

LACT Connection

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
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A Look Back

By Milika Lane

Well fellow LACTers, we are celebrating a whole year that the LACT Connection newsletter has been in print. We can only thank God the creator of all things and His servant the humble and meek Pastor Oliver Hearn for his vision of a church newsletter and for allowing us this great opportunity. In this issue, we will recap some of the articles and events that took place this past year.

Fifteen year old (at the time) newly appointed staff member Aulaundrius Bailey wrote an article entitled "Learning how to hold on by sharing the word". In this, her first article, she reenacted our annual Christmas play written and produced by Minister Sean and Sister Cheraye Lewis. The well articulate voice of 'little' Sister Bailey came across loud and clear as she wrote of the vision the Lewis' had in bringing the message of holding on through faith in Jesus Christ to the 'stage'. The cast of characters, brilliantly (and at times hilariously) acted out the message of Jesus Christ as an everlasting life giving gift that God has given so that all humanity can be reconciled back to Him.

The LACT Connection has had several guest authors. Sister Alice Hastings. contributed an article parlaying the events of our 2006 Prayer Brunch themed "Holy Woman, Conquering Woman" spear headed by our own Sister Yolanda Knights and key note speaker Evangelist Ross of

Greater Ambassador COGIC, in which she spoke on, (You are the Salt of the Earth), made her want to serve the Lord all the more. that we would not lose our savor. In doing this, she wrote, the Lord would get the glory!

Another guest author was Sister Sheree Woods. Her article was actually a letter that the Lord had given her to give to the church family. In this letter, the Lord asked some heart searching questions and made a series of soul wrenching statements. His main theme was that he wanted his people who said they loved him with their lips to **show** him love with their lives.

The LACT Connection has also tried to make honorable mention of certain events within the denomination of the Church of God in Christ locally and nationally. We have featured articles on the home going of prominent saints including the General Assistant International Supervisor of Women Mother Elizabeth Nash, and our dearly loved Bishop G E Patterson. We on the Connection Staff have also mentioned the joyous occasion of births, christenings, receiving the gift of The Holy Ghost, engagements, and a host of other note worthy news.

We covered our 2007 Leadership Conference, different fundraisers such as the fashion show and bazaars, the Women's Convention, several elementary, middle school, high school and college

graduations, the Holy Convocation, our annual Vacation Bible School, and of course our endeavor to purchase **our** property at 2408 North Lincoln.

Sister Yolanda Franklin wrote an extremely faith stirring article entitled "We Claim 2408 by Faith". In her article she quoted the scriptures Nehemiah 4:6, and Philippians 4:13 and implied that if we as a church build on our theme "The Power of Oneness", the building that sits on the currently **unoccupied** lot at 2408 North Lincoln is already ours, we just have to claim it by faith! She even asked the question 'how bad do you want it?' Sister Yolanda reminded us of First Lady Hearn's challenge for us to be one body with many parts that all work on different tasks but work together to achieve a common goal.

So as we look back, let it be at a glance. We have much work to do and we cannot get it done while looking behind. Let us emulate Apostle Paul when he said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"-Phil. 3:14 we can press forward as one church, on one accord, with one common goal **2408**.

The LACT Connection staff hopes that you feel well informed and are satisfied with the work that God has allowed us to do. May the Lord continue to watch between me and you, until next issue...God Bless

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring **good news**, who proclaim peace, who bring **good** tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" -Isaiah 52:7

Photos by Pictures of Integrity



Warren and Erica Campbell

On Saturday, February 10, 2007, at the Embassy Suites in the city of Duarte, LACT held our 3rd Annual Leadership Conference.

Every year since Pastor Hearn implemented this annual event, LACT continues to take each round higher and higher as this year's conference was the best yet. Our theme this year was "You Are Your Own Limitation". As at previous conferences we had beautiful speakers and presentations to motivate and inspire us to be and do our best, not only in the ministries God has entrusted to us but also in our personal lives.

Our primary agenda for the conference, other than souls, is determining what we, as leaders in the church, need to do to get to 2408. 2408, if you don't know, is the address of LACT's new building. We do not yet have possession of the building but by faith we believe it is ours. In light of our goal to possess 2408, this year we added something new to the conference agenda which helped in taking our leadership conference to a whole new height. We had a panel discussion with local business owners, entrepreneurs and executives. The panel discussion was facilitated by Minister Dillon who presented questions to the panel and they shared previously prepared responses.



