



▶ **FOX, William K.** William K. Fox was the last editor of The Christian Plea when it ended publication in 1959. Commencing publication in the 1930s, The Christian Plea was started to reflect the concerns and aspirations of Black Disciples, something not possible with The Gospel Plea, published at the Southern Christian Institute but controlled by J. B. Lehman. Notably, and after much argument, particularly from Dr. Eppse, Fox became the first African American to receive a divinity school tuition scholarship on his acceptance to the University of Chicago. The full fellowship, including residence at the Disciples Divinity House and a monthly stipend came later when Eppse kept the matter before the Black Disciples of Christ in The Christian Plea. Meanwhile, during the first quarter of his matriculation, Fox lived with E. C. and Rosa Page Welch. Fox remained to complete and receive his bachelor of divinity degree. Fox also served as Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

▶ **FROST, Thomas Buchanan.** Professor T. B. Frost was the first teacher at Jarvis Christian College. Frost arrived on the raw forty acre site in 1911. He repaired two cabins left by a lumber camp and brought his family to join him. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acre land parcel cleared and under cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. He then served as the Superintendent of Industries until 1922.



▶ **HENRY, Jr., Enoch Walton.** The Rev. E. W. Henry, Jr., along with Miss Ida Reid, led the activity at the first services on the grounds of Christian View Camp and Conference Grounds in Reidsville, North Carolina following its dedication on June 30, 1968. The Grounds were the long desired development of the Piedmont Tri-State Convention. Rev. Henry, a graduate of Jarvis Christian Institute in the 1940s, served as a Piedmont Tri-State Convention field worker.

▶ **MOSS, Patrick Henry.** Cited in the Piedmont Tri-State Convention Centennial Yearbook as being an employee of the American Christian Missionary Society circa 1909, charged with doing work amongst Colored schools. At that time Elder Moss lived in Edwards, Mississippi. In 1909, Elder Moss attended the 27th Annual Session of the Piedmont Convention of the Christian Church in Chatham, Virginia. By 1913, the Piedmont Convention lists Elder Moss as living in Martinsville, Virginia.



▶ **MYERS, Sere Stacey "S.S."** S.S. Myers is a noted African-American Disciples of Christ church strategist and architect of the merger of program and staff services for the National Christian Missionary Convention and the United Christian Missionary Society. Myers, who graduated as valedictorian from Southern Christian Institute, was born September 25, 1898 in Clay County, Mississippi to ex-slave parents who were devout Baptists.

Biographical details from **Journey Toward Wholeness: A History of Black Disciples in the Mission of the Church:** National Convocation, 1990, Brenda Cardwell and William K. Fox, Sr.

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Revised Edition 2004 Series

"Wherefore seeing
we also are
compassed about
with so great a
cloud of
witnesses..."

Hebrews 12:1-2

Black Disciples #1

Who Made A Difference



Black people have made an enormous contribution to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This brochure contains a brief listing of African Americans whose lives are significant parts of our legacy.



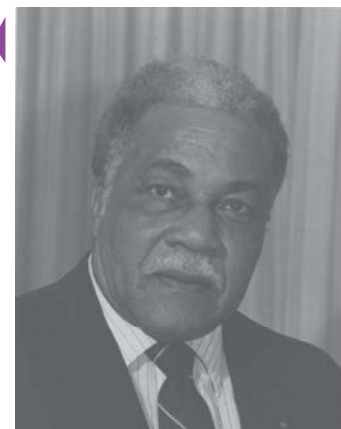
▶ **Carnella Jameson Barnes.** Carnella L. Jamison was educated at Southern Christian Institute and Talladega College. She became National Field Secretary of Negro Missionary Organizations, based out of the United Christian Missionary Society at Indianapolis in 1938. She was ordained to Christian ministry in 1938. For seven years Miss Jamison traveled the breadth of the United States. In 1945, Miss Jamison became Director of the Community Christian Center of the Avalon Christian Church in Los Angeles. In 1945, Carnella married Anderson B. Barnes and mothered triplets. Carnella Barnes ultimately became the first African American President of the International Christian Women's Fellowship from 1974 to the 1978 Quadrennial which recorded the largest attendance in recent decades of 4,914 people. Mrs. Barnes died January 4, 1997.

