

Filmore F. Gregory
National President

“A New Beginning” *II Corinthians 5:17*
Theme Passage

<http://www.nationalchurchushers.org/>



Issue 1, Volume 2
September 2010

The National Men's Fellowship Committee

Remembers our Western Region Men's Fellowship Chairman, Bro. Frederick J. Holmes

The following contains excerpts from the funeral bulletin . . .

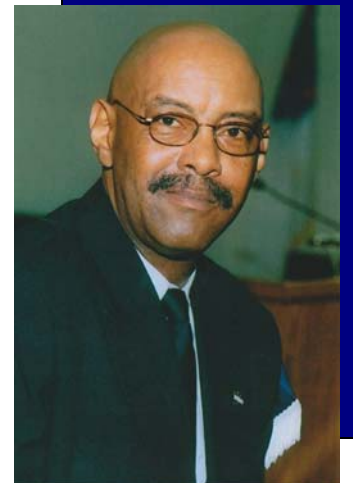
"I fought a good fight, I finished my course, I kept the faith"



Frederick was born in Greenwood, MS on July 9, 1951 to proud parents Annie Nora Spann and Willie James Holmes. He was delivered by the local midwife at home. Although Fred lived with his mother, he grew up around his grandmother, Alma Alice Alberta Josephine Spann (Big Mama), his grandfather, Rev. Isreal Spann (Papa), his Aunts Irene Holland, Arlena Cage and Uncles Tom Henry Spann and Simon Cage.

Fred grew and attended school in Mississippi. He attended Stone Street Elementary School and went on to attend Thredgill High School. He was involved in many things during his younger years. His mother and grandmother regularly attended church and were very faithful Christian women and missionaries, insisting that all children attend church. Fred, of course, was required to follow suit. He attended Locus Grove Baptist Church and was baptized at the age of nine.

Fred left Greenwood when he turned 18 and moved to California in October 1969. He began working for Gemco in November 1969, which changed from Lucky Stores to Albertsons' and eventually became Save Mart. He met and married a young woman named Betty Fletcher and to this union five beautiful children were born: Claressa, Vanessa (deceased), Artimus, Frederick II and Crystal.



July 9, 1951 – July 9, 2010

Fred went into the Army shortly after he started working for Gemco. He served in Vietnam and was honorably discharged from military service. Upon his return from the military and after his marriage to Betty ended, Fred became a member of Friendship Baptist Church under Pastor Josephus McGee, his Brother-in-law.

In April 1979, Fred met Patricia Ann Bailey at an Ebony Fashion Show after party and, after a brief courtship, they were married December 22, 1979. Pat brought to this union her son, Karif Jahi Lawrence. Fred loved Karif and

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raised him as his own.

This marriage led him to unite with New Home Baptist Church where he blossomed under the leadership of Rev. Jasper Ruffin and later Rev. John Rogers. He was diligent in his work at the church. He was later ordained a Deacon and began to serve. He served as Chairman of the Deacon Board and Trustee Board, President of the Usher Board, Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday school and a Sunday school teacher for the Young Adult Class. He sang in the Male Chorus and Mass Choir and he was an active member of the Brotherhood Ministry. Fred also served as a driver for the Van Ministry and functioned as a sound technician in the Media/Audio Ministry.

Fred loved ushering and served for several years as President of the Sacramento Valley District Ushers, where he mentored, organized and

developed future leaders. He began to extend his ushering from Sacramento to the State of California and then throughout the Nation. This work included serving in such high positions as State President, Chairman of the Board of Directors, 2nd Vice President of the Western Region, and as a National Officer; Past Chairman of the William H. Davis Honor Club, a member on the Willie J. Minnifield Training and Development Institute Committee and, most recently, as the Western Region Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman.

God has been good to Fred in his 59 years of life. He enjoyed traveling, playing golf, riding his motorcycles, attending Raiders games, wearing his hats and attending his family reunions. He was one of the original members of the World Class Dominators Motorcycle Club where he was known as "the Deacon." He will be dearly missed.

◆

The National Men's Fellowship Committee
Celebrates its National Inception

At the 91st National Convention for the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc. (NUCUAA) in St. Louis, MO, a by-law recommendation was unanimously supported by the voting delegation present. This recommendation was for the adoption of the Men's Fellowship Committee as a standing committee within NUCUAA.



The Men's Fellowship Committee was the result of a vision by then Director, Filmore F. Gregory, during the 49th Annual Eastern Region Conference in Hartford, CT in 2006. How fitting that Bro. Gregory is currently serving as the National President and this committee has become an official part of the organization. Bro. William Northern, serving as the National Men's Fellowship Chairman, was able to deliver the year-end committee report to the body in open session.

The Men's Fellowship Committee was formed to encourage greater participation of males as Ushers and increase their attendance at Regional Conferences, Mid-Year Meetings and State Memorial Weekends, as well as find areas of common interest when the men come together. The Committee also serves as a vehicle for these men to serve as mentors to the Young Adult and Junior Ushers; additionally, it provides an avenue for the men to fellowship with these young male Ushers in group settings, thereby serving as role models for them.





From the National President's Desk ...

