

# The Christian Courier

Published by the Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship

## The Greater Louisville Area Churches of Christ Welcomes You to the 68th Annual National Lectureship and to the National Lectureship “Regional Singing” Extravaganza

The 2012 Annual National Lectureship of African American Churches of Christ extends to you greetings and a sincere welcome to Louisville, Kentucky. Our selected theme for this year is entitled “The Gospel, God’s Connecting Power” taken from the Roman epistle. We are elated above measure to host this great convocation of New Testament saints in the mid-South region of God’s precious vineyard. We are anticipating a Spirit-filled, soul-stirring, and sound doctrinal Lectureship for this event. Not only will we experience great preaching and great teaching, but we will also enjoy great fellowship.

A special invitation is also given for you to attend the National Lectureship “Regional Singing” Extravaganza this year which will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2012. This gathering of several featured choruses from across the nation will convene from 12:00

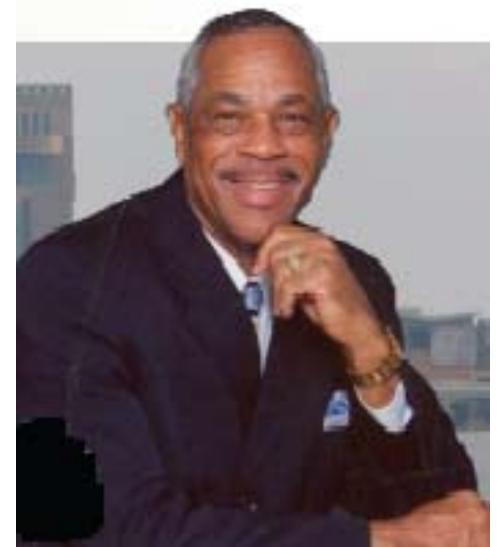
— 3:00 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel. The purpose which lies behind this event is to magnify the glorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord in praises and in song. Choruses from the states of Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan, in addition to other locations are planning to be in attendance for this monumental occasion. Many of the singing groups that are scheduled to perform at the Extravaganza will also appear during the evening Vesper Services and at the Lectureship Banquet.

Otherwise known as the “Derby City,” Louisville’s Churchill Downs has been home of the “Kentucky Derby” since its inception in 1875. You can shop and dine on “4th Street Live,” one of our city’s latest attractions within walking distance from the hotel. You can enjoy the scenery and recreation of our beautiful “Waterfront Park” and obtain

a personalized miniature Louisville Slugger bat from the “Louisville Slugger Museum.”

Furthermore, you can test your skills against Louisville native and boxing great Muhammad Ali, in the interactive “Muhammad Ali Center.” The city of Louisville proudly boasts of having the nation’s oldest operating Mississippi-styled stern wheel steamboat. The possibilities are endless in the “Derby City” which is why it has been recently referred to as “Possibility City.”

To obtain further detailed information regarding the Lectureship and other events, please contact Kenneth Fleming, Sr., host Minister, or Shannon Pearson, Administrative Assistant. It is the intention of the hosting congregation to make this the best Lectureship and musical concert in the history of the National Lectureship.



**Kenneth E. Fleming, Sr.**  
Newburg Church of Christ  
Louisville, KY  
Host Minister

## A Special Welcome to the 68th Annual National Lectureship from the Advisory Committee Chairman Dr. R. C. Wells

Welcome to the state of Kentucky and to the beautiful city of Louisville, for the 68th Annual National Lectureship held among African American churches of Christ. Kentucky, also popularly known and advertised as the “Blue Grass State,” will hopefully be inspired, edified and challenged, to become greater citizens in the visible kingdom of God’s dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, as the result of hosting this Lectureship.

Louisville, the largest city and capital of the state of Kentucky, housing approximately 300,000 persons, is home of the widely known Kentucky Derby. This illustrious event which draws over 500,000 visitors from across the nation each and every year is only one of its many notable attractions.

Spiritually speaking, welcome also to the 68th Annual National Lectureship; an edify-

ing enriching event based solely upon the preaching and teaching of the Holy Scripture. The Lectureship is designed to promote and provoke a sincere, honest interest in obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 5:8) and speaking ONLY as the “oracles of God” (I Peter 4:11).

