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## **The Church Of God In Christ Celebrates Centennial** *Presiding Bishop and Denomination Excited About 100<sup>th</sup> Convocation*

(August 22, 2007 – Memphis, Tenn) Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake and members of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. (COGIC) are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Holy Convocation, November 5 to November 12, in Memphis, Tennessee. More than 70,000 saints are expected to convene in Memphis from around the world to commemorate the centennial of the denomination.

The Church Of God In Christ began their centennial celebration at the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Holy Convocation in 2006. They will continue to observe the occasion with the culmination at the 100<sup>th</sup> Convocation. “This year has been a great period of reflection and prayer,” said Blake. “Our church has grown from a small congregation founded in Memphis to a 6.5 million member international denomination in the last hundred years and that is something to celebrate. We are honoring all the lives saved and souls that have come to know Jesus as a result of the Church.” COGIC is presently in 58 countries around the world.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Holy Convocation is expected to be unlike any other. This year, the denomination is taking an international approach by organizing programs designed to include delegates who will not attend the Convocation in Memphis but will participate from around the world. The church will hold a *Parade of Nations Global Centennial Salute* which will give COGIC members the opportunity to celebrate the rich history of the church in each of the 58 countries. The Church Of God In Christ plans to televise *Official Day* services by satellite so that delegates in different nations can share in Official Day.

The most significant event the church has prepared is The Worldwide Centennial Communion Service. This communion service will be carried live via satellite so that churches around the world can participate together. Four to six designated foreign countries will also partake in the communion service as direct participants. In Memphis, delegates will see 2,000 to 5,000 saints across the world simultaneously joining together to break bread in Brazil, London, Nigeria, India and the Philippines. “The Centennial Communion Service is an extraordinary way to unite our brothers and sisters in Christ across the globe,” said Blake. “This is a great opportunity for saints to come together and celebrate the body of Christ.”

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During the Convocation, COGIC is holding ongoing services for 24 hours daily at Mason Temple and will have delegates answering telephone prayer lines as well as email and faxed prayer requests for those around the world wanting prayer. The Church Of God In Christ also plans to have 24-hour streaming video of convocation worship services online at [www.cogiccentennial.org](http://www.cogiccentennial.org).

The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Holy Convocation will begin with a time of fasting and prayer. The service will be held at Mason Temple at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 5 and will continue through the formal opening at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 6.

**The Church Of God In Christ is the fourth-largest Protestant religious denomination in the United States with an estimated membership above 6.5 million members. COGIC headquarters are located at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee.**

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