



ONE CHURCH ONE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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VOLUME X, ISSUE I

FALL 2010

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CME Senior Bishop
Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr.



Host Bishop
Thomas L. Brown, Sr.

One Church One School Leaders Meet in Jackson, MS for Training and Collaboration

The 15th Annual One Church One School Conference, met October 21 and 22, 2010 in Jackson, Mississippi, exploring the theme “Church/School Partnerships, An Outreach Ministry of the Essential Church.”

A record number of educational and religious leaders met from across the nation at the Hilton Jackson Hotel for training and collaborative exchange on how to reclaim America’s children for a future of hope and progress.



One Church One School, founded in 1992 by Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., re-energizes the critical connection between home, church and school that has been the historical foundation for educational system in the US. Far from “teaching religion in school,” the organization works to instill the transcendent value of life and value of learning in the minds and hearts of children.

Successful partnership programs have been established in major cities such as Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Gary, Birmingham and Memphis. The organization over the past eighteen years has tracked up to three hundred partnerships at a time, while

operating primarily on a committed staff and a cadre of volunteers under the leadership of Mrs. Phedonia Johnson, National Education Director.



l-r: Bishops Ronald M. Cunningham, Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Mrs. Phedonia Johnson, Professor Lance Williams, Bishops Henry M. Williamson and Sylvester Williams

The conference was hosted by Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the historic Christian Methodist Church (CME) denomination’s 4th Episcopal District comprising the states of Mississippi and Louisiana. This meeting in Jackson represented only the third time in fourteen years, the National Conference was held outside of its home city of Chicago, Illinois, where the organization is headquartered.



Professor Lance Williams and students at the Empowerment Seminar

The conference began with a high impact **Student Empowerment Seminar** on the campus of Jackson

Save the Dates: October 20-21, 2011
16th OCOS Conference—Birmingham, AL

State University. **Professor Lance Williams**, PhD, of Northeastern Illinois University engaged the 500 junior high and high school students, in a packed auditorium, with an insightful and sometime incendiary analysis of Hip Hop/Rap Culture. The Seminar is dedicated to helping young people understand the importance of making healthy life choices amid the overwhelming impact of the media and music industry.

Other sessions included the *Partnership Development Workshop*, which highlighted best practices in church-school partnerships; *African American History and Culture* led by Dr. Hilliard Lackey; *Health Care*, Mrs. Barbara Fields, RN and Dr. Geri Cannon-Smith; *Mentoring*, Dr. Leo Pinkett; and *Impact of Hip Hop Culture on Adolescent Behavior*, Professor Lance Williams.



(Bishop Brown, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Holbrook and Ms. Owens

Conference attendees under the leadership of Ms. Susie Owens, 4th Episcopal District Mission Project Coordinator, donated school supplies and \$200 donation from One Church One School to Blackburn Middle School, Jackson, Mississippi. Mrs. Patsy Holbrook, a school staff member, accepted the donations.

Save the Dates: October 20-21, 2011 16th Annual One Church One School Conference - Birmingham, Alabama

Other conference highlights were the plenary sessions and awards ceremonies. **The Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony** was held Thursday evening, honoring the life and work of educational, religious and civic leaders. This year's awardees were **Mrs. W. Jean Moore** (Retired Educator and Missionary); **Mr. Jewell Wagner** (Retired Educator and Lay leader); and **Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore** (Interim President, Jackson State University).



Mrs. W. Jean Moore



Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore

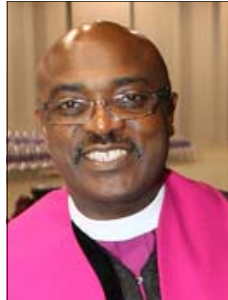


Mr. Jewell Wagner

The service was held at the Lynch Street CME Church (Pastor Charles Holbrook) and the keynote address, *Ordinary in the Service of an Extraordinary God*, was delivered in a unique and dynamic manner by Bishop Thomas L Brown, Sr.



l-r: First Ladies Mrs. Clarice Cunningham, Dr. Louise Brown and Mrs. Doris Williamson



Bishop James B. Walker

Friday morning, **Bishop Paul AG. Stewart** led the Plenary Session. **Bishop James B. Walker, Sr.**, Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District CME Church, gave the Opening Address calling for greater individual and community commitment and involvement.

Following the workshops on Friday, the conference closed with the Awards Recognition Luncheon that honored those “working in the trenches.”



The 2010 awardees included: Rev. Dolphus Weary, *Religious Leader of the Year*; Mrs. Julia Harris-Brown, Dr. Mary Ann Bailey, Ms. Lorenda Cheeks, Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson, and Mrs. Lula Turner, *Educators of*

the Year; Mrs. Princess Pegues, *Education Advocate of the Year*; Ms. Cheryl Scales, *Volunteer of the Year*; Mr. Clarence Magee and Mrs. Carrie Magee, *Community Leaders of the Year*.



Student of the Year, Brooke Ratliff

Also at the luncheon, two \$500 scholarships were awarded to two *Students of the Year*, Ms. Brooke Ratliff and Mr. Eric Byrd.

The outstanding speaker at the luncheon was the President of celebrated Tougaloo College, **Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan**.



Rev. Kimmie McNeese, the 4th Episcopal District OCOS Director, did an excellent job coordinating the local events!



Bishop Williamson closed the conference challenging the audience to continue, locally, the work of One Church One School addressing academic achievement, social behavior and personal development on behalf of students in the schools of their community, teaching children the *value life and the value of learning*.

Tax-deductible contributions are appreciated!

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