It is difficult for me to find words to express my gratitude to each of you for your outstanding display of support during our 91st National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, July 26-30, 2010. Men, I am grateful for your presence and participation. In my opinion and based on feedback received from many, it was a spirit-filled, successful convention. Thanks to each of you for embracing my vision for the Men's Fellowship Committee. I commend National Chairman, William Northern, on doing an exceptional job of promoting Men's Fellowship throughout the year by creating the Unity Newsletter and serving as its Editor. Thank you for your perseverance in keeping the Newsletter afloat in spite of the adversities that were faced in acquiring news articles. We are praying that this year will be less challenging and you will receive full cooperation from each of the Regions.

What can I say about the Men's Fellowship Committee Program on Thursday afternoon of convention week? It was simply phenomenal! Thanks again Chairman Northern and everyone who participated on the Program as well as those who were in attendance.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity."

It really made my heart glow to see so many of our men come together for this Program. Rev. Dr. Lamar F. Jones, after having set the spiritual tone for our Convention as speaker for the Past National Officers' Prayer Breakfast, you really set our souls on fire with the dynamic message that you delivered during our Men's Fellowship Committee Program. With all of the brotherly love and positive energy present in the room, your well-delivered, inspirational message was truly the icing on the cake.

Thank you, thank you, thank you Dr. Jones.

Just prior to the beginning of this Convention, the Men's Fellowship Committee's circle was broken with the transition of Bro. Frederick Holmes of California, Western Region Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman. This was a great loss not only to this Committee but to our organization as well. Let's continue to pray for Usher Patricia Holmes, Rev. Karif Lawrence and the entire family of Bro. Frederick Holmes. As I compose this article, our circle has once again been broken with the transition of Bro. Randy Perrin of the District of Columbia on September 23, 2010. He was currently serving as our National Sergeant-At-Arms and a devoted member of the Men's Fellowship Committee. With the calling from labor to reward of Bro. Frederick Holmes and Bro. Randy Perrin, NUCUAA has lost two great giants and both have left legacies behind. They will long be remembered by members of our organization and I will forever treasure the fond memories that I have of both brothers.

As we look to the future with Convention 2011, let us continue to grow the Men's Ministry by inviting and encouraging a brother who did not attend the convention last year to come and share with us next year. Also, let's encourage the younger men from the Junior and Young Adult departments to become more actively involved with us so that we may serve as mentors to them.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Filmore F. Gregory
National President



Greetings from Our New Chairman of the Board

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

Philippians 4:13

Greeting Fellow Servants,

Our Lord and Savior has allowed us to have a successful 91st Ushers Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. We thank and praise Him for His goodness. Now, as I assume the position as Chairman of the Board of this Organization, I thank you for your well wishes and ask for your continued prayers and God's guidance as we build on the foundation that has endured for these many years.

We, the Board of Directors, pledge to team with our President, Committee Leaders and Committee Members in having fruitful programs that will help in Kingdom Building. While at the same time we will, as much as possible, provide a safe and family friendly environment that will be conducive to learning to be better Servants and more Christ like.

Your Servant,

Joe Prelow

Chairman
Board of Directors



The National Men's Fellowship Committee

Congratulates Bros. Keith Minnifield & Louis Chappell



Bro. Keith Minnifield was appointed to serve as a Trustee to the R. E. Harshaw Foundation during our most recent National Convention in St. Louis, MO. The R. E. Harshaw Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc. (NUCUAA). The Foundation enables NUCUAA, by way of donations, to grant undergraduate tuition scholarships, to present graduate or professional fellowship stipends to qualified applicants and to make contributions to educational institutions exempt from taxation.

Bro. Minnifield will replace Sis. Nerline Faber whose tenure on the Foundation expired at the convention. He brings a good deal of experience and exposure to the position as he is employed as an educator in the Cherokee County School District in Dallas, GA. He is currently serving as the Young Adult Counselor for the Southern Region Young Adult Department and has also served as the Young Adult President of NUCUAA.

Bro. Louis Chappell was elected to the Board of Directors at our most recent convention as well. From the reported tally, he received 555 votes out of 1,806 votes cast which were the most votes received by a single candidate. Bro. Chappell is currently serving as both the Men's Fellowship Chair for NY and the Eastern Region. Both ushers are well deserving of their positions and we proudly expect great things from them both.



The First Annual Men's Fellowship Program is Successful



The National Men's Fellowship Committee held its first annual program on July 29, 2010 at the National Convention in St. Louis, MO. The theme for the program was "Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit." It featured Reverend Dr. Lamar F. Jones of Galilee Baptist Church in Hallsville, TX for the spiritual word and Bro. Robert O. Wright from Wilmington, DE for the health and wellness message.

The program was well attended and was even opened to men that weren't registered ushers at the convention. There was a strong representation from each of the regions on the program. The program featured such participants as Bro. Preston Wells, the Young Adult State President from Virginia, Bro. David Fuller, Assistant Eastern Region Director, Bro. Harold Hester, National 1st Vice President, Bro. Ken Lester, Central Region National Board member, Bro. Willie Granderson, Past Junior and Young People's President, to just name a few.

Reverend Dr. Jones brought his message to the body with the title, "Steps to becoming a Blessed Man," and the Word was well

received by all in attendance. Three main points were shared: 1) watch where you walk, 2) watch where you stand and 3) watch where you sit; if you adhere to those points you are guaranteed to be like the tree planted by the rivers of water. The focus passage of scripture was Psalm 1.

Bro. Robert Wright spoke on Living Wills and Pre-Need. He stressed several important points everyone present should have in control; that of having three times your income in insurance by age 35, having a written decision on what to do if you should be on life support, and having a pre-need established with the mortician.

