THE 39th ANNUAL NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

of the

Apostolic Faith Church of God, Inc.

1973

THE 39th ANNUAL

NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie L. Mouning
59 Totoket Rd.
North Branford, Connecticut 0647

Narrative

Bertha Harris

Robert Harris, Sr.

of the

Johnnie L. Mouning Thelma L. Mouning

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PREFACE AND DEDICATION

This publication commemorates the Thirty-Ninth Annual National Youth Convention of June, 1973, which met at the Ebenezer Apostolic Faith Church of God in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

This book is respectfully dedicated to the founders of the National Youth Convention. Their efforts have raised up the convention from an acorn to a mighty oak tree. Some of the people deserving recognition for their founding and fostering of the Convention are:

Minister Willie Branch

Sister Eva Handshaw

Deacon Edward Nichols

Elder George Parks

Sister Phoebe O. Pryor

Some of the founders have passed on; they are acknowledged in loving memory:

Elder Isaish D. Bagwell - District President

Elder Donald E. Domon - Overseer and District President

Bishop R.C. Grant - Presiding Bishop

Elder Robert Johnston - General Secretary

Sister Mary E. Parks - First General President

Bishop C.R. Whiltey - Vice-President

NARRATIVE

History of the Host Church and District

In 1972 the Time and Place Committee of the National Youth Convention selected Ebenezer Apostolic Faith Church of God in Bridgeport, Connecticut to be host for the Thirty-Ninth Convention. This honor represented the first national meeting of the Apostolic Faith Church of God, Inc. to take place in the New England District. The New England District, organized in 1968, is the youngest branch of the national church. The cornerstone of the New England District is the Ebenezer Church. The history of Ebenezer is closely related to the life of Elder Robert Lee Harris, pastor of the church.

Elder Harris was saved in the year of 1937. He received the Holy Ghost a year later. He was a deacon and superintendent of the Sunday School Department of Holy Temple Church in Saintsville, North Carolina.

In July, 1958, Elder Harris started a small mission under the direction of Bishop G.B. White. Elder Harris acknowledged his calling and began to preach God's word. He studied with Bishop Caesar, of the Bethel Bible Institute in Jamaica, Long Island, New York. He learned Bible evangelism and graduated with the Doctrine and Homiletics class of 1962.

In September, 1962, he became an ordained Elder and a few months later he was made pastor of the Ebenezer Apostolic Faith Church of God Inc. by Bishop G.B. White. Since that time Elder Harris has exercised his leadership and guidance over the church.

In 1963, Elder Harris consulted with Elder Mitchell, the pastor of Little Holy Temple of Stamford, Connecticut. As a result of their deliberations, the Little Holy Temple became the second Apostolic Faith Church of God in New England. The Little Holy Temple moved to Bridgeport in 1972; the present

pastor is Elder James Shell. In 1968, with the approval of the convention, the New England District was organized. The President of the district was Elder Harris, Vice—President was Elder Shell. The two pastors and members worked hard together and faithfully to build a larger and greater district. In May, 1973, Sister Mozella Daniel, pastor of Deliverance Tabernacle, and her members united with the A.F.C.O.G. Inc. in the New England District.

In December, 1972, Elder Harris was elected to the position of Bishop of the District. Elder Shell was elected to the office of President of the New England District and Minister Eddie Graham became Vice—President.

The members of the New England District expressed their thanks to God for the Great Shepherds whom He sent their way to seek out the lost souls that the Lord might save them. Many have strayed from the fold and are wandering in the wilderness of worldiness and sin. May Thy love constrain them and Thy Grace abound, that they may return to Thee and consecrate their lives.

Preparation for the Convention

As the time of the Convention approached, members of the New England District planned their preparations for the convention. The members asked God for guidance and strength:

Grant us enough happiness to keep us sweet,

Enough trial to keep us strong,

Enough sorrow to keep us happy,

Enough failure to keep us humble,

Enough success to keep us eager,

Enough friendship to give us comfort,

Enough enthusiasm to look forward,

Enough faith to vanquish depression,

Enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

A major task in preparing for the convention was the beautification of the Ebenezer Church sanctuary. Members and friends joined hands in painting the walls, washing the windows and scrubbing the floors. The auditorium was refinished by Bro. Fred Armstrong, Jr. and his associates. Rev. Griffin made arrangements for extra seating and for exterior painting.

