

# THE LAYMEN'S VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWS  
of the Fifth Episcopal District  
of the  
**AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH**  
Rubic W. Shakespeare, Managing Editor

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Our Prayer Life

## Sunday School Lesson

### GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION

Scripture—Genesis 1-2; Psalm 104; John 1:1-3.

Memory Selection—O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: The earth is full of thy riches. Psalm 104-24.

BY FREDERICK D. JORDAN,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Scientific conceptions of the beginning of this world come and go, but the first chapter of Genesis with its religious interpretation of the great fact of creation, will stand forever. "In the beginning God . . ." is one of the most inspiring combination of words to be found anywhere. It is a basic statement. To put Him first in everything—our home life, our work or business, in our social life, is to make every moment of our lives radiant with God's creative power. In the beginning God created order out of chaos, He dispelled darkness with light, He gave man dominion over the earth. So today, if we will put Him first in our lives, He will bring peace in this war-torn world of ours, He will bring us happiness by dispelling the darkness of our sins, our lusts and our unworthy ambitions. He will give us not military power and prestige, but the power that comes from a good life.

trusted with the stewardship of administrative duties of government, it means that a revolution is born and unless abated will destroy our existing form of government. There must be a "way out".

The A.M.E. Church through its Bishops, General Officers, and Lay Leaders must meet in one Council of Christian Fellowship and develop a planned program of reformation and then proceed to put it into action. We need an authorized Lay Organization in each and every Episcopal District and a co-ordinated program in each district with common constructive objectives.

The establishing of a Judicial Council and a Connectional Lay Organization sanctioned by our Bishops and the General Conference is a MUST ORDER; it transcends the election of Bishops and General Officers in importance.

If the Judicial Council was now in operation, the "Georgia Episode" could be taken out of court and the appeal made to the highest Church court for a ruling that would appease both Clergy and Laity in Georgia.

If a Connectional Lay Organization existed with the sanction of constitutional authority, it could exert influence upon the Lay group in Georgia to reconsider their court action against the Bishop in question and undergo a "cooling off period" while their fellow laymen on the Judicial Council along with the Clergy considered the merits of the case from both a legal and moral viewpoint thereby avoiding Court Action.

The Church will then be approaching the democratic principles of government which in reality is the basic ideals of government set up by the Founding Fathers of the Church.

Think prayerfully on this matter between now and the General Conference!

Respectfully,

DR. J. LOUIS RANSOM,  
President Kansas Conference  
Laymen's League Fifth  
Episcopal District,  
African Methodist Episcopal  
Church,  
2251 Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, Kansas.

## What Is Layman?

A LAYMAN is the MOST IMPORTANT PERSON ever in this church—in Person, by Phone, or by Mail.

A LAYMAN is not dependent on us—we are dependent on HIM.

A LAYMAN is not an interruption of our work—he is the PURPOSE of it. We are not doing HIM a favor by serving HIM—He is doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.

A LAYMAN is not an OUTSIDER to our church—he is a PART OF IT.

A LAYMAN is not a COLD STATISTIC—He is a FLESH-AND-BLOOD HUMAN BEING WITH FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS like your own. And with Biases and Prejudices.

A LAYMAN is a person who brings us his wants.

It is our job to handle them CHARITABLY and to the GLORY OF GOD.

The executive board of the Southern California Laymen's organization extends deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of Mr. Nash Porter, brother of P. G. Porter, Olatha, Kansas. Coley W. Stafford, President Mable Norman, Sec'y

## The Secretary Reports

Money Received:	
June 4, 1950:	
Finance Committee of Conference . . . . .	\$132.50
Sale of Constitution & By-Laws . . . . .	34.45
Oct. 12, 1950:	
Contribution from Bishop Walker . . . . .	100.00
Oct. 17, 1950:	
District Tax, No. Mo Conf	36.25
Dec. 7, 1950:	
District Tax, Calif. Conf. . . . .	35.00
Jan. 19, 1951:	
District Tax, Neb. Conf. . . . .	29.25
Jan. 23, 1951:	
District Tax, So. West Mo., Conf. . . . .	39.50
Jan. 29, 1951:	
District Tax, Kansas Conf. . . . .	30.00
Total received . . . . .	\$436.95

DISBURSEMENTS:	
July 3, 1950:	
Printing of Constitution & By-Laws . . . . .	\$ 68.00
July 3, 1950:	
Office Supplies . . . . .	5.00
July 3, 1950:	
Mrs. Georgia Marshall Expenses . . . . .	25.00
Postage . . . . .	1.84
Oct. 16, 1950:	
Office and Traveling Expenses for Pres. George Jones . . . . .	134.34
Dec. 31, 1950:	
Bank Charges . . . . .	.53
Jan. 13, 1951:	
Telephone to Oskaloosa . . . . .	.50
Jan. 20, 1951:	
Telephone to Topeka to Asst. Sec. . . . .	.50
Jan. 20, 1951:	
Tax on Telephone Calls . . . . .	.25
Feb. 11, 1951:	
Mimographing of Conference Minutes . . . . .	11.00
Total disbursed . . . . .	\$246.96
Total Monies received . . . . .	\$436.95
Total Monies disbursed . . . . .	246.96
Balance in Treasury . . . . .	189.99

Respectfully Submitted,  
Henry H. Glass, Secretary.

## President George Jones Reports on Council

To the Laymen of the Fifth Episcopal District. Greetings!

We have much to be happy and thankful for in our district presided over by a Bishop possessed with the three great qualities a successful Bishop must have, namely, the Christlike spirit, humility, and religion. Then mix that with a fine administrative trained mind and you have our Bishop, Right Rev. D. Ormonde Walker who makes it easy for us laymen of the Fifth Episcopal district to take our place in the spiritual and temporal program of the church.