Bro. Filmore F. Gregory, our National President, brought final closing remarks following presentations. Bro. William Northern presented certificates of appreciation to all that had offered support to the Men's Fellowship and its programs over the last year. Bro. Gregory suggested that the Western Region consider naming its Fellowship after Bro. Frederick Holmes. The program was brought to a close by Bro. Christopher Marvels who gave the closing prayer.



Bro. William Northern, National Men's Fellowship Chairman, makes presentations to (in order of appearance) Bros. Filmore F. Gregory, Lawrence Wright, Christopher Marvel, Rev. Lamar Jones and Charles J. Brown.



The Fantasy Football Fellowship Initiative

The Men's Fellowship Fantasy Football League was initially introduced at the 89th National Convention in Jacksonville, FL by Bro. William Northern. The fellowship initiative was presented at the Junior & Young People Department's Rap Session. The League, called the "NUCUAA Jr League," has witnessed two successful seasons since that time.

Admission to the League is free and the only requirement for participation is an active email address. The League set up is maintained through the Yahoo!® website engine. The players can share minor messages, post reviews and even make predictions regarding game outcome. This whole process of message tagging adds to the fellowship aspect of the game. "There's nothing like seeing the face of someone that you've been talking trash to all season, especially when you win!" shared one of the participants from the previous year's season.

Bro. Northern has been diligent in monitoring the league over the past two years and has painstakingly sought out all of the participants to ensure that they received their proper recognition for participating. This year bore witness to the presentation of the 1st league plaque. Previously, the league was open to all regions but the Men's Fellowship was just operating in the Eastern Region. With the addition of the Men's Fellowship to the National organization, this past year's league made its small contribution to history as well.

This year's winner was none other than Bro. Keith Minnifield. He received this plaque at the conclusion of the Men's Fellowship Committee's first annual program. All present were impressed by the presentation as well as the award. "I think that the bar may have been raised now that everyone has gotten a good look at the plaque," joked Bro. Northern.

Candid shots of presentations over the years



The Central Region



A New Chairman is Appointed

Following the 91st National Convention in St. Louis, MO, Bro. Charles Jones was appointed as the new chairman for the Central Region Men's Fellowship Committee. Bro. Jones was very busy at the Convention serving as the means of transportation to those who volunteered their time in support of the Outreach initiative that took place Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Bro. Jones also provided transportation to and from the airport to whoever requested it.

Bro. Jones indicated that he is looking forward to accomplishing great things through the vehicle that the Men's Fellowship Committee promises. He shared the vision that Bro. Gregory gave at the National Program during the Convention that the men need to step up and become more visible and more active.

Bro. Jones shared that he plans to have his son, Forrest Jones, serving as his Vice Chairman. They are both looking forward to traveling abroad for the cause and to hosting a few programs of their own.

53rd Central Regional Conference
Geneva Clark-Cole, Director
Loretta B. Curtis, Host State President

March 25 - 26, 2011

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
175 Hutchinson Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43235-1413

RESERVATIONS: (614) 885-3334 or (800) 870-0349
FAX: (614) 846-4353

ROOM RATE: \$96 plus 16.75% tax
(Across the board, includes breakfast buffet)

Deadline for reservations: March 3, 2011



Prayer Requests

For the family of Bro. Deacon James "Jim" Matthew (IL), Past State President at his passing.



Mentorship Begins with Education



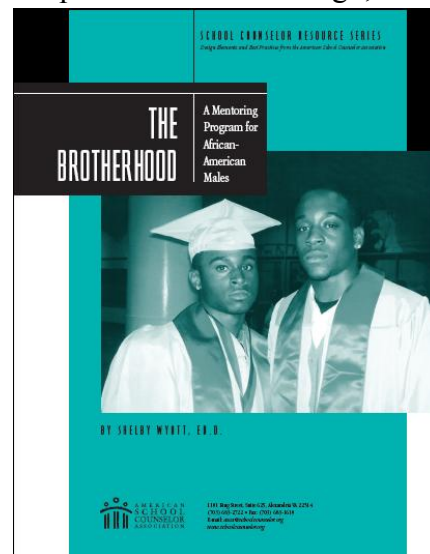
The 2009 members of the Kenwood Academy Brotherhood.

One of the prime directives of the Men's Fellowship Committee is mentoring the males in the Young Adults and Junior & Young People's Departments. Dr. Shelby Wyatt, a professional School Counselor at the Kenwood Academy High School in Chicago, IL, has been implementing that practice through his job for 24 years.

His doctoral dissertation, "Measuring the Effectiveness of an Afrocentric Male Mentoring Program with Adolescent African American Males," and his years of research helped him create the Kenwood Academy Brotherhood (KAB). The KAB is a school based male mentoring program that he has witnessed grow from 24 freshmen in 2004 to over 100 young men each year at present. With this growth, he has presented at educational conferences all over the U.S., being featured in a documentary regarding the lack of public educational funding in the state of Illinois and has had his research publicized. His most recent work is featured in the School Counselor Resource Series publication. The title of the work is "The

Brotherhood, A Mentoring Program for African-American Males.'

Dr. Wyatt has been affiliated with NUCUAA for the majority of his life and attended his first convention in Philadelphia, PA in 1979. Both his parents served as ushers and he remembers when the association met in churches and the ushers stayed in local homes. He is currently serving as the supervisor for the Jr. Usher Board at First Baptist Church in Chicago, IL.