Parking at the sanctuary was generously provided by a church neighbor, Mr. Hoffman. Bishop Hyman accomplished landscaping of the parking lot.

Residence quarters for the delegates were remodelled, and provided with furniture and recreation facilities.

Brother John Kaizer, Chief Chef, and his culinary staff did an excellent job in cooking meals for about 350 people. Evang. Loretha Kaizer chaired the Home Committee to sleep delegates, Sis. Lorriane Shell took charge of Hospitality and Sis. Almarine Gorham served as Nursery Supervisor. For delegates who would need transportation, Elder James Shell and his colleagues arranged courtesy cars. Special thanks go out to all the people who contributed their skill, profession, talent and labor.

On Wednesday evening, June 13, 1973, members of the New England District were touching up the paint in the vestibule, tidying up the guest quarters, and patching the ceiling of the social hall. Before the paint was dry, the first guest delegates from North Carolina stepped into the sanctuary.

The next several days witnessed the arrival of hundreds of delegates from the eastern shore, from middle Virginia, from North Carolina, South Carolina, from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and from the District of Columbia. They travelled by car and bus, and some commuted daily from the nearby churches.

The Convention

Worship service began The Convention on June 14, 1973 at 10:30 a.m.; Elder Steven Willis presided. Minister Eddie Graham, Vice-President of the New England District, delivered the first sermon: his thought was "A Good Soldier", based on the scripture II Timothy 2:3.

The afternoon speaker was Elder Geanie Perry, National Overseer and pastor of Macedonia of Baltimore Md. Speaking in the evening was Bishop Robert L. Harris, who preached "It's Real" Matthews 17:1-7, I Peter 2 and II Peter 2:1. This sermon concluded a very inspiring and uplifting day of service for the Northern and New England Districts.

Friday was Eastern Shore and Virginia Districts Day. Elder John R. Williams from Franklin, Va. spoke on the topic "Hold Forth the Word of Life". He was followed by Elder Elton Brown, pastor of Mount Olive Whitesville, Parksley, Va. His message was "Love God". Everyone rejoiced and was made to feel glad. The evening sermon was brought by Elder Samuel Barrett, pastor of Mount Olive, Newport News, Va. and of the congregation in St.Mary. He preached that "Jesus is the Anchor of the Soul" Hebrew 6:18 and 19. After his enlightening sermon the "Quota March" began. The Quota March, by tradition, is held on Friday night of the Convention and every district looks forward to the event.

Thomas Harris, the minister of music, hit a note on the organ which led into "Climbing Up the Mountain". Then the guitar, cymbals, tambourines, piano and drums all fell in with the sweet melody of "Climbing Up the Mountain", trying to reach the top. The members of the New England District stepped off marching around the auditorium singing and the congregation joined in. The marchers made one complete circle and stopped at the reporting desk. Minister Graham who was leading the march called, "New England District reporting."

Then the congregation yelled back, "Let's hear it then!" Minister Graham shouted, "Reporting with \$50.00!" Then the marchers stepped off again around the auditorium with the same tune. Again they stopped and reported until they reached their total. All of the other districts marched and reported in the same manner. At the end of the reporting the musicians broke loose and carried on with the congregation singing, shouting and dancing.

As it is written in Psalms 150:3-6, "Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: Praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; Praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!!" This ended a night of service that all of us will remember.

Saturday was North and South Carolina District Day. Elder Leroy Williams spoke. His message was "You can't get away from God". After the sermon the Arts and Crafts Department presented a fashion show with delegates modeling their garments and displaying their Arts and Crafts. Prizes were given to those that had the best items on display.

Saturday Night was Joy Night

On Joy Night, all the delegates, members, and friends looked forward to hearing and seeing the choirs, quartets and soloists. The singers performed one selection each in the early evening, then at midnight they performed for prizes and awards. Top groups were the Soul Survivors of South Carolina and The Traveliers of Danbury, Conn. Especially memorable solos were sung by Sis. A. Tucker, Sis. D. Austin, and Little Dorothy Adell Tucker of New Haven, Conn. and by Elder Willie Edmond of Bridgeport, Conn. The New England District choir sang two selections before Joy Night ended.

Musical inspiration throughout the Convention was provided by the National Youth Choir.

