culminating in a bloody massacre of boy babies, two years old and under in search of the new-born King; but God had hidden Him down in Egypt.

When John the Baptizer was later found preaching in the wilderness, he paralyzed his jubilant audience by pointing his disciples to Jesus Christ and exclaiming, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In John 1:1 the Bible reads, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." In verse 14 of this same chapter John continues by saying, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father."

Christ made specific predictions concerning His future death and the shedding of His blood. After Peter's wonderful confession, Jesus began to inform the disciples about His death, "that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and the third day be raised up."

He recognized the necessity of His death and knew what was before Him when He said, "But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how am I

straitened until it shall have been accomplished" (Luke 12:50).

The importance of the blood was shown in the institution of the Lord's Supper. On the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed it and brake it; and He gave to his disciples and said, take eat, this is my body, and he took a cup, gave thanks and gave to them saying "Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many unto the remission of sins (Matthew 26:26-28).

The whole history of blood shedding and sacrifices is actually centered in the Cross of Calvary. Jesus said of His life, "No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down by myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:18). Paul said while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and we are justified by His blood.

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*Without the enabling intervention of divine power, all of the blood shed during the Old Testament economy would have been in vain.*

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At the observance of the Passover in that "Upper Room" chamber, Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me." They began to ask, "Lord is it I?" Loving John, impetuous Peter, Philip, Andrew, doubting Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, Simon the Zealot, James son of Alphaeus, Jude, and even Judas Iscariot were all there. They left the "Upper Room" and walked toward Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed until sweat fell from His head like drops of blood.

Looking up under the shadows of the olive trees He saw a mob coming with sticks, stones, torches, and lanterns. The horrible thing about it was that they were led by one of His own. Peter cut off the ear of Malchus and Jesus rebuked him saying, "Put up your sword. He who shall live and fight by the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

They led Jesus away to Annas, the ex-high priest. Then Caiaphas stood Him before the Sanhedrin all

**"One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism"**



(MITCHELL... continued)

all alone where they condemned Him to die after accusing Him of blasphemy, not paying His taxes, and claiming to be king.

He was then led to Pilate the coward and to Herod, one of the most low-down scoundrels ever to disgrace the face of God's earth.

His clothes were stripped from His back. He was mocked, assailed, scourged, and mercilessly bruised in the presence of those who stood there watching. It is impossible for anyone to adequately describe that ghastly scene where the Lord gave His life as a ransom for many.

*Peter cut off the ear of Malchus and Jesus rebuked him saying, "Put up your sword. He who shall live and fight by the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:52).*

But look back if you will over the past two-thousand years of history and try to visualize this scene transpiring at the outskirts of Jerusalem. On the brow of the hill are the forms of three crosses and on the Cross in the middle you will find Jesus Christ, the Son of God. See the darkened heavens and feel the trembling earth.

Observe the vigilante mob as it surges by the Cross with some who cursed Him while others spat upon Him saying, "Let Him come down from the Cross and we will believe on him."

His loving mother watched her Son in agony. A Roman centurion had witnessed the crucifixion of many on this "hill of horror" until it was dyed red with blood and bleached white with dead men's bones. But he had never seen the sun fade black, the moon turn into blood, dead men get up out of their graves, or felt the ground tremble at the crucifixion of any man.

Having experienced first-hand this mind-boggling, frightful, and unusual phenomenon, he cried out saying, "Surely, this man must be the Son of God."

Let us always remember that the sacrifice of Christ was made to

save your life and mine. They took His robe from His back and left Him with nothing but a crown of thorns. He was pierced in His side with a spear and forthwith came blood and water.