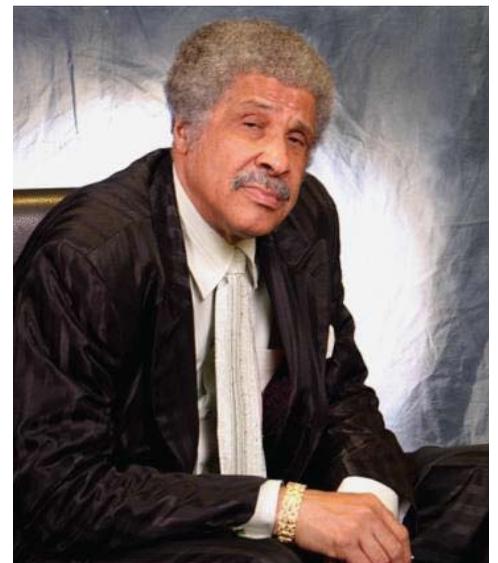
Historically speaking, the Annual National Lectureship which is sponsored and supported by congregations of the churches of Christ across the nation, was and continues to be motivated by a desire to “speak the same thing.” The Holy Scripture clearly, plainly, and irrefutably teaches there should be “no divisions among you...” (I Corinthians 1:10).

If every attendee adopts this time treasured truth, we today as New Testament Christians

can assist in extracting and eliminating every false way (Psalms 119:104); every false prophet (Matthew 7:15); and every false doctrine (II John 1:9). To this end, may every saint strive to uplift and uphold the prophetic pronouncement of the apostle Paul: “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).

Because He Lives,

Dr. R. C. Wells, Evangelist/Chairman  
Annual National Lectureship Advisory  
Committee



**Dr. R. C. Wells, Chairman**  
Advisory Committee  
Churches of Christ  
Annual National Lectureship

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

## In Remembrance

### of Fallen Soldiers and Their Recent Passing

The *Christian Courier* wishes to acknowledge the passing of several gospel preachers who have recently made their transition from this dimension of life. These fallen soldiers include the following individuals:

**David C. Benford**

Fort Worth, TX

**Charles Evans, Jr.**

Milwaukee, WI

**N. L. Evans**

Texarkana, TX

**Harold Henry**

St. Louis, MO

Let us remember to keep the families of these fallen servants in our prayers to God our heavenly Father. If you should know of any gospel preacher who has recently passed away, kindly submit their name in writing to the Advisory Committee of the National Lectureship

## Minister's Historical, Memorial, Preservation, International Gallery/Stars of the Faith Collection and Memorabilia

With continuous labor and sacrifice, the idea of the Ministers' Historical Preservation Gallery/Stars of the Faith began with Dr. R. C. Wells in early 1992. This significant project was officially given birth in February 2002, appropriately during Black History Month in New York City. The "Gallery" will ultimately present, preserve and perpetuate the legacies of historical Trailblazing Ministers; Pioneer Ministers; Post Pioneer Ministers; Contemporary Ministers; Building Ministers; Planting Ministers; and Missionary Ministers. Computer information will ultimately become available to visitors

who choose to visit the "Gallery" and are motivated to inquire on-line regarding Ministers whose pictures and career capsules hang there beyond the limited paragraphs.

Most members of the African American Church of Christ are vastly limited in their knowledge regarding gospel preachers of the past and present. As a result, they have no visual or insightful information of the many famous but servants of Christ who have given their lives to the preaching ministry of the Word. Thus, a correct perspective on either a national or international scale of various Ministers becomes

limited by time and territory.

Therefore, the objective of the "Gallery" is to bridge this time and territorial gap by visually introducing others to hundreds of legendary leaders who have contributed to the present posture of the New Testament Church. The opportunity is given through the medium of the "Gallery" to become acquainted with their conquests, their contests, and their confrontations with Satan in the human struggle. To obtain additional information concerning the "Gallery/Stars of the Faith," please refer to Dr. R. C. Wells, Founder/President/CEO.

## Louisville National Lectureship History in the Making

A new program format has been implemented this year in regard to the Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship. For the very first time in the celebrated history of the Lectureship, the preaching services to culminate each evening session will be conducted by one individual rather than having a different speaker.

Kenneth E. Fleming, Jr., the local coordinator and host Minister of the Louisville Lectureship, believes this unprecedented initiative will provide a greater sense of spiritual direction for the event. Fleming also believes those who attend each evening will receive a symmetrical presentation of the gospel from a succession of sequentially related messages.

According to Brother Fleming, the motive of the Louisville Lectureship is not only to preach the gospel and equip the saints of God, but to build relationships through the medium of God's Word. This pre-designed format is parallel to that of a gospel meeting, where the culminating speaker is able to adequately address the needs of all who are present continuously.

The concluding speaker each evening selected by the host congregation is Dr. W. F. Washington, Minister of the Golden Heights Church of Christ in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Washington's ministry began in Texas, as a sophomore in college when he served as Minister of the Westside Church of Christ in Marshall, Texas.

