

California's Hopeful Son

Honorable Benjamin Wesley Inghram, Delegate to General Conference, May, 1952; Chairman, Historical Society Southern California Conference A.M.E. Church, said:

Dear Dr. Thornhill: "The great work you have accomplished in the building of the church at Santa Monica puts you in front as Leader of the church in the West. I congratulate you!"

Honorable C. W. Stafford, President Laymen's League, Southern California Conference, said:

"This outstanding work and this magnificent cathedral would not be here today were it not for this dynamic Christian leader with brains, Dr. Thornhill."

Attorney Vince Monroe Townsend, Jr., said:

"Dr. Thornhill is the great and eminent builder of Sanctuaries. A true and worthy and acceptable metropolitan pastor of proven capacity to produce. Thornhill is my candidate for Bishop in 1956."

Dr. Harley Akers, Pastor of Walker Temple, Los Angeles, said:

"This work at Santa Monica is the greatest inspiration of my life."

Dr. Alvia A. Shaw, Pastor of historic First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles, said:

"The dedication of our new church at Santa Monica is a real inspiration to us all."

Dr. Don Stephenson, Pastor of St. James A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles, said:

"I wish I knew Thornhill's secret. His work at San Diego, plus matchless entertainment of the Annual Conference, together with the sweeping achievement at Santa Monica puts him in a class by himself."

Dr. J. Austell Hall, Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Berkeley, said:

"Thornhill is not only the prince of the Southern California Conference, but the prince of the Fifth Episcopal District."

Dr. M. R. Dixon, Jr., Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, St. Louis, said:

"Thornhill, you are a master pastor, well as a master in the use of the English language. Congratulations for a noble achievement."

Dr. G. Wayman Blakely, Pastor of Big Bethel A.M.E. Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, (one of the future Bishops of the A.M.E. Church, come 1952) said:

"You have made a record there that will endure. The great work which you have done in California has not gone unnoticed."

Rev. T. H. Sadler, Pastor of Mount Zion Church of God in Christ, Santa Monica, and Junior Bishop of that denomination said:

"Thornhill is God's blessing to the Bay Area. He is a modern California preacher who has built not a southern church or an eastern church, but who has built a modern California Church with distinction and honor to himself. I love Thornhill as a pastor, child of God and a friend."

Bishop Joseph A. Allen said:

"Thornhill has always been loyal. He was one among the younger men of our church in whom I became interested. I am his friend, and, Thornhill will see down the road that I am his friend."

Dr. Howard Thomas Primm, Pastor Union Bethel Church, New Orleans, (and a future Bishop of the A.M.E. Church, come 1952) said:

"My! my! my! Just imagine! Two metropolitan churches in

three years! The Fifth District and the entire connection should pay you tribute."

Baron L. La Mater, prominent Santa Monica banker, said:

"Congratulations on the faith and skill to accomplish a job in the face of insurmountable obstacles. The Dedicatory Services were an inspiration."

Bishop W. R. Wilkes, Presiding Bishop of the 12th and 16th Episcopal Districts, A.M.E. Church, said:

"Thornhill is one of the great preachers of the A.M.E. Church. He is a great builder and financier; we are praying for him."

Bishop D. O. Walker, Presiding Bishop of the 5th Episcopal District, said:

"Thornhill is a super-salesman for African Methodism. He has distinguished himself as a builder and artist who can influence people. He has the genius of getting things done. On behalf of the Annual Conference we congratulate him on this outstanding work of the year in California."

Bishop R. C. Ransom, Director of Research, A.M.E. Church said:

"Your work as a servant of Jesus Christ places you in the forefront as one of our most progressive ministers."

Dr. Jesse L. Glover, Pastor of the Second A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles, and Editor of the Western Recorder, come 1952, said:

"Dr. Thornhill is a genius and Pastor par excellent. Strong, fearless leader and candidate for Bishop from the West coast. A man who has suffered humiliation and defeats, but who can come back with a smile. He is the outstanding church builder of the 5th District, having completed the work at San Diego and Santa Monica, which no one else would attempt to do. He is true to his friends! He would make a brotherly Bishop of our church, for Thornhill has come through the fire. Thornhill has made it without resorting to tricks or crushing his brother."

The Thornhill-For-Bishop Committee

presents just a sample of considered opinions expressed in behalf of our CANDIDATE. The committee also believes that, among all the good men regarded as in "the count" our candidate, Rev. L. T. Thornhill of the Southern California Conference, represents the finest type of successful pastor who has come through suffering, want and the fire. He is famed by the hard road of trial and error the way to deal with Christians. We believe understanding to be the keynote of a good Bishop. How does your Bishop treat you? Check up, and see if your Pastor, Presiding Elder or Bishop fills the requirements of a modern day supervisor. Our candidate is aware of individuals as "unique human beings"; that human beings should have a chance to participate in making decisions on problems that affect them; that human beings raised on Christian, democratic principles will react most quickly and favorably when treated as persons with ideas that can be used for the Glory of God and the Honor of African Methodism.

