

## Why Bishop Blake Must Take His Own Medicine



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Dear COGIC Family:

In 1999, a General Board Member testified under oath in Orlando Florida, on behalf of Superintendent D. Hutchins, in a case against then presiding Bishop CD Owens. *"I testified that the presiding bishop was not like the Pope, because the Pope is elected for life, and the presiding bishop is elected for four years... 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."* That **General Board Member** in 1999 was our present Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake. In his diatribe against Bishop Owens, Bishop Blake mentioned the Constitution sixteen (16) times. Has Bishop Blake changed his mind in seventeen (17) years or is this a case of selective amnesia? I radically believe with conviction that it is time for Bishop Blake to **"take his own medicine."** This is about the violation of our Constitution. Bishop Blake excoriated Bishop Owens for violating the Constitution and not administering the church according to guidelines. He opted for a church where people will feel safe. This document provoked Bishop Owens to overreact and cost him the election of 2000. It all started because of Bishop Blake's feigned undying loyalty to upholding the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ. We feel the same commitment and loyalty you demonstrated and are compelled to challenge current leadership to uphold our Constitution without a double standard. (excerpt from **How Long this Madness/ aka Why I Stood?**) Why are we afraid to hold leadership accountable?

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Bishop Blake likened the return of JD Ellis recently to a prodigal coming back home. However, a son does not return and lead the household as an advisor to the leader. Bishop Blake is the only Presiding Bishop beside Bishop JO Patterson to receive Ellis. The presence of JD Ellis holding dual membership as head of an Apostolic Church and COGIC should be an embarrassment to every credential holder in the General Assembly. Our founding Chief Apostle Bishop C.H. Mason encountered the *"Jesus Only"*

controversy in his day and openly challenged it. Bishop Blake appears to be accommodating this heresy. JD Ellis should have never been appointed Chief of Chaplain and Vetting Officer for the Church with access to the Pentagon without proper vetting protocol. Currently, if JD Ellis is charged with impersonation of a military officer or any other offense, our leadership will also be held accountable.

My research has revealed that JD Ellis has several resumes which are falsified. The claim to military experience appears suspect. (**CAP**- Civilian Air Patrol is not the authority of the United States Air Force) When he stated that he received a D.D. from Morehouse College (my Alma Mater), I decided its time to speak. This is unfair to those of us who have earned legitimate degrees. One cannot be Trinitarian and Apostolic at the same time, it is a logical contradiction.(He cites Bishop Blake as the seventh in Apostolic Succession. We do not follow the Eastern rule of succession, that is Catholic. Ours is the Western rule as Protestants following Luther and the Protestant Reformation.) Ellis touts himself as being leader of the College of African-American College of Bishops???????

JD Ellis should not be perpetrating as a member of Ohio Central West Jurisdiction under Bishop Emmit Nevels while pastoring an Apostolic church. Ellis and his wife should not be on **COGIC** payroll while pastoring an Apostolic church. (I could be angry that I have been denied salary as **Ecumenical Officer** for nine (9) years with an appointment that has never been revoked. Nor have I been dismissed formally. I was informally released by omission and the withdrawal of resources from the office and the deletion of the Ecumenical site by a greedy brother that Blake later fired). Bishop Blake was hoping that I would wither and just go away. I care for JD Ellis as a brother, but I am also adamant in insisting that leadership must follow our Constitution. Leaders must never knowingly violate our Constitution or doctrine for personal and political reasons that have little or nothing to do with God's will. It is called "*abuse of power.*" They must be held accountable. Oh by the way Bishop Blake, I admonished you earlier to leave the **Pacific Mt. Olive church** alone, but you either have a serious hearing or listening problem.

Biblically, you should not be in court with Earl Carter, a pastor, whether you like him or not. This is unheard of in **COGIC**. Bishop Mason responded to a lawsuit but never initiated one. We are trying to look to you as an example of what it means to shepherd the people of God. Please stop listening to those false voices that tell you "*Bishop Blake we are with you.*" Seek God's will for the future. You have not presented the Church with a vision for nine (9) years.

You lost at least three elections and only got in by default as First Assistant Presiding Bishop due to the death of your predecessor, Bishop GE Patterson. Is it more money that you want? Your salary alone with accrued benefits from **COGIC** exceeds the missions budget...that is scandalous. Warning, you may win the election in November by having stacked the vote by having consecrated over two-hundred auxiliary Bishops in hopes that they will vote for you... and still lose the church by default because Armageddon has reached our ranks. I repeat, we should not belong to **COGIC**...**COGIC** should rightfully belong to its non-voting and voting constituency. **Your medicine is waiting!**

**Titus 2: 1-** *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”* In conclusion, if Bishop Blake and Ellis are right in their polity stance (dual membership), our Constitution is wrong; if they are right in their theological stance (embracing Apostolic and Trinitarian polity), our doctrine is wrong; if both are right in their methodological approach, the Bible is wrong. The only way out of a morass is to do the right thing. I would rather be dead than afraid to do what in conscience and spirit is right. Any **General Board Member** who does not uphold our Constitution should not be re-elected to serve.

There is one more thing...any National officer under a court case, court order or investigation should not be seeking office. If this informal policy generated by the **General Assembly** is violated it means that we are operating with *“double standards”* under our present system of rules. No it is not formally constitutional but it is theoretically appropriate since a precedent has been set by the **General Assembly**. The poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow stated with clarity:

*“Though the mills of God grind slowly,  
Yet they grind exceeding small;  
Though with patience he stands waiting,  
With exactness grinds he all”*

Bishop Blake, ***“it is now time for you to take your own medicine.”!!!***

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