Upon his graduation from college and as a full-time preacher, he also worked as an Assistant Principal of Administration at Pemberton High School in Marshall. In addition to his ministry in Marshall, he was employed

by Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, as Dean of Students at 23 years of age. He was selected by the American Personnel Association as the youngest Dean of Students in American universities and colleges.

Upon the arrival of Dr. W. F. Washington in Fort Lauderdale in the year 1974, he led 125 members who then met in a small back street church building located on 15th Court, to a three million dollar, two thousand seat edifice. The church presently meets in this modern Roman-Gothic style building located on Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida.

Educationally speaking, Dr. W. F. Washington has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science with an emphasis in History and Western Civilization from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas; thirty (30) Master Degree hours in Criminology and Contemporary Corrections from Sam Houston State University; and also a Ph.D., in Behavioral Psychology from National Christian University. In the year 2003, a Doctorate of Humane Letters was conferred upon him from Mississippi Valley State University located in Itta Beta, Mississippi.

Dr. W. F. Washington is the author of several publications. His most recent literary works are: *Journey to Canaan* (2003) and *Church Growth, Church Health, and Church Administration* (2006).

Other literary works include: *Can You Run With Horses?; The Church on a Collision Course; Is God Black?; When You Have Lost a Loved One; The Christian and Stress; The Christian and Depression; and Instant Replay: An Anthology on Abortion.*

Having been born and raised in Valdosta,



**W. F. Washington, Ph.D.**  
Golden Heights Church of Christ  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**Selected by the Host Congregation to Serve as Keynote Evening Speaker**

Georgia, Dr. Washington traveled as a young preacher and singer with great gospel preachers. Among these pioneers included Marshall Keeble, David Shanks, John Henry Clay, Ulysses Shields, V. E. Williamson, Luke Miller, William Whitaker, and James L Cothran.

Dr. Washington's ultimate purpose in life is to glorify the name of God and His Son Jesus Christ in the fulfillment of His mission on earth; and to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine of fellowship, breaking of bread and in prayer. He is confidently awaiting the glorious appearing of our risen Redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

# A Brief History of the Annual National Lectureship Among African American Churches of Christ

The Annual National Lectureship among African American Churches of Christ was first suggested by the late R. N. Hogan in 1942, during his ministry with the Stonewall and Waco Street Church of Christ in Houston, Texas. The agenda of this meeting was to discuss the need of a National Lectureship among the African American Church of Christ similar to that of the white brethren.

Hogan believed that a National Lectureship would help synchronize both the preaching and teaching of New Testament doctrine and foster a means of fellowship for preachers who would attend. G. E. Steward, in addition to Levi Kennedy, Jr., and J. S. Winston, each agreed with the concept that a Lectureship of this nature would serve a great need in our brotherhood.

In the year of 1944 at the Bowser Christian Institute school meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Steward suggested they should begin to make plans for the Lectureship which had been discussed in Houston, Texas, two years earlier.

*G. P. Bowser was inspired by this idea and he also agreed there was a need for such an event.*

G. P. Bowser was inspired by this idea and he also agreed there was a need for such an event. Bowser encouraged them to make arrangements for sponsoring a Lectureship the following year. Subsequently, in 1945, the first ever Annual National Lectureship was held in the city of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with the East Seventh Street congregation serving as the host. G. E. Steward served as Ministering Evangelist of this congregation.

To fully comprehend the purpose of the Lectureship, one must understand the dynamics and rationale for which it was conceived. In the decade of the forties, very few Ministers in our fellowship were able to maintain local congregations and evangelize new areas. In many instances, new congregations would be established following gospel meetings without a leadership structure to sustain them. Therefore, the fundamental objective of the Lectureship was to resolve this situation by providing the following initiatives:

- To help synchronize and unify the speech of gospel preachers and church leaders.
- To enhance spiritual fellowship in the areas

of Bible study and worship through the medium of joint participation.

- To teach sound biblical doctrine against the tenets of liberalism, digression, and apostasy.

- To encourage and strengthen the work of congregations in whose area the Lectureship would be held.

- The Lectureship is never to become an organization with authority to legislate laws and rules to be bound on local congregations.

- The Lectureship is never to become a delegated convention, with men of local congregations who would have voice in policy-making decisions that would be binding upon churches. All local churches of Christ are autonomous in government and they are subject to Christ.