Sunday, June 17, 1973, concluded the services for the convention. Our National Youth President Elder Lawerence Eaton preached on "Somewhere to Look" Hebrews 12:1-2. "We all need somewhere to look, the President in the highest office of the United States, needs somewhere to look for advice and comfort. He looks to the Constitution, Congress and his advisor for his needs. Other countries need somewhere to look; they look to the United States for comfort and aid. The Christian needs somewhere to look; he looks to Jesus Christ for his comfort, needs and guidance". After the sermon prayer was offered for those who were joyful, but wearied and needing strength to journey home.

Since the New England District was organized in 1968, the members have desired to host The National Convention. This dream was fulfilled by the 39th National Youth Convention. Joy and happiness was felt throughout the meeting, thanks in large measures to the visiting delegates. These people were excellent in behavior, superb in manner, and respectful toward Ebenezer and the church's neighbors. The actions of the delegates were noticed with approval by residents of the City of Bridgeport.

The Convention assembly demonstrated to Bridgeport churches that the New England District does not stand alone, but stands in unity with a National organization. The meeting gave credibility to the New England District's ability to organize, prepare, and carry out a National Church function.

Members of the New England District did their best to please everyone and to make all comfortable. The members recognize that it was a God-given privilege to host the 39th Annual National Youth Convention of the Apostolic Faith Church of God, Inc.



G.B. White, D.D., L.L.D., Phd. Senior Bishop of A.F.C.O.G.



Elder Lawerence F. Eaton President of N.Y.D.



Bishop Robert L. Harris Host Pastor



Sis. Georgia White First Lady of A.F.C.O.G.



Sis. Bertha Harris Host Pastor wife



Sis. Barbara Eaton President wife



Sis. Linda Mines
Recording Secretary



Sis. Lucy Alston Assistant Secretary



Sis. Alice McDonald Financial Secretary



Min. Curtis Gay Treasurer



Elder Geanie Perry Overseer



Min. Margaret Green General Supervisor













Joy Night

















Chief Cook and his staff from left to right: Minnie Tillery, Robert Tillery, John Kaiser, Joe Thigpen and George Walker.



Ebenezer Usher from left to right: Mable Clemons, Johnnie Mouning, Clara James, Fred Armstrong and Minnie Graham.





Lucy Alston



Renae Alston



Annie Armstrong



Carolyn Armstrong



Christine Armstrong



Fred Armstrong, Jr.