Cal State LA Students assisting with check-in.

I took note of some of the key points on a few of the topics that were shared. One of the topics was team building. In this regard the panel shared to have a catch phrase (such as 2408) that the team can use regularly and share with others, and that the best way to enlist others in a common cause is to take time to get to know and understand your team. On the topic of

2007 Leadership Conference

By Sister DeLisa Brown

changing mindsets some key points were to work hard if you want others to work hard for you, use others ideas to push the vision, share your enthusiasm, find the team members passion and use it toward accomplishing your goal, don't waste time, and lastly if team members are negative be honest and tell them, they may not know. The final topic I will make note of is the panels' specific ideas towards fundraising efforts. Some of the suggestions were to use some of our educated and well manicured youth to present our agenda to businesses in the community, to think of what makes us want to give and be sure to use whatever "that" is in asking others to give, to test our ideas and use what works, and most importantly be sure to fast and pray as a church about each fund raising idea.



Representative from Kraft Foods

What made the most lasting impression on me personally from the panel discussion was that we wanted to gain insight from the panel on how to be better leaders and accomplish our team goal, yet every panel participant expressed how they were impressed with our togetherness and believed that we would achieve our goal based solely on what they saw of us that day. This lets me know that we definitely displayed "The Power of Oneness" at the 2007 leadership conference and I believe if we continue to work in the power of oneness and implement the ideas for fundraising, team work and changing mindsets, with God on our side the vision of 2408 will be manifested.



Members of LACT and panelists



Pastor's Corner Building Strong Relationships

How do we build stronger relationships with one another? What is the key to bringing individuals together to form a bond that is so strong that nothing can hardly separate them? The answer is work. The word relation means to have a connection between something. As followers of Christ, we should be willing to form these bonds called relationships and keep them flourishing. I am not saying that everyone can be your friend, but for those who are considered friends, you tend to have something in common among you. To build relationships we should **listen** and **encourage** one another. As followers of Christ, we are called to encourage one another. In Colossians 4:8, Paul says, "I am sending him, Tychicus, to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may **encourage** your hearts."

We are called to build each other up for the kingdom of God. We can learn a great deal about relationships if we follow the example that Jesus reveals to us in His word. If we look at Jesus as He chose His disciples, he was very selective with his decision. However, when he chose them, he began to work with them closely. He formed bonds with each of them so that he could know them personally. He kept them close to him. The main relationship that we should perfect is the one with God as our Father. We learn in our walk with God that we have to keep this relationship flourishing by studying, praying and attending church. We must listen to Him and be faithful. Once we begin to perfect this relationship and put Him first, then our other relationships will fall into place. Remember to Seek God first and all the rest will be added.

Let us learn to listen and encourage one another... you never know you may be entertaining angels in disguise.

TESTIMONIALS

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,...." - My testimony of a near death experience !!!

Elder Deshawn Hearn

Jude 1:24 reads, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,....", a scripture borrowed by our First Lady Hearn (my Mother) to best represent what God did for my Mother, my Aunt and me.... It was the 4th of February, 2007 - we attended the funeral services for my beloved Uncle Ivory Boddie in Atlanta, GA. On our flight home, we experienced terror and near death - but God, "...kept us from falling." We boarded a 747 Air Tran Jet at around 7PM EST. I recall the Pilot announcing that "we were cruising at 37,000 feet." Approximately 45 minutes into the five hour flight, we experienced on-going turbulence. I recall whispering a quiet prayer for safety. However, in several moments, the plane appeared to hit an air pocket and seemed to drop slightly; we all began to pray more earnestly. Next, the plane appeared to hit another air pocket and suddenly dropped approximately several hundred feet - it tilted deeply to the right, knocking over the beverage cart (in the back of the plan). With the frightening drop, we heard a loud crashing sound and several on the plane screamed..... Whew....The sequence of events which followed:

- My Aunt immediately screamed, "**JESUS!!!!**" (There is Power in the name!)
- We all huddled together and prayed; I grabbed my Mother and Aunt's hands and shared, "*don't worry - God will get us home safely....*"
- My Mother looked around at others sitting close and asked, "*do you know how to pray? If yes, pray!*"
- We tried calling for the Pastor on three cell phones but could not get a connection....
- We just had to rely on God!