- The Lectureship is never to become a vehicle for settling church confusion and division. Church problems and conflict are the responsibility of the local congregations and can only be mediated and resolved with the local congregation

The dates of the first Lectureship among African American Churches of Christ were March 22-24, 1945, with a total of thirty-six (36) Ministers in attendance. Due to the tremendous success of the Lectureship encounter, it was recommended that it should be held every year. This suggestion was unanimously agreed upon by those present and it has been held annually since that time.

In the year 1948, the Annual National Lectureship was held in Chicago, Illinois and hosted by the Michigan Avenue Church of Christ where Levi Kennedy, Jr., served as Minister. At the behest of J. S. Winston, a registration fee of \$7.00 was required for out of town attendees to help defer expenses. During the Chicago gathering, it was agreed that the Ministers who actually began the Lectureship would serve as advisors to congregations who would host the Lectureship in future years.

It was further agreed that both Levi Kennedy, Jr., and J. S. Winston would assist hosting congregations in making necessary preparations. Levi Kennedy, Jr., was appointed as Chairman of the Lectureship, visiting with all the congregations who served as host and assisting them with their program until his illness in 1969. After the death of Kennedy on December 30, 1970, G. P. Holt was selected as the new Chairman and served in this capacity until 1975. A. C. Christman, Sr., succeeded Holt and served as Chairman until 1988. In the year 1988 at the Lecture-

ship held in St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Clyde Muse was appointed as Chairman and served as such until his passing in the year 2007. Presently, Dr. R. C. Wells has assumed the position as Chairman of the Annual National Lectureship Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee of the National Lectureship has increased with Ministers from various sections of the brotherhood. During the Annual Lectureship gathering, this Committee meets and consults with Ministers and church leaders who request for the Lectureship to be hosted in their city. The Committee also assists the host congregation with any on-site assistance and direction during the event itself.

In the year 1970, the National Lectureship was hosted by the D'Antignac Church of Christ in Augusta, Georgia, where Richard Williams served as Ministering Evangelist. This was the first Lectureship experience where hotel accommodations and services were utilized. This visionary strategy was afforded by Dr. Andrew Hairston, Ministering Evangelist of the Simpson Street Church of Christ in Atlanta, Georgia, and it has obviously proven itself necessary in regards to massive convocations of this era.

In the year 1971, the National Lectureship was hosted by the University Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio where J. S. Winston served as Ministering Evangelist. This was the first Lectureship experience where study cell workshops were featured as an integral component of the Lectureship format. Workshops discussing different aspects of congregational leadership such as the eldership and deacons have been emphasized in these settings.

In addition, study cells and workshops pertinent to the role of women in the church, teacher preparation, effective youth ministries, church growth, biblical interpretation, information technology, evangelism and soul winning, have now become important features of the Annual National Lectureship. Furthermore, a separate Ladies Program and Luncheon have been incorporated into the framework of the National Lectureship.

In the year 1973, G. E. Steward suggested that area congregations should consider hosting local, state, and regional Lectureships. It was Steward's belief this practice would give an opportunity for more congregations to attend and participate. As a consequence, many states and regions throughout the brotherhood today have local lectureships and they have

proven to be helpful in a variety of different ways.

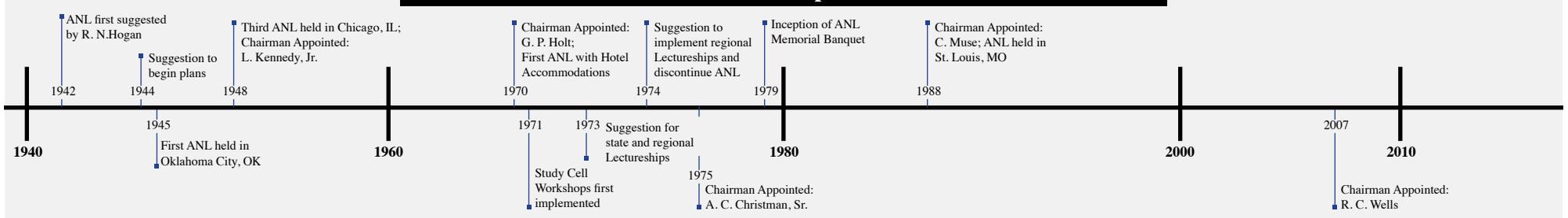
In 1974 at the National Lectureship in Louisville, Kentucky, Steward again suggested that since the Annual National Lectureship had become quite costly in matters of economics, each state should conduct its own Lectureship and the National Lectureship should be discontinued. However, it was the consensus of Ministers and church leaders in attendance that the National Lectureship should continue because of the many distinct attributes it affords; such as national acquaintances and fellowship that would not otherwise be realized.