Above is the cover to the featured article on the Kenwood Academy Brotherhood (www.kenwoodbrotherhood.org). To see a clip from the documentary, please visit this link: www.unitedwelearnIL.org.



The Eastern Region



A Word from the Men's Fellowship Chairman

"My Brothers let us carry each other's burdens and in this way we will fulfill the law of God."
Galatians 6:2

The Eastern Region Men's Fellowship committee is continuing to look for a few good men who don't mind admitting that they love the Lord. I am very happy to report that our listing of men joining this fellowship has continued to grow throughout the region since our regional conference in March. So let's continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and His love and fellowship.

I would like to congratulate National Men's Fellowship Chairman Bro. William Northern for hosting an excellent program for the men at our National Convention in St. Louis, Mo., along with the assistance of Reverend Lamar Jones and Bro. Robert Wright. I would like to thank all those who attended and, according to the attendance sheet, the Eastern Region was represented by more than fifty (50) men in attendance.

We would also like to congratulate all those who were elected, re-elected or appointed to National positions including Bro. Filmore F. Gregory, re-elected as National President, Bro. Charles J. Brown, re-elected as National 4th Vice President; also newly elected Bro. Louis Chappell, National Board member, and Bro. Louis Parker, National Chaplain. To God be the Glory for all the Great things that He has done!

We would like to send our praises to Bro. Filmore F. Gregory who presided over his first National Convention as National President successfully. May his hindsight,

insight and vision continue to carry on throughout his tenure and beyond!

The Eastern Region Men's Fellowship would like to express our sincere condolences to the Holmes family in the passing of Brother Frederick K. Holmes, Western Region Men's Fellowship Chairman. Fred was truly one that was a committed servant of God and our National organization. He was a man that didn't mind saying that he loved the Lord. The work that he has done will speak for him.

We also send our condolences to the Harris family (DE), Gilliam family (DC), Wright family (VA) and Perrin family (DC) in the lost of their loved ones during their time of bereavement and to all others families at this time.

We also send our prayers to all sick and shut in, including our Eastern Region Chairman Louis Chappell, who is showing improvement each and everyday.

We send best wishes to all celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries during the months of September, October and November.

Louis Chappell

Eastern Region Chairman
Men's Fellowship Committee



EASTERN REGION CHURCH USHERS' ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of the National United Church Ushers' Association of America, Inc.



Delaware's Men's Fellowship Committee Growth

As we celebrate being the first Men's Fellowship Committee to adopt operating bylaws, we have also been enjoying a slow but steady growth in our state.

We had a Men's Fellowship meeting on Saturday, 18 September 2010. From the attendance at this meeting we discovered a wealth of birthdays during the months of August and September.

Unfortunately, the angel of Death visited our ranks in August and escorted Bro. Harold Harris home from labor to reward. He will be sorely missed from our ranks.

The ICUA of DE partnered with the Men's Fellowship Committee and donated \$661.00 to the Haiti Relief initiative at the National Convention. Also at the Convention, our very own Bro. Leroy Croxton received the Oldest

Member Award presented at the convention as he is anticipating his 94th birthday this September.

We will be hosting our first Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning 9 October 2010; all are welcome to attend. The event will take place at the Latter Day Baptist Church. We are also anticipating sending some members down to support the Men's Fellowship at Maryland's Memorial weekend. We will be doing the same for the Memorial Weekend in Buffalo, NY.

In closing, we will be providing shuttle service from the hotel to the church at the Eastern Region's Conference in 2011.

Bro. Len Legette

Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman
ICUA of Delaware

53rd Eastern Regional Conference
Charles J. Brown, Director
Darleissa Robertson, Host State President
March 11 - 12, 2011

DOUBLETREE HOTEL WILMINGTON
700 North King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801-3504

RESERVATIONS: (302) 655-0400 or (800) 445-8667
FAX: (302) 655-0430

ROOM RATE: \$105 plus 10% tax (Across the board)

Deadline for reservations: February 4, 2011



A Snap Shot of New York

"If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living shall not be in vain."

The Men's Fellowship Committee of New York State would like to congratulate its very own Brother Filmore F. Gregory, who presided as National President over his first of many successful Conventions. We would also like to thank the many Ushers (men & women) of New York State who were there in attendance to support him.

Congratulations also go out to Brother Louis Chappell, who was elected as a member to the National Board of Directors for the Eastern Region and Brother Filmore F. Gregory.

Kudos also to our senior floor demonstration drill team, who came in third place and our Young Adults who came in first place in the Birthday Calendar contest during the National Convention.

During the Men's Fellowship workshop at our National Convention I want to thank all the men that attended from New York including our National President Filmore F. Gregory.

New York State is looking forward to seeing each and every one of you (men

& women) at our Memorial Weekend, November 13 & 14, 2010, in Buffalo, New York. Our Men's Fellowship committee is looking forward to fellowshipping with you.

We send our condolences to the Holmes family in the passing of Western Region Men's Fellowship Chairman Frederick J. Holmes and Past Men's Fellowship Chairman/current National Outreach Chairman Lawrence Wright & family in the passing of his Sister Joyce Ann Wright.