*On the brow of the hill are the forms of three crosses and on the Cross in the middle you will find Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

My Lord shed His blood when they scourged Him before Herod. He shed His blood when they placed a crown of thorns upon His head. He shed His blood when they nailed Him to the blood-splotched rugged Cross and violated the sanctity of His anatomy. Isaiah, the Messianic Dean of prophets said, "But he was wounded for our transgressions and he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

You can remember the blood that was shed by the Lamb of God if you can count from one to seven. For it is at Calvary where we find:

- One Lord
- Two thieves
- Three crosses
- Four parts of His garments
- Five wounds in His body
- Six hours of His torture
- Seven statements from the Cross

Yes, Jesus died! He "emptied Himself" and died a discreditable, disgraceful, dishonorable, ignoble, inglorious, and ignominious death to bring man back to God. He shed His precious blood and purchased the one Church which is His body (Acts 20:28; Colossians 1:18).

Yes, Jesus died... but He didn't stay dead! He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19).

Yes, Jesus died... but He didn't stay dead! He arose on the first day of the week and said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

Jesus died... but He didn't stay dead! He said "I am he that liveth, and was dead; but now I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18). There is power in innocent blood! ✠

## African American Churches of Christ Twenty-First Century "Defenders of the Faith"

The criterion for this recognition is centered upon their successful engagement in documented "Marquee Debates" against religious false teachers in addition to their "Defense of the Holy Bible." These men have also blazed the wilderness trails of our theological experiences by "establishing new congregations" across the nation based upon the premise of New Testament doctrine.



W. F. Washington, Ph.D.  
Present Pioneer – Ft. Lauderdale, FL



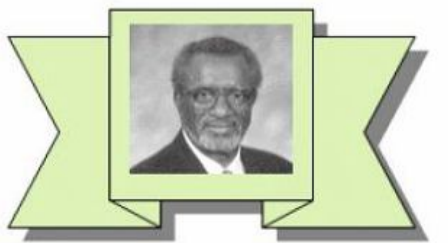
Dr. Jack Evans, Sr. (1937-2019)  
President Emeritus – SwCC



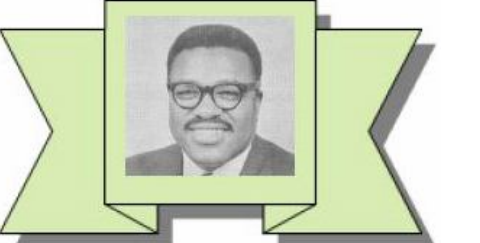
Dr. George Philip Holt (1923-2001)  
Indianapolis, IN



Dr. Roosevelt C. Wells (1933-2019)  
New York City, NY



Dr. Nokomis Yeldell, Sr. (1929-2007)  
Memphis, TN



Humphrey Foutz (1933-2006)  
Baltimore, MD

*"It is impossible for us as finite beings to define the God of heaven in theoretical or philosophical terms. Men throughout the ages have attempted to comprehend the great 'I AM' in this manner. Plato said that God is the 'Architectonic Good' and 'Supreme Being of Justice' who embraces and encapsulates all of humanity. Aristotle said God is the 'Unmoved Mover' and 'First Cause' behind all creation. Friedrich Hegel referred to God as the 'Absolute Whole' and the 'Ultimate Totality' of all that is and will ever be. Paul Tillich identified God as the 'Ground of Being' and 'Being-Itself' because God is the answer to the threat of 'non-being.' 'But we know Him as a 'Friend to the friendless' and a 'Battle Axe' in times of trouble. We know Him as a 'Father to the fatherless' and a 'Comforter' to those who need consolation. We know Him as the 'Ultimate Way-Maker' who brings 'Concord out of discord' and who makes 'Sense out of nonsense.' We know Him as the 'Stiller of storms' who creates 'Calm out of crisis' and catalyzes 'Cosmos' out of chaos.' 'The late Dr. Charles Albert Tindley was right when he penned the words of the old Negro spiritual entitled 'Someday.' Tindley said: 'Harder yet may be the fight and right may often yield to might. Wickedness a while may seem to reign and Satan's cause may seem to gain. But there is a God who rules above with a hand of power and a heart of love. If I am right, He will fight my battle and I shall have peace someday.'"*

"One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism"