*Hogan believed that a National Lectureship would help synchronize both the preaching and teaching of New Testament doctrine...*

In the year 1979, John O. Williams who then served as Ministering Evangelist of the Central Church of Christ in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, conceived the idea of having an Annual Banquet in concert with the National Lectureship. The objective of this banquet is to celebrate and honor the memory of deceased African American Church of Christ Ministers who have made significant contributions for the cause of Christ. In an effort to continue the idea of the late John Oscar Williams, a set of plaques have been developed on which the names of all deceased African American Ministers of the Church of Christ are inscribed. In 1988, at the 44th Annual National Lectureship held in St. Louis, Missouri, the plaques made their initial debut and have been displayed at every Annual National Lectureship since that time.

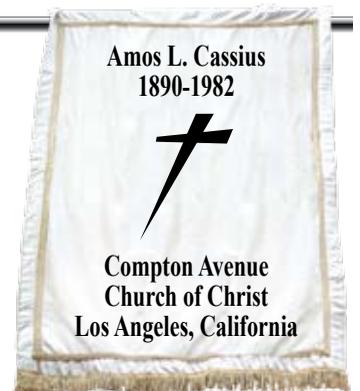
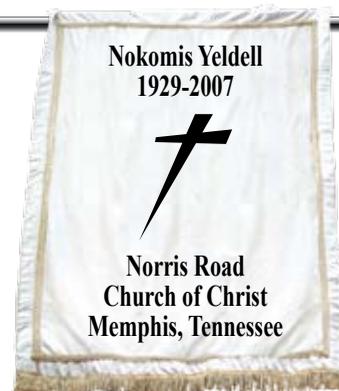
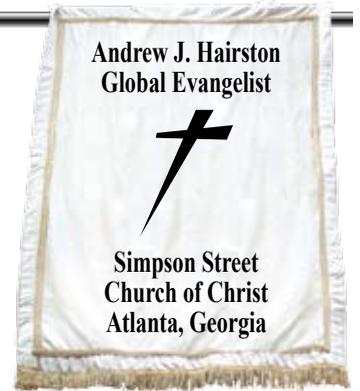
According to available statistics, the ministerial attendance for the Annual National Lectureship held among African American Churches of Christ has substantially increased from thirty-six (36) in 1945, to well over two-hundred. The total average attendance for all participants of the Lectureship has grown to approximately twenty-five hundred (2500) [contingent upon proximity], with representation from Jamaica, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Nigeria, West Africa.

## Annual National Lectureship Historical Timeline



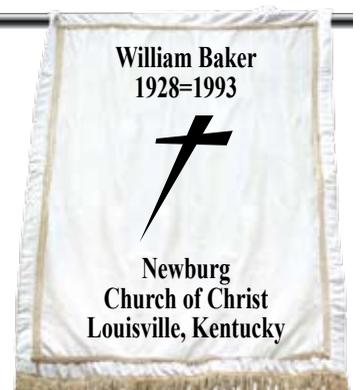
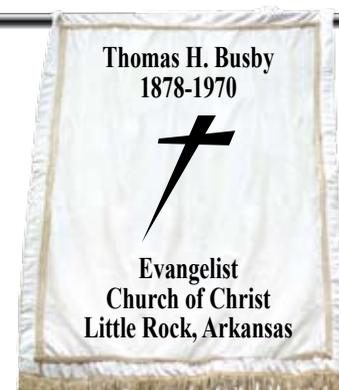
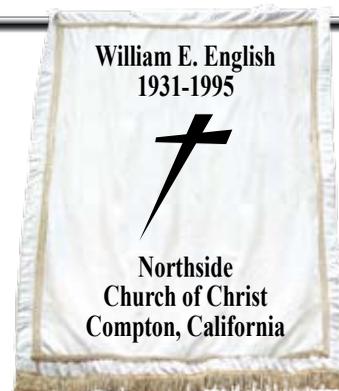
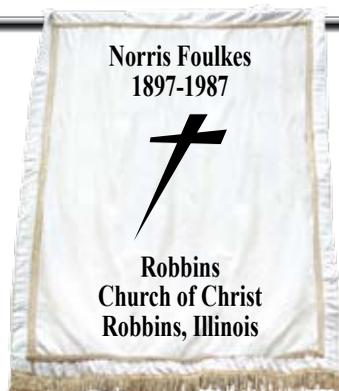
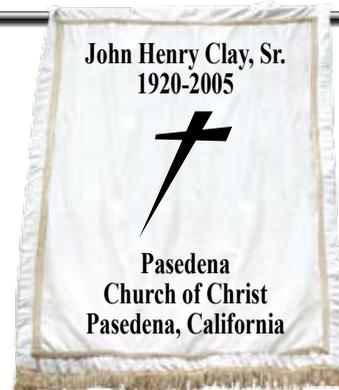
**“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”**

# “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”

## Annual National Lectureship “Regional Singing” Extravaganza Louisville, Kentucky 2012

You are invited to attend the National Lectureship “Regional Singing” Extravaganza this year which will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2012. This gathering of several featured choruses from across the nation will convene from 1:00 — 3:00 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel. The purpose which lies behind this event is to magnify the glorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord in praises and in song.