All of us prayed - and continued to pray - for the next four plus hours - until the plane landed safely in Los Angeles....

My Testimony (reflections after landing....): In a split second, I saw my life flash before me - I saw, and felt death - BUT, God had mercy upon us and "kept us from falling," and we are still alive! I know it was nothing but God's Grace and Mercy which held the plane in the air, and, I want the World to know that I am eternally grateful to God for sparing our lives....



"Paging Doctor Jesus"

Jacque L. Herman

To say that God is miraculous would be an understatement. He absolutely surpasses all of my expectations. He is true to his Word and final in all his decisions. If the Word says He is a healer that is exactly what He is.

On February 15th, 2007, my younger brother Jerron Marcel Herman was scheduled to have a major operation on his arm. From three months old he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, which in his case the left side of his body was severely stiff. There had been several medical attempts to aid his challenged ability but none lasted for very long. Like the woman ailed for 12 years, Jerron decided he would try the Lord Jesus Christ. Under the direction of Pastor Hearn and the encouragement of our parents Jerron decided that he would apply blessed oil and prayer to his arm until his surgery.

On the day of his surgery, God proved to be a wonder. He and my mother had seen all the necessary nurses for his prep and the final person to see was the surgeon. They sat expecting to carry out their plans, but after examining my brother's arm the surgeon said, "Mrs. Herman we don't need to do surgery. The place where I was going to cut his muscle to the tendon is already there." Praise God! The doctor asked my brother what had he been doing. The answer rang clear, "I trusted God." Jerron told of his daily prayers and the application of the blessed oil. The doctor was convinced by Jerron's testimony that he needed to continue doing what he was doing because it worked.

Shortly after Jerron had an appointment to get a cat scan. God certainly works in mysterious ways because the doctor who diagnosed Jerron with brain damage was the doctor for this appointment. She remembered Jerron but was about to get to know Jesus. She placed the cat scan results from six months next to the one at sixteen years there was no spot. You can not tell me that the God we serve is awesome.

God used Jerron's experience to plant a seed. Please continue to pray for the Herman family. Jerron is marching toward his healing and giving God's complete glory.



In Memory of BISHOP GILBERT EARL PATTERSON 1939-2007

The LACT Connection staff would like to honor the life of our late Presiding Bishop of the International Church of God In Christ...

He was said to be a very approachable, inspirational man of God. He took the church to a different level by starting programs and implementing them to assist our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ through this race that we call life.

May God continue to bless our church as we forge ahead and continue to spread the Word of God. Let us also be an inspiration to others.

He will be missed...



Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson
Photo taken from COGIC website



Just remember...

By Dr. Phyllis Cremer

Just remember that saying "good morning" and sharing a smile is a way to start a new beginning each day. It leaves behind the past mistakes and it allows you to keep moving forward.

Just remember the power of saying "please", "thank you", and "excuse me" because it not only shows how thoughtful you are, but it may be the only kind words that someone hears all day.

Just remember to never limit hugs, kisses, and "I love yous" to those who make you whole with every touch and glance. They are your world.

Just remember that healing is not only in the forgiving, but it is also in the act of asking forgiveness. This act has a way of self-correcting the past and leaving you open to experience joy and happiness.

Just remember what Maya Angelou says about "how much we are like, than unlike." We are in this together. Honor the spirit of Virginia Tech students and the support of the faculty and staff, by looking out for each other, taking the time to listen and to play. Never underestimate the impact of your actions; it can truly make the difference.

Just remember...

Winsome's Pretty Woman Spring Fashion Show Extravaganza

by Sis Charmaine Boyd

LACT's Power of Oneness Team hosted the pretty Woman Fashion Show produced by Winsones, Inc. Our Own Sister Boyd was the President and Captain for the extravagant event. The show was a great success, which featured members from LACT, and a couple of members from local churches as the fashion models. The event featured an auction, entrepreneurs, who were invited by Sister Boyd, delicious food and a concert, with all proceeds going to LACT.

There were seven young entrepreneurs, whom were invited to show off their businesses with a table and five minute presentation about their companies. Some included Minister Jesse Dillon, Minister Erroll Brown and Elder DeShawn Hearn, just to name a few.