Nebraska Conference

The members of Bethel A.M.E. church, Hiawatha, Kas., met at the church on Thursday evening and elected the following special committee—Rev. A. S. Miller, chairman; Mrs. Etta Saunders, secretary; Mrs. Emma Suggs, assistant secretary; Mrs. Amelia Maxey, treasurer. Arrangement committee, Mrs. Agnes Duncan, chairman, Mrs. Marie E. Hughes, Mrs. Lee Anna Russell and Mrs. Thelma Duncan. The purpose of this committee is to raise funds for repairing the church and parsonage.

Installation services were held Sunday, Dec. 3, at Allen Chapel A.M.E. church, Kansas City, Kas., where the Rev. F. D. Gregory is pastor. Congregational singing was directed by Mrs. Helen Hope, pianist. Duties of the stewards and trustees were given by J. J. Parks and G. J. Jackson, members of the steward and trustee boards of Trinity A.M.E.

The Rev. Eugene H. Kelly Jr., business administrator of Douglass hospital, gave the address. He



DR. JOSHUA M. BROWN.

Candidate For Chief Secretary

The laymen of the Chicago Annual Conference are presenting to you, Joshua M. Brown, M.D. as a candidate for Chief Secretary of the General Conference. Dr. Brown is a man of sterling qualities, an ardent churchman, the son and brother of A.M.E. ministers and a church worker from his youth, serving as secretary, teacher and superintendent of his Sunday School.

He attended the public schools of his city, received his B.A. degree from Claflin University, Orangeburg, S. C., and his medical degree from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.

He is a trustee of St. Stephen Church, president of the Men's Club, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Annual Conference, president of the Chicago Annual Conference Layman League, one of the organizers and a member of the Board of Directors of Maxwell Street Y.M.C.A. for more than twenty years. He is organizer and Mayor of West Town, chairman and treasurer of the Trustee Board of Tyre Masonic Lodge No. 70, an Odd Fellow and a Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Mayor of Chicago Planning Commission.

We believe that in electing this man, we will have one, who will preserve the records of this great church of ours. He is ready, willing and able to work for that preservation. We know that he is an honest, upright christian gentleman imbued with the spirit of Richard Allen and a desire to make the Church what it should be by honestly and justly giving an account of laws and regulations passed by the General Conference.

We hereby sound the clarion call for all delegates, both ministerial and lay for their hearty support in the forthcoming General Conference in May 1952, to elect a number one churchman to do a number one job for the church.

Elect one who will stand by his records and give you a true and complete book of discipline.

installed the officers, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Gregory.

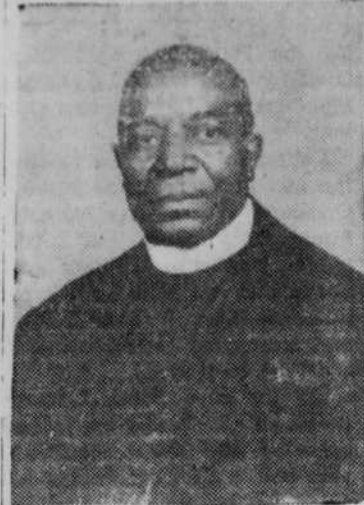
The officers installed were: Stewards, Joseph Jones, Russell Davis, Ivah Mitchem, Ealta Mae Devan, G. A. Page, Clarence Love, Rosetta Chew, Myrtle Grigsby, James Jones; trustees, Andrew Rollins, Jesse Hope, Willard W. Murray, Anna Brown, Mayme Davis, Olivia Gentry, Edward Iverson, J. C. Davis, Luther Smith, John Walker, Issiah Jackson; honorary stewards, J. H. Banks, J. H. Smith; stewardesses, Anna Washington, Goldie Grigsby, Daisy Tucker, Viola Hancock, Jazie Covington, Adelle Jackson, Ella Rollins, Emma Grigsby, Effie McCluney; superintendent of Sunday school, Cora Gordon; president of senior missionary, J. Covington; president of junior missionary, Allena Murray; user board, Zelma Hercey; pastor's aid, Maude Slaughter; courtesy club, Agnes Clay; young matrons, Gladies Thomas; senior choir, Anna Brown; junior choir, Arnell Jackson and A.C.E. league, Caroline Bradley.