Choruses from the states of Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan, in addition to other locations are planning to be in attendance for this occasion.

The Newburg Church of Christ along with its dedicated staff are to be commended for their effort in promoting this most memorable concert. Many of the singing groups that are scheduled to perform at the Extravaganza, will also appear during the evening Vesper Services and at the Lectureship Banquet. To obtain further details in regard to the Lectureship and other events, please contact Kenneth Fleming, Sr., host Minister, or Shannon Pearson. It is the intention of the hosting congregation to make this the best musical concert in the history of the National Lectureship.

[www.68thnationallectureship.com](http://www.68thnationallectureship.com)

## Milestone Birthday Celebration for Dr. Eugene Lawton

### Newark Church of Christ – Newark, New Jersey

The Newark Church of Christ in Newark, New Jersey, recently celebrated the seventy-fifth birthday of their renowned Evangelist, Dr. Eugene Lawton. A native of Saint Petersburg, Florida, Dr. Lawton has been preaching the gospel for over fifty-five (55) years and his experiences are numerous. His academic credentials include an Associate of Arts degree from Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas; a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California; advanced post graduate work at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey; and a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana.



**Dr. Eugene Lawton  
Newark, NJ**

of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Christian College.

As an accomplished writer, Dr. Lawton has written articles in several national publications. He is the author of four (4) books of sermons: *Let Me Sound My Trumpet; Come Out With Your Hands Up; Fasten Your Seatbelts, and Can I Preach A Little?* The *Christian Courier* takes great pride in saluting one of God’s most esteemed servants for another year of preaching the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

*As an accomplished writer,  
Dr. Lawton has written  
articles in several national  
publications.*

Dr. Eugene Lawton served with distinction as Minister of the East 7th Street Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from 1959-1961 and he has served as Minister of the Newark Church of Christ in Newark, New Jersey, for over 45 (forty-five) years. He worked as a field representative for Southwestern Christian College from 1961-63, and he was appointed as Academic Dean of Southwestern Christian College from 1969-1971. Presently, Dr. Lawton is a member

## Annual National Lectureship Ministerial Banquet “Saluting Fallen Soldiers and Honoring Servants of the Redeemed” Saturday, April 7, 2012

The National Lectureship Banquet held among African American Churches of Christ was first conceived by the late John Oscar Williams, who then served as Evangelist of the Central Church of Christ in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The objective of the Banquet is to recognize and remember the lives of deceased Ministers within our fellowship who made contributions and great sacrifices on behalf of the Lord’s visible kingdom. Dr. R. C. Wells, Minister Emeritus of the Harlem Church of Christ in New York City, and Chairman of the National Lectureship Advisory Committee, gave a definitive statement regarding its function – “Saluting Fallen Soldiers and Honoring Servants of the Redeemer.”

John Oscar Williams, for whom the Ministerial Banquet is named, was born April 19, 1910, in Vidalia, Georgia, to the parents of John Henry and Annie Williams. He received his education at Vidalia Industrial School and Magnolia High School in Valdosta, Georgia. In the year 1930, John Oscar Williams married the former Miss Gertrude Jones of Valdosta, Georgia, and to this union they were blessed with one daughter. Sister Gertrude Jones Williams passed away on December 19, 1982. In the summer of 1931, while attending a gospel meeting held in Valdosta by the late Marshall Keeble, John O. Williams accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized into the Church of Christ.

With the encouragement of Luke Miller who served as the local evangelist, John O. Williams began his illustrious ministerial career which spanned for over fifty-seven years.

*John O. Williams began his  
illustrious ministerial  
career which spanned for  
over fifty-seven years.*

He traveled extensively with Luke Miller and Marshall Keeble during tent meetings throughout the South as a song leader and Bible reader. John O. Williams served Churches of Christ in the states of Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. While laboring as the pulpit Minister of the Jackson Street Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee, he attended Nashville Christian Institute



**John Oscar Williams  
1910-1988**

and took theology classes at Fisk University. It was during this time that he became editor of the *Crusader* - the newspaper of Nashville Christian Institute.