We also send our condolences to all other bereaving families during this time. We also send our prayers to all sick and shut in, including our chairman Louis Chappell who is still home mending and making good progress at this time.

Happy Birthday and Anniversaries to all celebrating during the months of September, October and November!

Bro. Louis Chappell

Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman
ICUA of New York

The VA Men's Fellowship would like to offer (for a limited time) the DVD presentation of their first State Men's Fellowship Retreat.

DVDs are \$7.00 each (three for \$15.00)

The retreat features presentations by Rev. Larry Copeland of New Hope Baptist Church and Dr. Dwayne Robinson of Howard University

Contact Bro. Gregory Wright.
(703) 855-3532
gregw@Burqundyfarm.org



The National Men's Fellowship Committee
Remembers our National Sargeant At Arms, Bro. Randy L. Perrin



The following contains excerpts from the funeral bulletin . . .

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Randy Lamar Perrin was born July 20, 1954 in Danburg, GA to the late Juanita Harris and Johnny Columbus. His parents relocated to the southwest area of Washington, DC during his early childhood. Randy would go on to receive his education from the District of Columbia public school system.



July 20, 1954 – September 23, 2010

Randy began his Christian life in May of 1967 when he was baptized by the late Rev. B.H. Whiting and joined the Friendship Baptist Church in southwest Washington, DC. While serving at the church, Randy was a member of the Men's Choir and helped feed the homeless on Wednesday. At the time of his death, Randy was serving as the Chairman of the Tapes/Video Ministry, working on the Security Ministry, supervising the Youth and Young People division of the Usher Ministry and serving as a faithful usher with the Senior Usher Ministry.

In 1978, Randy met and married the love of his life, Mary (Tina) Lyles. From this blessed union, two sons were born – Derrick and Joseph. He worked at the Dept. of Defense for 36 years, moonlighted as a part time DJ and drove for the Dav'el Limousine Service.

Randy was not only a hard worker at Friendship Baptist Church, he was also an active member of the ICUA of DC and Vicinity, Inc. On this level he served in several capacities, to include Sergeant At Arms, member of the Men's Day Committee, on the Board of Trustees, member of Mabel C. Cooper Chorus and as a security guard for the Catherine E. Mills School of Ushering. In addition to being the Sergeant At Arms on the National level, he was the Assistant Sergeant At Arms for the Eastern Region.

Randy's spirit was unmatched and all who had contact with him basked in his warmth and kindness. He had a very generous heart and never looked for anything in return. His passions included Dee-Jaying, watching his Dallas Cowboys play, all things church oriented and driving members of his church family to different services.

  **Prayer Requests** 

Bro. Charles J. Brown (DC) – Loss of Aunt

Bro. Dmitri Harris (DC) – Loss of Grandparents

Bro. Louis Chappell (NY) – Surgery recovery

Bro. Xavier Wilkins (NY) – Loss of Grandmother

Bro. Jamal Frayer (NY) – Loss of Grandmother

Bro. Walter Wright, Sr. (VA) – Loss of Daughter.

And the families of Bros. Randy Perrin (DC), Harold Harris (DE) & Albert DuBose, Sr. (VA) at their passing



The Southern Region



Words of Encouragement

"For the [true] love of God is this, that we do His commands--keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and teaching. And these orders of His are not irksome--burdensome, oppressive, or grievous.."

I John 5:3

Do you know why the Word of God and the orders God gives to you in your spirit are not burdensome or oppressive? Because everything He tells you is for your good and for your victory!

God knows what it takes to live in victory in this present evil world. In fact, He's the only one who knows. The people of this world cannot tell you how to live victoriously. They don't know how; but God does! He can make things work, even in the middle of darkness; if we'll follow His instructions, commands and precepts from His Word, we can too!

Let me give you an example: One commandment that God gave to us is to love one another and forgive one another as He has forgiven us. This command is not

grievous because it's the key to our freedom. If you can walk in the love that's been shed abroad in your heart, you'll have joy every day. But if you don't walk in this commandment of love, somebody will get your joy before lunch! God knows that. So, He made a command of love and forgiveness because love works! Without love, there won't be any joy, and the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Don't resent God's teachings. Don't consider His ways a burden to your lifestyle. Rejoice over them. Take them gladly by the hand and let them lead you all the way to victory!

Provided by Bro. Dale Shillow

Southern Region Chairman
Men's Fellowship Committee

51st Southern Regional Conference

Harold E. Hester, Director
Dr. Linda Barnes-Pates, Host State President

April 14 - 17, 2011

HILTON JACKSON HOTEL

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FAX: (601) 957-3191

**ROOM RATE: \$129.00 plus 11% tax
and .75 cents per occupied room per day**

Deadline for reservations: March 15, 2011

The City of
JACKSON
MISSISSIPPI




Hilton





The Western Region

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."
Psalm 133:1

With the untimely passing of Bro. Frederick Holmes, the position of Western Region Men's Fellowship Chairman has been temporarily vacated. The query has been put out for a replacement and Sis. Ruth I. Jones, Western Region Director, has been contacted as well for her suggestions regarding this position.

Bro. Holmes had indicated that he felt strongly about the growth of the committee directly following the

Western Region Conference last year. Bro. Filmore F. Gregory, our National President, was able to attend the conference and to speak at the organized Men's Fellowship meeting, all attendees were encouraged to ask any and all questions that they had concerning the Men's Fellowship and its purposes. Hopefully, this vacancy will be filled in the near future so that the Western Region Men's Fellowship Committee can continue with its growth momentum.