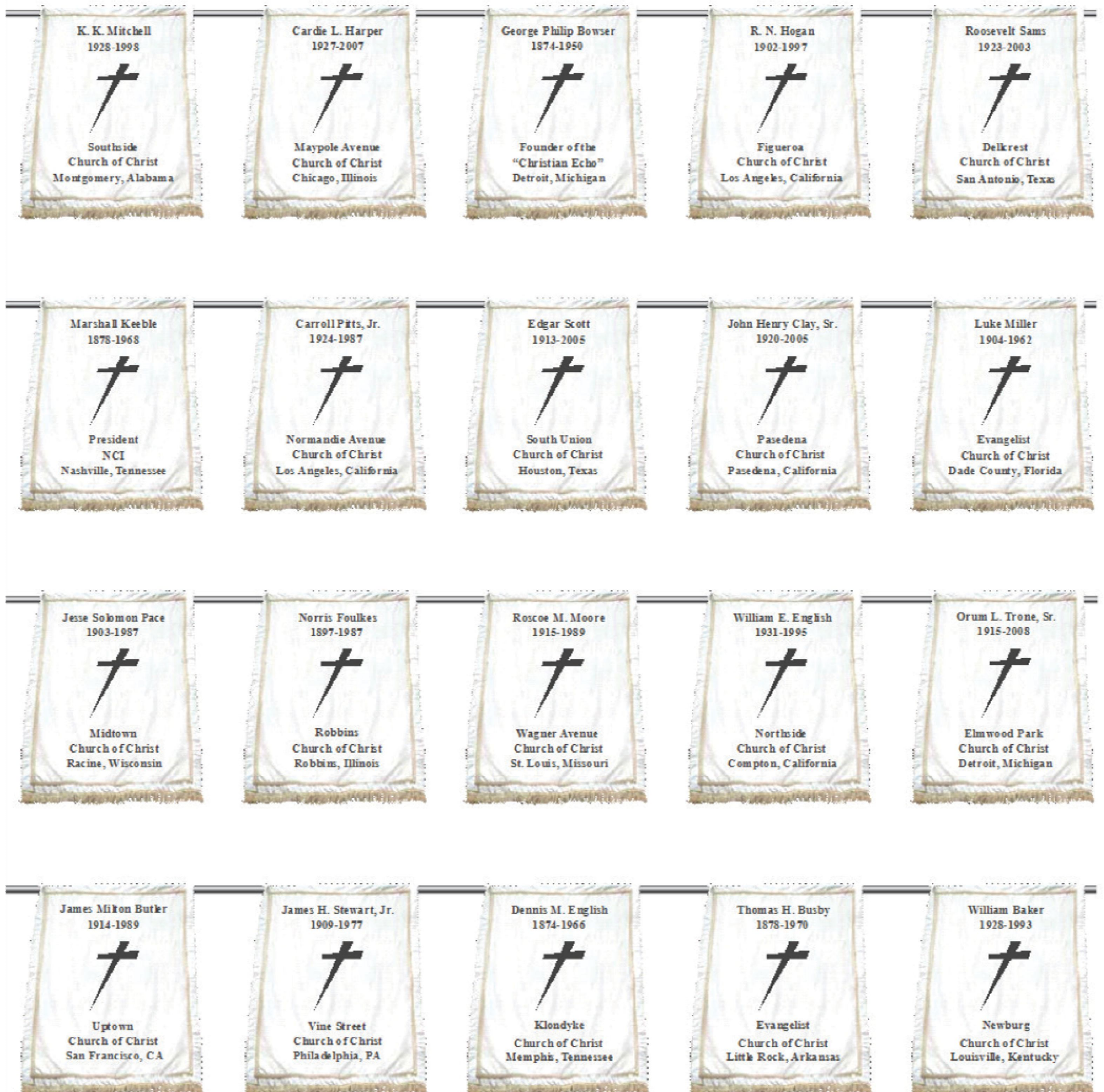
## “And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