Dr. O. A. Burks Logan West, Va.

SEVEN POINT PROGRAM IF I AM ELECTED A BISHOP IN 1952. IN CHICAGO, ILL.

To the Fathers (The Bishops) of the church, General Officers, Presidents, Deans of our schools, ministers and Laymen of this great church of ours: I hereby present myself as a candidate for the Episcopacy and I most earnestly, sincerely, and prayerfully solicit your support. The following is my program:

1. I will be honest, fair, congenial, brotherly, and fatherly to all—both ministers and laymen. I shall endeavor to be all that the words father, and brother conveys. I am consecrating myself to God, through fasting and prayer for a Bishop in this church if God wants me and you will elect me.
2. I will look out for the better interest of the church and my fellowmen. I will work to that



REV. O. A. BURKS

end. I will endeavor to observe the laws of the church to the fullest extent whether the law is in my favor or not I shall execute it.

3. I will not deprive my fellowmen of free speech.

4. I will not allow a pastor or layman to bring me news about a Presiding Elder unless they are willing to testify the same in his presence. I will apply the same rule to the presiding elders about their pastors and laymen.

5. I am of the opinion that we have too many school and periodicals. Since we have schools in every state in the Union, supported by the states, we are carrying an unnecessary burden. Suppose we cut them down to three schools. To do justly to ourselves, we should cut them down to one, Wilberforce University, and make it a connectional school. (5a). We should merge the three recorders into one large worthwhile paper. Include the Voice of Missions, and the Women's Recorder. Retain the present editor of the Women's recorder, and the Voice of Missions, and elect three Editors. One chief editor, and two assistant editors. Zone the church into three zones, northern, southern and western. Pay the chief editor a full salary, and official upkeep. And pay the two assistant editors a reasonable salary.

6. I favor a greater support for the mission preacher. It seems to me that the financial secretary can stand another five or ten cents out of the dollar money, without any real injury to his department and give it to the mission preachers. I also suggest that another 10 percent deduction from the dollar money and give it to the Pension department for retired ministers, their widows and orphans.

7. If I am elected a Bishop in '52 I will always place ministers to the best advantage to the church.

Second Annual Laymen Dinner Held in Calif.

The second annual Christmas dinner of the Laymen of the A.M.E. Southern California Conference was held recently at the Second A.M.E. church in Los Angeles where Dr. Jesse L. Glover is pastor. A five-course turkey dinner preceded a short, well-planned program. Mrs. Cora Johnson of St. James A.M.E. church was mistress of ceremonies. Mr. Philip Robinson presented Mr. Henry Morton who gave a special solo. Dr. A. K. Quinn led the session in prayer. The history of the lay movement was given by Ralph Jones of Santa Ana, Calif.

Presiding Elder B. C. Allen was guest speaker and Professor Arthur E. Prince gave the response.

The affair was sponsored by the finance committee. Benjamin H. Inghram is chairman. Coley W. Stafford is president of the conference lay organization and Mrs. Goldie Fant was chairman of the dinner committee.



REV. J. S. BENN, JR.

Rev. J. S. Benn Pastor Zion A.M.E. Philadelphia, Pa.

The second installment of a financial drive to liquidate the 29 year old mortgage on historic Zion A.M.E. Church, at 21st and Tasker Sts., Phila., was held Sunday, November 25.

Officers of the church report that the first installment, reported Sunday, October 14, in a twelve week drive, netted \$11,530.01. This amount is said to be unprecedented in size, and time realized and was culmination of efforts of the pastor, officers and members, working under five "generals," each of whom had six "captains." The generals are Mrs. Birdie Ragin, Mrs. Anna A. Wilson, Mrs. Leola Haynes, Mrs. Claudia Harris, and Mrs. Myrtle King.

The present church building was erected about thirty years ago under the administration of the Rev. L. W. Stanford. The present pastor, the Rev. J. S. Benn, Jr., who is prominently mentioned for episcopal honors at the May, 1952 general conference of the church convening in Chicago, was appointed to the pastorate at the last Philadelphia conference from the presiding eldership of the South Philadelphia district, of which Zion is a part. He led the conference's financial reports last year, the district reporting \$10,261.50, an increase of \$1,800 over the previous year when the Rev. Mr. Benn was also at the helm of the district.

At the recent meeting of the National Negro Business League, in Washington, Rev. Mr. Benn was re-elected chaplain, and installed the officers. He is a member of the executive board.

Mrs. Benn, wife of the pastor, active in the work at Zion, is a city school teacher; an accomplished musician, and daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Cooper, veterans of the Philadelphia conference.