In the year 1958, John O. Williams began his culminating twenty-seven years of full-time ministry with the Northside [now Central] Church of Christ in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Upon the arrival of Brother Williams, there were approximately sixty (60) precious souls. However, within a few years the congregation experienced phenomenal growth with a membership totaling well over three-hundred.

The interest in Christian education by Evangelist John Oscar Williams was demonstrated in the fact that he was a member of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas; a staff writer for the *Christian Echo* and a consultant for many gospel preachers both young and aged across the brotherhood. Having retired from active pulpit ministry in the year 1982, John O. Williams passed away on March 7, 1988, while on vacation in Bradenton, Florida. In the year 1988 during the 44th Annual National Lectureship in St. Louis, Missouri, a resolution was unanimously passed by the Advisory Committee, naming the Lectureship Banquet “The John O. Williams Ministerial Memorial Banquet.”

*“Let me die the death of the righteous”*

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

## In Remembrance of the Late Evangelist William Baker Former Minister of the Newburg Church of Christ – Louisville, KY

The Louisville Lectureship staff along with the hosting congregation takes this opportunity to salute the late William Baker, former Minister of the Newburg of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky. William Baker was born August 22, 1928, to the parents of Bonnie and Joanna Cannon Baker in Ruleville, Mississippi. Having lost both of his parents at an early age, William grew up in the "Magnolia State" and maintained a very close relationship with his uncle, Earnest E. Cannon. After attending elementary school in Ruleville, he completed his secondary education in Jackson, Mississippi, and then relocated to St. Louis, Missouri, to live with his uncle Earnest.

*William grew up in the "Magnolia State" and maintained a very close relationship with his uncle, Earnest E. Cannon.*

While living in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, William was baptized into the body of Christ by the late Evangelist Leroy Durlley at the Francis and Evans (formerly Page Boulevard) Church of Christ. Having been spiritually influenced by Brother Durlley and his uncle Earnest, William became interested in the gospel ministry. He then attended the Manchester School of Preaching and on July 1, 1950, he was married to the Cleaster Sylvia Dunigan. To this union one son was born named Tyran L. Baker.

On June 24, 1951, William Baker was ordained by Brother Durlley and thus became Minister of a small mission congregation at the Mary Martin Center located in East St. Louis, Illinois. With the blessings of the Lord and the many sacrifices given by William and Cleaster, this work grew to become the largest African American congregation among

the Churches of Christ in Southern Illinois. Today, this congregation is known as the Centreville Church of Christ.

In the fall of 1952, William entered the United States Air Force and served with distinction for eight years. He spent his first two years of military service stationed in San Antonio, Texas, and worshipped at the Laura Street Church of Christ. He was later deployed and stationed in Japan for eighteen months. Upon returning to the states, William spent the remainder of his military tenure and duty at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, while at the same time establishing the Logan Street Church of Christ in Madison, Illinois.

Upon departure from the Logan Street congregation in the early 1960s, he and his wife moved to Muncie, Indiana. In the year 1964, the family relocated again to Louisville, Kentucky, and began working with the Beech Street Church of Christ, now known as the West Broadway Church of Christ. Because of the need to expand the borders of the Lord's visible kingdom in the greater Louisville vicinity, William Baker established the Newburg Church of Christ in the year 1967. As Minister of the Newburg congregation for over twenty-five years, William Baker was blessed to accomplish many outstanding works of service on behalf of God towards humanity.

His efforts at the Newburg congregation included directing programs for both the social and spiritual growth of the saints. His emphasis in the ministry of Christ was biblically defined and theologically distinct; ensuring that the entire membership had opportunities for continuous development. At the peak of Newburg's success, the congregation maintained a membership of over four hundred in attendance each Lord's Day and became fully computerized in its business affairs. With the leadership of William Baker, the Newburg congregation ministered to those incarcerated and in nursing homes along with operat-

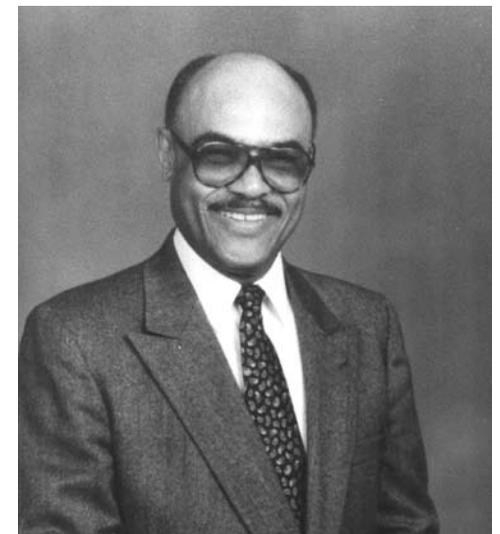
ing a weekly clothes closet and food pantry. Furthermore, the Newburg Church of Christ graciously opened its doors every summer to house the SEEK Program which is sponsored by the Lincoln Foundation.