The auction proved to be successful, with our own Brother Jacque Herman as the auctioneer. Items, such as suits and hats that were modeled were the auction pieces. Sister Carrier and Sister Dorothy Grissom did an awesome job modeling hats throughout the evening and visiting the different tables for all to see.

The decor was beautiful and the food was excellent! The event brought out over 150 people and ticket sales exceeded the amount of individuals that attended. The

evening proved to be a success. Our goal for the event was \$4,000 and we came very close to that.

The climax of the evening was the outstanding performance by our own Gospel Vocalist, Ms. Yolanda Knights. "She took the event to a whole new level", said Sister Boyd about her performance," she brought the house down". Not only did she uplift the audience with her singing she was also a model for the show. Throughout her performances, Ms. Knights wore outfits by featured designer Donna Vinci.

This definitely was the LACT event of the year...What's say we do it again!



Yolanda Knights, sings songs from her soon to be released album "The Message From Heaven" while modeling Donna Vinci attire.

Photos provided by Pictures of Integrity



Mother Hall looking ever so lovely in her suit & hat.



Rachel shows off her casual dress wear.



Tara Johnson poses as she walks down the walk.

“LICENSED”

An Interview With Evangelist Shequita Porter

By Milika Lane

ML: How did you know you were called to be an Evangelist?

SP: The Lord was dealing with me when I was in the state of Ohio. I was praying one day and I heard the voice of the Lord saying **"I WANT YOU TO EVANGELIZE BY SPREADING MY WORD"** After a little while, I excepted the call.

ML: What do you think the job of an Evangelist is?

SP: The word that comes to me is **"Servant"**. Spreading the gospel, beginning at home

ML: What advise would you give to other young women aspiring to be an Evangelist?

SP: Always stay prayerful, and study His Word. Be dedicated to your home church, and most of all obey leadership!

ML: Can you explain some of the misconceptions that others might have on a female evangelizing in the church? Have you ever felt discriminated against in this respect? If not, do you know of others who have been?

SP: When I was a child, I thought that it was only females who were missionaries/ evangelists. As I got older, I realize that there were men evangelist, but never came across that many. The answer to the next questions is no

ML: Now that you have answered the call of God on your life, what do you think His mission for you is in the body of Christ?

SP: What we are doing now, going out on 3rd Saturdays, and or whenever the opportunity is there, Introducing people to Jesus. I am just a nobody, trying too tell everybody, about somebody, who



Something to Chew On...Your call.....or God's?

In the body of Christ we often use the words ‘purpose’ or the word ‘calling’. It has become so common to say to someone “There is a call on your life”, or ask “What is my purpose in life”? We also use the words ‘my’ or ‘I’ a lot, but what if we thought more of what GOD wanted for us? Would this make our lives more difficult if we knew in our hearts that God’s calling on our lives did not include going into the ministry even though we wanted so bad to be a minister or an evangelist? Would our lives be more peaceful if we came to grips with the fact that God’s purpose for our lives did not include marriage or having children even though we’ve desired marriage and a family since our childhood? We sometimes don’t realize that ‘no’ is in God’s vocabulary. He is not just a ‘yes man’. He knows what is best for us but we often don’t realize it. So the loving father that he is, he in his permissive will allows us to marry, have children, go into the ministry to preach, allows us to get the bomb job, making ‘stupid’ money, agrees to let us purchase a new home, a new car, and all the while He know that we are not spiritually prepared for these things. Sooner or later we start to wonder if our husband or wife really loves us...why our children are not saved...how we are going to pay the mortgage and car note...why the people are not getting saved when we bring a message...Hey... don’t get mad at me. I’m just doing what I’ve been asked to do...Giving you something to chew on.

Sis. Milika Lane

MORE TESTIMONIES*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**I Am A Living Testimony**By Brother Duane Bailey*

The devil thought he had me but, I got away. I can truly say this because the devil comes at me at all directions and God makes a way to escape. I am not trying to give the devil any credit or praise be he is always on my trail. **Thanks be to God for the victory.**

Young people you do not want to go through what I went through, whether it is on the streets, jail or prison because it is a real terrible place. Television sugar coats the real...trust me, I can tell you some real horror stories that will or should scare you straight, especially if I was trying to use the scare straight tactics. But, I'm not, I'm really trying to tell you the real. The things I have seen and been through are unbelievable, but it's a natural fact and that is street life and prison life if you are not in the will of God. The killings, stabbing, people taking your manhood, you go in as a man and come out a woman. Folks taking your food,

clothes, and personals if you are not strong. Yes, only the strong survive in prison, therefore, I am begging you not to go. Please do not go. Can you possibly imagine some one always telling you and not your parents when to get up, what to eat, what to say, just everything what what what, or when when when...Your life is not longer yours.