So, after our executive board meeting at Los Angeles, the seat of the Bishop's council and Connectional, I write you this report.

OUR BOARD MEETING was a success in every way thanks to our Bishop and our host pastor, Dr. F. D. Jordan; our president, C. A. Stafford and other church members of that vicinity who provided ample meeting rooms, headquarters, luncheon, entertainment and a well represented program.

ON WEDNESDAY at 3 p.m. we had our layman's mass meeting with a fine responsive audience. Such participants as President C. A. Stafford of South California conference; district vice president, Mrs. Georgia Marshall of California conference; President A. L. Mitchell of Colorado conference; P. G. Porter, chairman of advisory committee of Kansas; Mrs. Gladys Tyler, assistant district secretary; Mr. H. H. Pettigrew, member of advisory committee of Los Angeles; and enlivened by Rev. Leake's two song numbers made a very well spent afternoon for our laymen and the good of the church. Our headquarters were ample to welcome President H. L. Dudley and his board in proper form. For this consideration we are very grateful to Dr. Jordan.

The minutes of the executive board will be sent out soon to all Conference Presidents and on to you. But one act of the Connectional Lay Organization Board, I want you to know now. They voted unanimously (except myself) to hold the next bi-ennial Connectional meeting in St. Louis instead of Denver on August 2, 3, 4, 1951. The board selected St. Louis as a centralized location and our district board accepted the change in joint meeting in fair consideration of their reason and voted our annual district meeting be changed to St. Louis July 31 and August 1st, 1951, that we may be on hand as host.

I hope all you conference Presidents co-operate to the best of your ability by bringing a representative group from your conference based on our laws governing such a meeting. I will be general chairman of the program committee and hope for no lost motion at this late day for an A.M.E. lay program. So send to me and talent you wish to present on this five day program. I am calling again, Mr. Conference President, to your attention the responsibility that is yours in this

meeting. Every church in your conference, large or small, is entitled to a delegate. All large churches are entitled to one delegate to every 500 members plus an additional delegate for every fraction there of. The conference or church organization will arrange to bear the expense for these delegates. Our Bishop is suggesting each church arrange with the pastor for their laymen day. I believe that is a fine time to make plans for your talent, delegates, and expense for this meeting. Under the same cover with our executive board minutes which will be sent to you will be the names of the committees to be appointed. Please work with me to select good committee members by presenting names you feel are best qualified to serve on these committees which are as follows:

1. Program.
2. Finance.
3. Entertainment.
4. Housing.
5. Personal Evangelism.
6. Christian Stewardship.
7. New Eras of Service.
8. Circulation of Church Papers.
9. Church and Ministerial Support.
10. Training for Leadership.
11. Connectional Fellowship.
12. Auditing Committee.

I will be pleased to hear from any layman of the district with any suggestion he thinks will advance our League, Church and Kingdom building.

George Jones.

## Leaders' Course Is Planned By Missouri Pastors

COLUMBIA, MO.—Leadership training sessions for church school workers will be conducted next fall featuring specialists in various phases of church school work from each denomination, it has been announced by the planning committee of the ministerial association. The Rev. Alfred Scipione, associate pastor of the First Baptist church is chairman. Other members are the Rev. Edward Coffman, associate minister of the First Christian church; Dr. W. L. Briggs, director of the Wesley Foundation of the Missouri Methodist conference; the Rev. Doil Felts of the Church of the Nazarene; and Dr. L. S. Coolsby pastor of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal church.

## George W. City Killed In Automobile Accident

Mr. George W. City, 816 E. 40th Place, Los Angeles, Calif., was killed instantly Friday, March 16, in an automobile accident.

Mr. City was a successful real estate man and a loyal member of his church. He will be remembered as having led the delegation to the General Conference in 1948.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:  
The origination of the Laymen in our district has been slow but I am sure we will succeed in getting new subscriptions. The Voice can give service to the Fifth district and to the church. As president of the North Missouri Conference I shall do my best to put this work over.

Sincerely yours,  
JOSEPH T. ANCELL  
108 S Wentz  
Macon, Missouri.

## An Open Letter To the A.M.E.

Bishop S. L. Greene, recently assigned to Georgia namely the sixth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, is now the innocent victim of court injunction that enjoins him from jurisdictional authority in the A.M.E. Church affairs in said district. This action is nothing less than a revolt against the constituted authority delegated to our Episcopacy and is unprecedented in the annals of Church history. A few years ago one Bishop D. H. Sims revolted against the authority of the Council of Bishops and it required a special session of the General Conference to subdue the acute situation. However, the affair had its ill effects. Now we see, not a Bishop but an organized Lay group of Georgia African Methodists in open revolt against the mandates of our Bishops' actions in the most recent session of the Bishops' Council at Los Angeles. This picture is a serious affair and it not only concerns the Georgia Churches but its repercussions shock our Church society connectionally. It is not the outcome of such "Court Action" that concerns us most, but it is the "Spirit of Revolt" against the constituted authority of our Church that is the most pertinent issue.

It is my prediction that the court will dismiss the injunction when the Church lawyers submit our discipline showing the jurisdictional authority of the Episcopacy in all Church administration but the "Spirit of Revolt" is not subject to the prerogative of the secular court and it will grow into an uncontrollable mischief if tolerated. The Church needs that "Judicial Council" that exists in the Mother Church (Methodist). It is an ecclesiastical supreme court composed of elders and laymen who are qualified and experienced in Church Craft, laws and policies.

These "outbreaks" that occur periodically in the A.M.E. Church, mostly on account of an "exaggerated ego" among some of our Episcopacy, are dissipating the material and spiritual values of our Church, as well as undermining our moral, social and spiritual structure. IT MUST BE STOPPED!! When the governed rises in revolt against those in-