53rd Western Regional Conference
Ruth J. Jones, Director
Lena Brass, Host State President

April 14 - 16, 2011

SUNSET STATION HOTEL
1301 West Sunset Road
Henderson, Nevada 89014-6607

RESERVATIONS: (702) 547-7777 or (888) 786-7389
FAX: (702) 547-7744

ROOM RATE: Thursday - \$50; Friday & Saturday - \$60
and Sunday - \$50

Deadline for reservations: March 14, 2011



Prayer Requests

Bro. Floyd Irby (CO) – Loss of Mother

Bro. Robert Sherron (WA) – Sick and shut in.

For the family of Bro. Frederick J. Holmes (CA), Western Region Men's Fellowship Chairman at his passing.



REFLECTIONS

Remembering Bro. Frederick J. Holmes

The following are contribution coming from members of the National Men's Fellowship Committee

"Who was this Man called Usher Frederick Holmes?"

Usher Frederick Holmes was a man who loved his family, God and the ministry of church ushering. He was cooperative, calm and had a listening ear to all who would vent to him. Often, when talking about various problems to him, one would discover that the answer that one was seeking was already evident and with the empowerment of his calm demeanor the problem always worked it self out in the long run. I shall never forget the time when Bro. Holmes asked me to be the Master of Ceremonies at one of our Regional Conference Prayer Breakfasts. He reminded me to just take a deep breath and to just "Let Go and let God." I did. After which, I forgot all of my nervous energy and had a very successful time being a Master of Ceremonies for the first time. In addition, Bro Fred Holmes' prayers are what I will always remember. The last time I heard him pray was at the end of State Convention this past June. His booming baritone voice resonated in our very beings and our burdens which were extremely heavy that afternoon became light. He assured us that God would answer! At that moment I received an Epiphany: I was convinced that something supernatural happened. Why did God choose him to pray at that moment? Was God getting us ready for what was to happen? I know within my heart that He was.

Below is a memorial poem written for Brother Holmes:

Frederick Holmes

What a blessed friend and man of God you were.
You always had the time to listen
That genuine smile always glistened.
How blessed we were to have known you.

What a exemplary friend and Man of God you were.
You lead our organization with class,
Your faith and patience was always up to the task
The vision you put forward sparkled.

Ah! Now we know that it was only God!
How you modeled to us what a good husband and father should be.
How you stood at your post with dignity.
Serving with you was so much fun!
Now you your race is won.

You are still here Usher Fred Holmes
Your footprints and DNA of ushering is etched indelibly hearts.
We shall see you at one of the 12 gates
as we too will enter into the heaven to receive our rewards.
Pray and watch over us as you work at Heaven's Door with
our salvation, Jesus the Son of the Living God.

Bro. Gilbert L. Jones
Western Region



Brother Frederick Holmes was a man of God who stood out because of his willingness to share with others. He always seemed to have a smile on his face, while showing his leadership within our organization. I can remember him standing tall on the platform at one of our conventions next to, then 1st Vice and now President Filmore F. Gregory, showing his support wearing Brother Gregory's Eastern Region cap, letting it be known that it was about all regions working together, doing God's work. Fred was one that had no problems with speaking out for what he thought was right. He was truly a pioneer and servant of our National Organization and God, truly he will be missed and the work that he has done will truly speak for him from this day forth. So, I say to his family, just be at rest knowing that Fred has run his race, has kept the faith and now has finished his course; Knowing that he has received his reward from our Heavenly Father. Yet know that his memory will live in your and our hearts forever.

Bro. Louis Chappell
Eastern Region

◆

In Memory of a Friend (Fred Holmes)

For all of the late night conversations we shared
and the fun that we had in just being together.

Here's to you my friend:

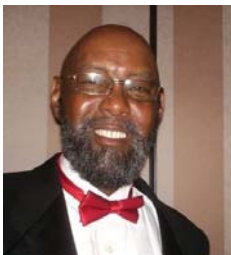
Sometimes in life, you find a special friend;
Someone who changes your life just by being part of it.
Someone who makes you laugh until you can't stop;
Someone who makes you believe that there really is good in the world.
Someone who convinces you that there really is an unlocked door
just waiting for you to open it.

Rest in peace Fred!

Bro. Willie J. Minnifield
Southern Region

◆

"A Tribute to My Brother In Christ, Frederick Holmes"



A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky... Sometimes it is not how long we live on this earth that matters, but how well we live and what we do during our sojourn on earth that sets us apart from our friends and relatives. And because of the fact that we have impacted the lives of others in such a manner that in death we are still greatly missed. In spite of all our good deeds on this earth, it is the care, compassion, goodwill, understanding and concern we show toward our fellow human beings that count the most. My friend and brother in Christ, Frederick Holmes, exemplified all of those characteristics.

To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will! I first met Bro. Fred many years ago at a National Ushers Convention. Immediately, I determined that he was a man of integrity, distinction, deeply rooted in Christ and devoted to NUCUAA, Inc. He was also a source of great

(continued on page 17)



knowledge and encouragement to me. Bro. Fred demonstrated genuine love and concern for his fellow Ushers and was always willing to extend a helping hand. He shared his wisdom and advice with many of us as we worked and fellowshiped in this organization over the years. His work speaks milestones for him and he has truly left us with a legacy to forever treasure.