Take it from me, listen to your parents, listen to your Pastor or any woman/man of God who is teaching you the right way to go. I wish, oh how I wish! I would have listened to my father's instruction and the words of a wise woman, (*my mother*). They told me these things would happen. In fact, they said how it would come about if I did not do right by God and them...**WOE TO THE UNBELIEVER!!!**

I have only been home a couple of months and God has blessed me. I am not bragging, but I am bragging on the Lord. He has been good to me and on the other hand, the devil is trying to steal my blessings and joy. But God said, "Not So!" I thank **God** for the mind to seek **Him**.

Continue to pray for me (Duane), Aujulius and the entire Bailey family and remember...**God's Got It All In Control!**

*Interview with Minerva Williams**By Aulaundrius Bailey*

I am going to start this interview in the words of my aunt Emma, that's what we call her, although her name is Minerva. In her own words. " I did not know or realized how sick I was until after I began my healing process. I do know that I was so ill that I could not reach up and turn the lights on or off. I could not even care for myself in no way. I give all thanks and praise to God first, my family and all my extended family that helped me through the sad

ordeal or time in my life." 🙄

Minerva also says, " she will never forget the day, **Lord have mercy, oh help me Jesus!** when I came to church that second Sunday for prayer. Thank you God and LACT church.

At that time I could not stand any noise or to be touched. I could not even stop crying. **But! Thanks be to God**, that day was my turning point. That day all my fears went away and I began to perk up. I perked up so, until a few weeks or months later when I went back to the doctor for my infusion, the doctor told me **I was healed** of bone marrow cancer. Thank you Jesus. I had been praying and crying out to God to either save me and prepare my family or heal me so I could tell the glad story. **He did just that. I thank Him for my miracle** and I thank my niece Kathy Bailey for being there for me.

I thank her for going to my doctor's appointment with me. I felt so secure when she was there. **God**

knows. 😊

I haven't forgot, I will be coming to church. Thank you all again for the payers and a special thank you to pastor Hearn for stopping your service to pray for little ole' me and always asking about me. Your concern is warm. Never forget me for I am healed and blessed.

Minerva Williams



Congratulations Class of 2007



College

Brother Curtis Parker

~HIGH SCHOOL~

Rachel Carlat

Ashely Henderson

Terrien Hall



A. Henderson

◇Junior High◇

Gregory Henderson

Elementary

Aaron Tuffin

Sierra Williams-Salter



R. Carlat

BAKED SALMON WITH LEMON SAUCE

1 LEMON
 1/4 CUP MAYONNAISE
 1/4 CUP PLAIN YOGURT
 2 tbsp. DRIED OR FRESH CHOPPED PARSLEY
 1/4 tsp. EACH SALT AND PEPPER
 4 SALMON FILLETS

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 400 DEGREES 2. SQUEEZE LEMON TO MAKE 2 TABLESPOONS JUICE 3. FOR SAUCE, IN A SMALL BOWL COMBINE MAYO, YOGURT, LEMON JUICE PARSLEY, SALT AND PEPPER. 4. PLACE FILLET IN GREASED BAKING DISH SKIN SIDE UP. COVER AND BAKE FOR 10-15 MINUTES. TURN OVER AND SPREAD MIXTURE OVER FILLETS. BAKE UNCOVERED FOR 5 ADDITIONAL MINUTES OR UNTIL FISH FLAKES WITH A FORK. SERVE WITH ADDITIONAL SAUCE ON THE SIDE.

Submitted by Milika Lane

Etceteras

Special Prayer Requests:

AUJULIUS BAILEY-Dastor Hearn and the Bailey family are asking that we continue to lift up our own in prayer.

Scholarship Opportunity offered by the COGIC

Please visit the Church of God In Christ website
<http://www.cogiccharities.org/scholarship0528.pdf> or see Sis. Katina Williams for an application:

Applications due: September 1, 2007

If you have any ideas for future issues of LACT Connection, please feel free to contact Sis. Katina Williams or Sis. Milika Lane. May God Bless and Keep You!