Julie Armstrong



Peggy Armstrong



Rosalena Armstrong



Sophia Armstrong



George Bamerg



Samuel R. Barrett



Patricia Batts



William H. Barker



Broadus Bell



Cheryl Bell



Martha Bell



Mattie Bell



R. Billups



Raymond Brimmage



Elton Brown



Lelia Brown



Marlene Brown



Walter Butler



Annie Bysell



George Chambliss



Ida Chambliss



Margaret Chambliss



Marshall Chambliss



Nancy Chambliss



Ruby Chambliss



Doris Clemon



Mable Clemon



Vivian Clemon



William Clemon



Betty Cherry



Ronald Cherry



Carrie Clipton



Lillie Collins



Roy Cross



Mozella Daniel



Christine Davis



Ida Denard



Vivian Denard



Perry Dickson



Edmond Dowling



Barbara Eaton



Lawrence F. Eaton



Marry Emma Ebron



Willie Edmond



Jean Evans



William E. Gaines Jr



Curtis Gay



Lucille Gay



Doretha Gene



Danney Gibbs Jr



Dolly M. Gibbs



Sarah L. Gibbs



Almarine Gorham



Molly Gorham



Beverly Graham



Eddie Graham



Minnie Graham



Sharon-Graham



Linda Grant



Lois C. Grant



Margaret Green



Angie Harris



Annie B. Harris



Anita Harris



Bertha Harris



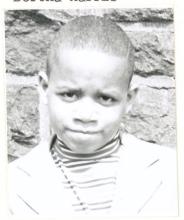
David Harris



Elnora Harris



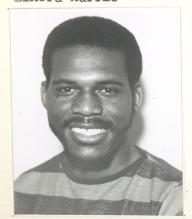
Frank Harris



Oscar Harris



Robert L. Harris Sr



Robert L. Harris Jr



Thomas Harris



Lillie Harrision



Mathews Harrision



Venaldo Henderson



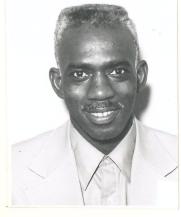
Lanie Hill



Carrie Hillard



Creala R. Hockaday



Edward Holiday



J.G. Jackson



Jesse Jones



Pearlie Mae Jones



Annie M. Johnson



Dora Johnson



Varsorine Knight



Minnie Bell King



Loretha Kaizer



John Kaizer



Jesse Langley



Lorriane Langley



Pattie Lee



Lenora Lofton



Charles Madison



Alice McDonald



Doretha Meredith



Bertha Miller



Brapton Miller



Brenolder Miller



Brodus Miller



Chico Miller



Ruth Miller



Linda Mines



Caletha Mouning



Emma Mouning



Helen Mouning



Gregory Mouning



Jeffrey Mouning



Jesse Mouning



John Lacy Mouning



John W. Mouning



Johnnie Lee Mouning



Kenneth Mouning



Leathia Mouning



Marvin Mouning



Noamia Mouning



Rovena Mouning



Thelma Mouning



Sarah Newsome



Myron Noble



Eleylne Owens



Nora Parson



Dazelle Payton



Lucy Peele



Anglea Pemberton



Timothy Pemberton



Dasie Perry



Geanie Perry



Jacquelin J. Perry



Jerome Perry



Lyndora Perry



Ruth W. Perry



Donald Peterson



Norman Peterson Jr



Norman Peterson Sr



Polly Portee



Darlene Reid



Evelyn Richardson



Gene Richardson



Jack Richardson



Magdalene Richardson



Betty Jo Robinson



Estelle Robinson



Isaac J. Robinson



Blanche L. Roland



Winnie Rawls



Ruffin Rudd



Mattie Sandres



Charlie Mae Savage



Sandra D. Savage



Linda Sawyer



James Shell



Lorriane Shell



Jimmie Smith



Eric Solomon



Ruby Solomon



Lawerence Taylor



Menzer Taylor



Robin Taylor



Katie Teel



Joe Thigpen



Joseph R. Thigpen



Esther Thomas



Ephram Thompson



Joy Tillery



Minnie Tillery



Robert Tillery Jr



Minnie Townsend



Leonard Vincent



Anthony Walker



Earlene Walker



Alice Watson



Cleveland D. Watson



Bertha Mae Waydes



Bettie J. Whitaker



Elnoria Whitaker



George B. White



Georigia White



Norman W. White



Odell White



Deloise Williams



Dorothy E. Williams



John A. Williams Jr



John R. Williams



Leroy Williams



Sandra L. Williams



Steven D. Willis



Louis Wilson



Louis Worthington



Martha Worthington



Zola Barnhill

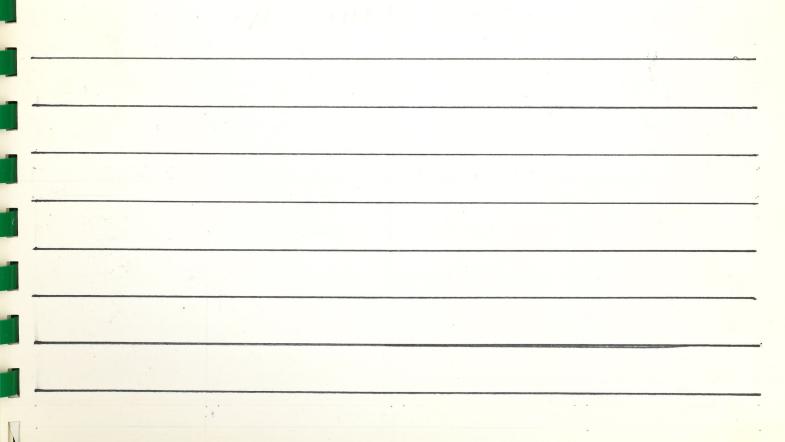




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Pentecostal Apostolic Faith
Drum Hill, N.C.
Comments: I really enjoyed
this 39th Convention, it
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TILLERY, Minnie (Missionary)
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Ebenezer A.F.C.O.G. Bridgeport, Conn.

TILLERY, Robert Jr. 7 Grove St. Danbury, Conn.

Ebenezer A.F.C.O.G. Bridgeport, Conn.

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Ebenezer A.F.C.O.G. Bridgeport, Conn.

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WATSON, Alice P.O.Box 29 Atlantic, Va.

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WATSON, Cleveland D. Atlantic, Va.

St. Joseph A.F.C.O.G. Atlantic, Va.

Comments: The convention was most enjoyable

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Comments: This has been one of the greatest Conventions.

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