▶ **BOSTIK, Sarah Lue.** A graduate of Southern Christian Institute, Sarah Lue Howard was born near Glasgow, Kentucky on May 27, 1868. One of ten children of a black and Choctaw father and a black and white mother, Ms. Howard grew up largely self-educated and fiercely independent. She moved to Arkansas in 1888, married Mancil Bostik, an ordained minister and a medical practitioner, and spent a long lifetime effectively organizing on behalf of women's work throughout the state. In 1902, Sarah Bostik was appointed State Organizer amongst the black congregations in Arkansas. Bertha Mason invited Sarah Lue Bostik to Texas to assist in the organization of a school for blacks. For ten years these two women worked toward the opening of the Jarvis Christian Institute in January, 1913. Sarah Lue Bostik died in 1948.



▶ **BRACY, Rosa Brown.** Rosa Brown grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi, the daughter of a pastor. At twelve, she entered the Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Mississippi. In 1917, Rosa Brown became the first Field Secretary for Negro Work with the Christian Women's Board of Missions. After 1920, she worked as staff member for both the newly-formed United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) and the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC). After marriage, Mrs. Bracy, sometimes known as the "Sojourner Truth" of Black Disciples of Christ, worked until retirement in 1938. She continued her efforts as a missionary to the African American disciples until her death, at which time she was President of the NCMC's Christian Women's Fellowship.

▶ **COMPTON, John R.** Dr. Compton is the leader of "first" in the Christian Church. He was the first African American Regional Minister, the first African American President of a General Unit, and the first Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (DOC). John Compton developed the Reconciliation Program to combat the root causes of racism, serving as director of General Reconciliation from 1968 to 1970. Dr. Compton was also the first African American trustee board member of the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) when appointed in 1961. In 1977, Dr. Compton became the first African American Regional Minister in Indiana. In 1981, John Compton set precedent again being appointed president of the Division of Homeland Ministries, the first African American to hold this position.



▶ **DICKERSON, L. L.** L. L. Dickerson was a consistent advocate for civil rights and leader in promoting ministerial recruitment and preparation.

▶ **DICKSON, Emmett J.** Emmett Dickson was the only Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC) for approximately 50 years. Dickson personally recruited and transported many future leaders to Jarvis Christian College. In 1960-61, Dickson became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director of church relations on the staff of the Division of Church Life and Work in the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS), later to be known as the Department of Homeland Ministries. Rev. Dickson preached the dedication sermon at the opening of the Piedmont Tri-State's Christian View Camp and Conference Grounds on June 30, 1968. Emmett J. Dickson retired from Homeland Ministries on June 30, 1974.



▶ **ERVIN, James Nelson.** James Ervin was approached by Miss Ida V. Jarvis to head up Jarvis Christian Institute. The school opened in 1913 with Ervin as President. Before coming to Jarvis, Texas-born, Ervin had been a distinguished school administrator in Detroit, Michigan, New York City and Johnson City, Tennessee. Ervin was a Latin scholar who had studied at Columbia University following his liberal arts degree. With the first teacher, Professor T. B. Frost and later Professor C. A. Berry from the Southern Christian Institute, Ervin built the original campus from the timbered land. The land also operated a farm which fed the school. Against all odds, President Ervin led Jarvis College to become an accredited high school, a junior college and ultimately a four year college. Now known as Jarvis Christian College, Jarvis is the "only missionary institution established by the Christian Women's Board of Mission (CWBM) for the training of African Americans that is still in existence." Through the course of Ervin's illustrious career at Jarvis, the institution grew from that of an elementary school in 1914, to a high school in 1924, to a junior college in 1927. Later under Peter C. Washington's stewardship, Jarvis won accreditation as a senior college by the Texas State Department of Education in 1941 and in 1947, by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Jarvis College became an accredited four-year college.

▶ **EVANS, Lorenzo J.** Lorenzo Evans was the first African American staff of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (DOC) in the area of Christian Education. Rev. Evans is a co-founder of the Star Supporter Fund. Evans was Program Secretary for the Butler Street YMCA in Atlanta when he joined the National Convocation office in 1946 in Indianapolis as Director of Education. In 1960-61, Evans became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director of field services on the staff of the Department of Christian Education in the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS). Lorenzo J. Evans retired from the Division of Homeland Ministries (formerly the United Christian Missionary Society) on June 30, 1974 after thirty years of meritorious service.