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



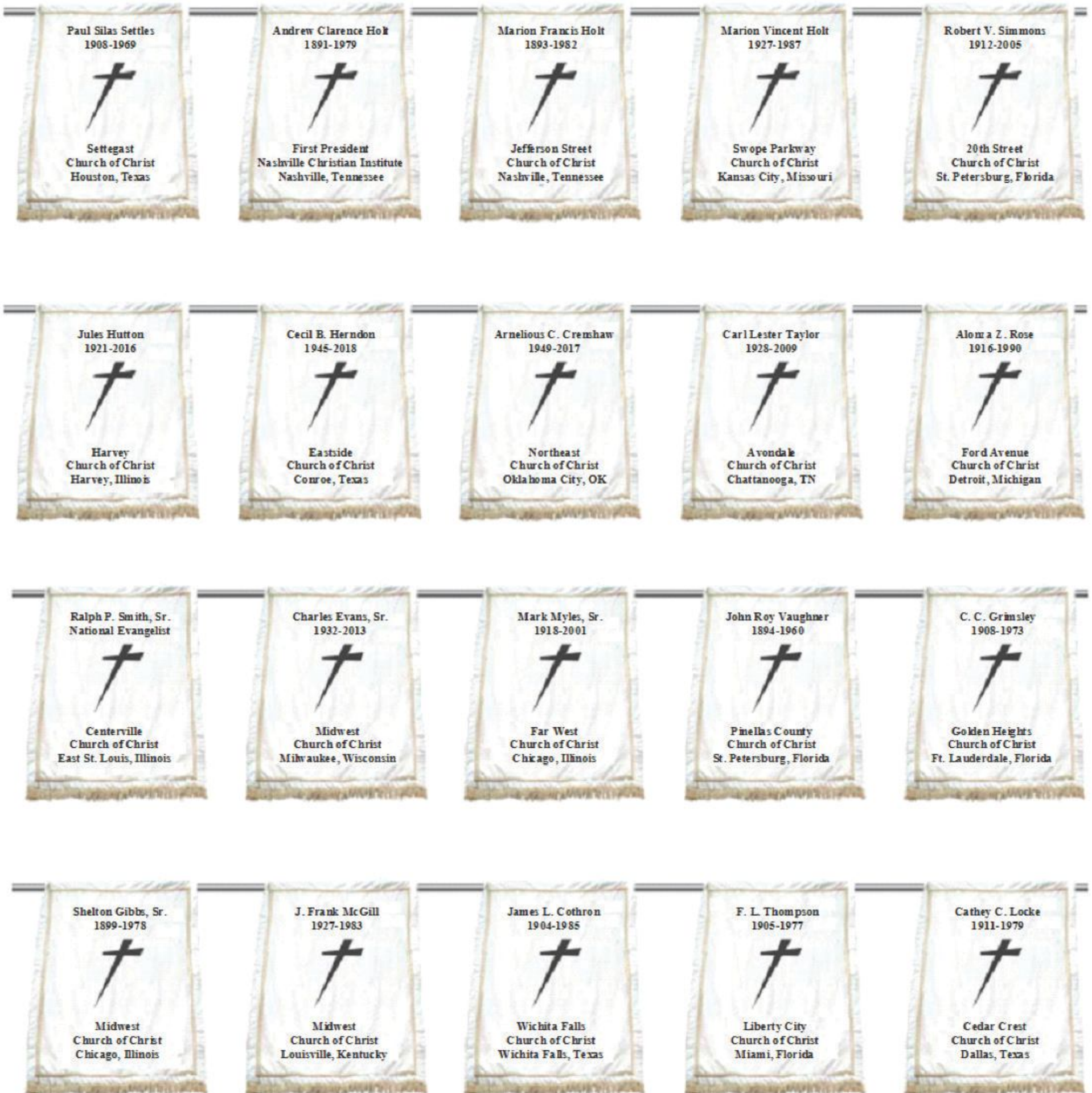
## “And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



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



## “And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



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