



IS BLAKE NEARING HIS WATERLOO? September 2016

Let's suppose it is a gorgeous "Indian Summer" day and the song of praise with an assist by the organist has just been sung at Sunday morning worship. Without warning a group of men walk into your sanctuary displaying a letter invoking authority from Presiding Bishop Blake

stating that they were sent to oust you. Based on eyewitness accounts that is precisely what happened. After listening with tears to the video tape account of Supt. Milton L. Joyner regarding the unlawful intrusion of the **Pacific Mt. Olive COGIC** by a goon squad of so-called ministers, I am still stunned. They indicated that they were from the (Metropolitan Jurisdiction of Southern California-Bishop J.B Hackworth) acting at the behest of Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake. I had to shake myself to ask whether this was a scene from a Mafia movie. They came to ransack and vandalize church property several times prior to this unfortunate event. Every card carrying credential holder in **COGIC** (Church of God in Christ) should either be up in arms, cautious or half scared about this kind of behavior. If left unaddressed you could be next. What about nearly forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) of property damage incurred at **Pacific Mt. Olive**? After interviewing Supt. Joyner, I concluded that he is a genuine committed servant of God. I am not called to "fix the church" but to "pierce the darkness" and hold leadership accountable by communicating in compelling language what a Holiness-Pentecostal church committed to the Kingdom agenda should look like. In Pauline language, "I am put here for the defense of the Gospel."

(Bishop C.E. Blake –the following excerpts are from **How Long this Madness/ Why I Stood** -1999 in defense of Derrick Hutchins in the Orlando case versus the late Presiding Bishop CD. Owens)

"The presiding bishop has not permitted the General Board to exercise the oversight and governance of the church stipulated by the constitution." Time and time again he makes decisions and implements without consulting with or receiving the approval of the General Board." –C.E. Blake

"The one responsible for upholding the constitution of the church is the foremost transgressor thereof. The one responsible for providing protection of the various constitutional entities of the church is the greatest threat to their existence and well being."

“Pastors are leaving because they see no benefit in laboring to develop a strong congregation whose assets are vulnerable to the intrusion of those who have contributed to its wellbeing or establishment.” –C.E. Blake

“We must allow no one to claim personal ownership or dictatorial power over God’s church It belongs to Him, it belongs to all of us. We have a right to feel safe, secure, and respected in our church. We will accept nothing less.” –C.E. Blake

The Prophetic Witness of the Judiciary

To oppose a Judiciary is clearly exercising the option of poor judgment. To attempt to remove a Superintendent who is a pastor without proper constitutional legal protocol is lack of common sense and wisdom. The Judiciary must be commended for ruling in the cause of justice. It takes courage to do what is right in the face of unfair pressure and criticism regardless of a situational circumstance.

The ruling against Bishop Blake et.al. in the **Pacific Mt. Olive** case is a critique of the old order in **COGIC**. Pastor Joyner had been released from (**MJSC jurisdiction** -JB Hackworth) when the members of **PMO** invited him to be their pastor. He combined the membership of his **Greater Holiness Church** with **Mt. Olive** to form **Pacific Mt. Olive**. Pastor Joyner appealed the decision of the local jurisdiction **Pastors and Elders Council** on the grounds that their ruling was unfair. The **National Pastors and Elders Judicial Council** reviewed the facts of the case on appeal and ruled in favor of **PMO**. When Bishop Blake through misdirection of the **General Board**, partnered with Bishop Hackworth through overreach, Joyner felt violated and appealed to the **Judiciary**. The **Judiciary** examined the facts of the case that ran counter to the Chairman of the **General Assembly**, Bishop Hunt who also viewed this case and rendered an opinion. The Los Angeles Superior Court ruled in favor of **PMO** on September 14, 2016. It is apparent that the **Judiciary** ruling was key in the decision by the Superior Court. This leads me to discuss the significance of the **Judiciary**.

The **National Judiciary** is the legal system of the **COGIC** whose primary task is to interpret the Constitution and apply the law as it deems appropriate by the authority given to it by the Church. Like the Supreme Court for whom we model, the **Judiciary** also provides a mechanism for the resolution of disputes and acts as the Court of final appeal. It does not make laws, (which is the responsibility of the Legislature), or enforce laws (which is the responsibility

of the Executive branch- **General Board** etc.) but rather interprets law and applies it to the facts of each case. They are a well trained cadre of matured professionals that include lawyers, judges, educators, theologians, et.al. The purpose of a **Judiciary** is to provide balance as well as reflect “*separation of powers.*” They are to be independent thinkers, who must never be influenced or intimidated by one’s status or title, who apply the law equally based on the facts of a case. Hopefully, their objectivity will ne used as a prophetic critique of future cases, that says the “*old way*” and the “*good old boys club*” approach to decision-making is over, as they “*speak truth to power.*” Unless there is an occasion for a respectful dialogue that seeks God’s wisdom in each of us, the future in **COGIC** will be chaotic.

Don’t take my Ewe Lamb: 2 Samuel 12: 1-12 (LAB) “*So the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to tell David this story. There were two men in a certain city, one very rich, owning many flocks of sheep and herds of goats; and the other very poor, owning nothing but a little lamb he had managed to buy. It was his children’s pet and he fed it from his own plate and let it drink from his own cup; he cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. A guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing a lamb from his own flocks for food for the traveler, he took the poor man’s lamb and roasted it. David was furious. I swear by the living God, he vowed, any man who would do a thing like that should be put to death...Then Nathan said to David...“You are the man”. I will cause your own house to rebel against you...I will give your wives to another man, and he will go to bed with them in public view. You did it secretly, But I will do this to you openly in the sight of all Israel.*” David had become so insensitive to his own sins that he did not realize that he was the villain in the prophet’s story.

Do not be surprised should you see an “*armless hand*” writing on the wall as we near the forthcoming election. I believe with conviction that Armageddon has come to our dwelling. No sophisticated, public relation damage control team can evade the unavoidable or withstand the day of God's vengeance. Once reproach has been brought upon God's name, God will sacrifice God to protect His name. This is beyond our trivialized thinking. We must never be guilty of derailing the holiness we should be proclaiming and allowing it to become a mockery. God is still honoring the promise made to Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. May I admonish you that God will not be mocked. Watch God’s left hand of wrath, justice and judgment. I had no intention to say this...I lost control of the keyboard. JB Phillips translates **Galatians 6:7** to read “*Don't be under any illusion...you cannot make a fool of God.*”

The great French General Napoleon Bonaparte met his defeat just a few miles from Belgium Brussels at a place called **Waterloo**. Bishop Blake I want to admonish you as the church's senior theologian, ecumenist and a mere brother to be careful with the **Pacific Mount Olive COGIC** and similar ones. You have sons that you want to succeed you in ministry. Be careful that you do not abort their future by making poor choices. Whether you run, win or lose, we will hold you accountable to the same high standards you demanded of Bishop CD Owens. As Chief Defender you must never be labeled the "chief violater." If you mislead God's people for selfish reasons, **Pacific Mount Olive COGIC** can very easily become your **Waterloo**. It is only about ten (10) minutes from West Angeles Church. After all, Supt. Milton Joyner is entitled to "*his Ewe lamb.*"



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