Arm me with jealous care, as in thy sight to live, and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give! Scripture teaches us that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Although I miss Bro. Fred, I can rejoice in knowing that he is truly with the Lord. I glorify God for allowing him to be a part of my life and this Ushers' Ministry and especially having served as Western Region Chairman for the Men's Fellowship Committee. His memory will forever be with us.



Help me to watch and pray, and on thyself rely, assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die. The work that Bro. Fred has done speaks for him and he shall forever live in our hearts and our Organization.

Bro. Filmore F. Gregory,
Eastern Region

.....◆.....
I will always remember Fred as a man who always had a smile and never had a bad thing to say about this organization.

Bro. Harold Hester
Southern Region

.....◆.....
**The National Outreach Ministry Salutes
Bro. Frederick Holmes (CA)**

I bring you greetings on behalf of the National Outreach Ministry. Bro. Frederick Holmes (CA) was a faithful and dependable usher who assisted wherever he was asked. We both met in 1988 in Anaheim CA and worked together in the Young Adult Department.

As the National convention in St. Louis was approaching, Fred's assigned task with the Outreach team was to secure caterers for designated shelters to serve residents. I spoke with Fred two days before his passing to obtain; an update on caterer prices, the name of the shelter where we'd be volunteering, the status of the Outreach raffle tickets and hotel information should William and I plan to attend the 2011 Western Region Conference.

Upon his unexpected death, I was at a loss to finalize plans on the various shelters. I want to thank Sis. Allieze Curry (MO) who immediately stepped in and confirmed the two caterers that stepped in at the last minute. I would like to thank the entire Outreach Team nationwide for your services rendered. I am quite sure Brother Fred was smiling down on all of us for the outstanding services that we performed for the residents at the

(continued on page 18)



St. Patrick's Center. Bless you all!

I want to close by thanking Fred for the contributions he gave while on the Outreach team and to his lovely wife Pat for loaning him to us. The Outreach Team presented his wife Patricia a gift for his dedicated services rendered to the Outreach ministry.

Bro. Lawrence Wright
Eastern Region

◆

A Fallen Friend

I first met Bro. Frederick Holmes in the late '80s. His genuine personality proved to be welcome for a newcomer to the National Organization such as myself. When I crossed over into the Young Adult Department, he was one of the members that made the department fellowship fun. Even after he crossed over into the Senior Department we would often run into each other and share a couple of minutes catching up. It was refreshing to find out that we would be working together within the bounds of the Men's Fellowship and I was definitely looking forward to our pulling off the first program at the convention in St. Louis. I'm still confident that Fred has left a significant mark and burning desire in the ushers in the Western Region. I'm optimistic that they will be naming their Regional Men's Fellowship in his honor and will be continuing many of the initiatives he helped create.

Bro. William Northern
Eastern Region

◆

Faith of My Father

This is the hardest thing I never wanted to write but I am honored to write. I know that doesn't make much sense but I pray it will by the time I finish. I pray what I write in this article will not only tell you about Deacon Fred Holmes as a Father, but will also illuminate what a life of faith lived out daily can be.

My father is not the man who gave me life but he is the man that gave his life to me and my brothers and sisters. Now I don't want you to think I am going to give you some fluff about he never made mistakes or everyday with him was God's gift. If anything my father was one of the hardest men to live with especially with me being a momma's boy. He was hard on my brothers and I because he wanted us to grow into better men than he was. I remember the time he made dinner (or was it breakfast) for us? He cooked some half boiled eggs and then tried to force all of us to eat them. Thank God we didn't know about the possibility of salmonella poisoning back then. At that time I hated him for making us eat that mess but now I see he was trying to teach us that life is not always what you want. Sometimes you have to take what it gives you and move forward to get what you want. Or maybe he just didn't want to waste the eggs 'cause he was a little cheap.

Dad always gave me a list of chores to do by the time he got home from work during the summer months. I would have to clean the kitchen, bathroom, living room, and my room. If needed, I would have to cut the grass in the backyard as well. Again I was not

(continued on page 19)



the most enthusiastic about the list of things on my door when I rolled out of bed. I will never forget the time I laid around the house all day and then rushed to finish the list just an hour before he got home and didn't make it. Man if C.P.S. is reading this you need to file charges on Deacon Fredrick J. Holmes. However, when I left for Clark Atlanta University I wished my roommate had lived with my dad for a while. He would have definitely learned cleanliness is next to Godliness 'cause if not, you would have to call on Him to save you!

I have thousands of stories about growing up with my dad but I want to share not the stories but the lessons learned. My father, having to deal with an ex-wife and children from that marriage, helped me learn prayer is power. Whenever there was an issue with his past and his present, I remember Him prayerfully and patiently working through it. Now in the same situation myself I look to the example of my father and I see God making ways out of my drama. (1 Cor. 10:13)



Dad was always there for everyone's everything. I can remember him at almost all of my soccer games. My brothers' football and basketball games, Usher annual days, birthdays, thanksgiving dinners, graduations, funerals, weddings, anniversaries, and everything else you could think of. He showed the value of family and friends by his presence and sacrifice of time. My father truly exhibited **John 13:34** "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*"

My father was a listening ear for us no matter what no matter when. I remember when my ex-wife was leaving me and I couldn't take being in the apartment any longer. I called to talk to my mother. My dad knew what was going on and said, "Tell me what's going on son." I explained I had left the apartment and was walking down the street because I couldn't take it anymore. My father got in his car drove over to where I was and sat with me in the car and listened without judging or waiting to talk. After I had fully finished he said I needed to go back home; be the man in the house like Christ and take the pain for my daughter. "Don't walk out on your family son even if they walk out on you."