Evangelist William Baker was well known in Louisville, Kentucky, for his capable teaching as a radio personality on WLOU 1350 AM and WLLV 1240 AM. Many souls were led to Christ and were touched by his devout instruction. He was a frequent speaker at National and Regional Lectureships, workshops, revivals, gospel meetings and debates across the nation. He was also a faithful supporter of missionary efforts performed around the world. Because of his tremendous love for gospel singing, Evangelist William Baker became the principal founder of the Southeastern Regional Singing Association, serving as Chairman until 1991. He served as a founding member of both the Tri-State (now Midwest Lectureship) and the Midwest Youth Conference held among African American Churches of Christ.

*William Baker was a voracious reader of religious resource materials.*

William Baker was a voracious reader of religious resource materials. He invested many hours and personal finances obtaining everything necessary to operate an effective and efficient ministry. As a student of the Restoration Movement, he traveled extensively throughout the state of Kentucky, gathering valuable information relative to the Christian Church, the Disciples of Christ, and the Church of Christ. He possessed an enormous library which contained the works of Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, Karl Ketcherside, J. W. McGarvey, and many others.

The community involvement of William



**William Baker  
Newburg Church of Christ**

Baker included serving three years on the Board of Directors for the Newburg Area Council; the Concerned Citizens Committee; the Community Drug & Alcohol Abuse Committee; Key Communicators Network of Jefferson County Public Schools; the Greater Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Newburg Ministerial Board; the Advisory Council Committee of the Newburg Boys' and Girls' Club; and a member of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky One Church One Child Adoption Agency. On January 5, 1987, he was commissioned by the governor of the state of Kentucky as a "Kentucky Colonel."

Evangelist William Baker was a well-loved and respected Minister of the gospel. He will always be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, his wisdom, patience, guidance, and enduring strength. In the year 1994, a scholarship was established in his name for his work and undying dedication with the Midwest Youth Conference. He departed this life peacefully at his home on the afternoon of February 17, 1993.

## Ministers' Institute Conference – January 20-24, 2013

As men of God and Ministers of the gospel in specific, we have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to emphasize truth and expose error. We have been called by the Master to become agents of change and revealers of righteousness. Therefore, we must stand firm in our position of sound doctrine and articulate clearly the difference between the sacred and the secular.

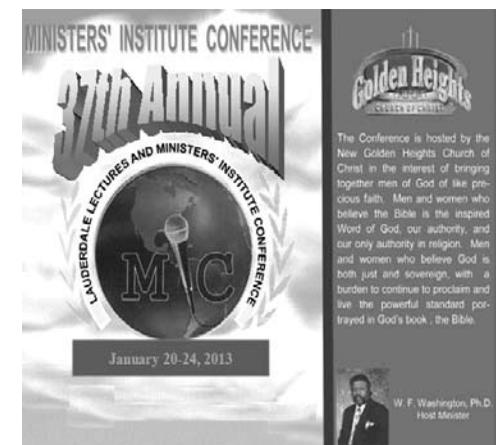
The Ministers' Institute Conference (MIC) which convenes each year is the single largest gathering of African American Church of Christ Ministers. It is the belief of the MIC that all areas of life, thought, culture, and

counter-culture are to be brought under the Lordship and dominion of Jesus Christ the Savior of humanity.

*We encourage you to be a part of this great gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, during the dates of January 20-24, 2013*

With this in mind, the MIC continues to provide a series of Expository Preaching Models, Christian Apologetics and Biblical Interpretation seminars, Leadership Development paradigms and Theological Frameworks for enhanced personal enrichment.

In addition to sound biblical preaching and teaching, the MIC provides a Women's Division along with acknowledging selected Ministers who have distinguished themselves in the vineyard of the Lord. We encourage you to be a part of this great gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, during the dates of January 20-24, 2013.



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

“The Gospel, God’s Connecting Power”

Romans 1:16



*Churches of Christ*  
**68<sup>th</sup> National Lectureship**

**April 3-8, 2012**

Hyatt Regency Downtown  
Louisville, KY