These are just a few of the things that stand out in my mind when I think of the man my father was. I pray his life through this snapshot of my eyes will help you to see what God can do with a life given to Christ.

Rev. Karif Lawrence
Western Region



September

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11

Brandon Wright (VA)

Thomas Lolley (PA)

Raymond Taylor (DE)

Vaughn Stanford (DE)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

Nigel Sanderson (DE)

Pineary Collins (NY)

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William Cheers (DE)

Leroy Croxton (DE)

Moses Green, Sr. (DE)

Ernest Wilson (MD)

Lawrence Wright (VA)

Willie Minnifield (GA)

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Albert Harrison, Sr. (DE)

Walter Wright, Jr. (VA)



National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., Men's Fellowship

2010

October

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Bryan London (NJ)

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Shelby Wyatt (IL)
Ralph Armstrong, IV (WA)

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John Radford (WA)

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Albert Harrison, Sr. (DE)

Eddie Brown (SC)

David Rhone (MD)

31

HALLOWEEN



National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., Men's Fellowship

2010

November

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Sat

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Jerome Patton (DE)

Charles Brown (DC)

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Oliver Abrams (DE)
William Northern (VA)

Prince Pointer, Jr. (LA)

Orpheus Tucker (MD)

Charles Wright (DE)

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Michael Williams (DE)

Ricky Prater (TX)

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THANKSGIVING

Willie Granderson (IL)

David Fuller (MD)
Richard Thomas (DE)

28

29

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National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., Men's Fellowship



2010

Announcements

Greetings once again to all the supporters of this newsletter,

This edition marks the beginning of volume two and is the largest in content by far. As always, I hope that it has been equally entertaining and informative as all Regions have been represented.

For the purpose of establishing clarity regarding the article submission process, I'd like to present it here once again. Articles should be submitted to your state chairman for Men's Fellowship who in turn will forward them to the Regional Chairman. The Regional Chairman will then review the articles before forwarding them to the National Chairman. This process will ensure quality editing through the review & approval process as the article is forwarded through the ranks.

My thanks are extended to the article motivators which I define as those who have proven to be the catalyst in getting articles produced; Sis. Angela Allgood and Sis. Lesa Johnson played that role well in the second edition process.

The Newsletter's main purpose is to motivate and inform all the male ushers that are affiliated with the National Organization. Hopefully, there was an article shared in this volume that will motivate you all to become an active part of a future edition.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. W. A. Northern
Editor

CONGRATULATIONS

are extended to

Newly Appointed State Chairmen

Ron Jones (MS)

Dondi Randolph (VA)

Getting the Word Out

Any Men's Fellowship structure in any Region can share an announcement of any of their upcoming events through the means of this Newsletter. As with the articles, simply compile all important points of your upcoming event and submit them to your State or Regional Chairman. Remember this Newsletter is only as good as its contributions, so let's join together in making this the most efficient Newsletter possible.



STROKE: Remember the First Three Letters S, T & R

STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

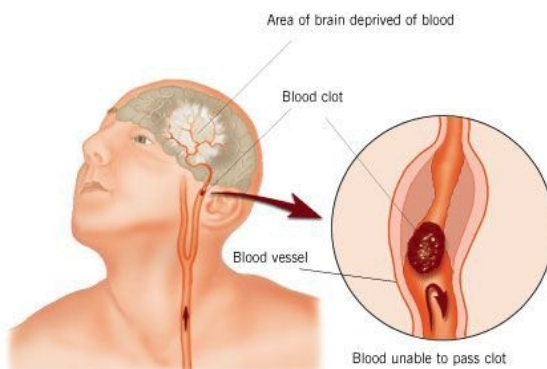
During a BBQ, a woman named Jane stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics). Jane said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Jane went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening

Jane's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00 pm Jane passed away). She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Jane would be with us today. Some victims don't die; they end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke - totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized and diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough...



RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)

(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue... If the tongue is 'crooked', that is if it goes to one side or the other, this is also an indication of a stroke.

A cardiologist says if everyone that reads this article shares it with 10 people; you can bet that at least one life will be saved.

I have done my part. Will you?

PLEASE take HEED!



Men's Fellowship Questionnaire Profile

Please print

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email (If Any): _____ Birthday (Mo/Day): _____

State Affiliation – ICUA OF _____ eg: NY or DC

What type of activities would you like to see sponsored?

1. _____
2. _____

How often do you attend the following events? (Circle the Best Answer)

Region/State Memorial Service: **0** **1-3** **4-6** **7 or More**

Regional Conferences (Past 5 years): **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**

National Conventions (Past 5 years): **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**

Do you feel the Men's Fellowship should continue to meet? _____

Remarks/Comments/Suggestions (If additional space is required, use back of this form):

How would you rate the Men's Fellowship program overall, ranging from 1-10?

(1=Poor, 10=Excellent): _____

Save the Dates: July 25 – 29, 2011

**For our upcoming National Convention in
Reno, NV**

Please submit this form to your State Chairman

