



# New Vision Cathedral

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**Dr. Edward Lee Johnson Sr., Senior Pastor**

To: COGIC Constituents

From: Edward Lee Johnson Sr.

Re: Bishop Charles Blake and COGIC's tacit response to the Man of Valor sexual perverted manual debacle

Date: June 5, 2016

This latest move from Bishop Charles Blake's administration is straight out of the Mafia play book, i.e. cover your buddies but kill the dissenters. These statements that were sent out from the church do not address the core issues with the COGIC Man of Valor Program—it is just a PR stunt for damage control. (*See both statements in the following pages of this letter*). If Bishop Blake wants to make this right, he needs to remember what he did in December 2014 with Earl Carter. (In my opinion it was to appease the gay community.) **The material in the manual actually VALIDATES what Earl Carter was destroyed for.** In Bishop Charles Edward Blake's own words: "It was under my watch that this happened..." So, why did Ben Stevens get to write a letter with a simple slap on the wrist but Earl Carter was not given the chance to? Pastor Carter was told by Bishop Blake not to write a statement until he or his PR person gets back to him; but within five days he went on the World Wide Web with a video and assassinated Carter. He used statements like: "That Speaker," as if he didn't know anything about the person that he knew of for over 40 years. **No godly person will do this without making it right.**

Producing this manual and putting it into circulation was a subtle and deliberate move. The culprits didn't plan on the adults paying too much attention but it was meant to open the floodgates for the next generation of vulnerable COGIC's. However, just like anything that Satan does, he cannot foresee consequences. Those who were in on this corruption underestimated the power of Social Media. **If Earl Carter was not so far on the opposing end of this administration, and didn't "Ring This Bell" as loudly as he did, everyone would have slept right through this crisis.** You know what has been said about us and much of it is true: "If you want to hide it from Black people, put it in a book". I don't agree with everything that Dr. Carter does; and no one agrees on everything all the time. However—the cause is legitimate. When this whole fiasco got out of hand and apparent that the entire leadership dropped the ball in forcing the Presiding Bishop to do the right thing, it was time for Nathan to confront David and make his unrepentant sin and pride public.

I have reasons to believe that the manual was actually produced by Ben Stevens, a product of West Angeles. He was formerly over the program, and it is believed that the book was his work. When Dr. David Hall was apprised of the content in the manual—as a member of the publishing house board—he ordered it to be taken off of the bookstore shelf and not to be produced in the publishing house. **However, three days later Ben Stevens ordered that it be put back into circulation, and that is why I was able to purchase a copy from the publishing house.** Ben knew exactly what was in the manual—but when Earl Carter exposed it to the extent that he did after I sent it to him—*no one wanted to take ownership for this corrupt material being printed from a holiness church publishing house.* **In fact—no statement that was sent out actually tells us who produced the manual. Can we get the proper information on this issue NOW?** A wise third grader can see through these shenanigans.

Having seen first-hand how Bishop Blake deals with individuals who will not bow down to him, Ben gets a pass because he is "Bishop's boy". **Because of the corruption that is throughout this administration—he gets away with a mea culpa when he should have been fired. Since Ben was wrong why wasn't a video produced on him like it was on Carter?** What is so funny to me is that this scenario played out exactly as I called it just before it became the next public scandal under Bishop Blake. Here is what I said, "Nothing will happen to Ben Stevens

and Andrew Castro, who's over the Men of Valor program now, will probably be the fall-guy." Then I said, "Watch Bishop Blake acts as if he didn't know anything." I even have witnesses that I said it too. Of course I do not expect anything to be done because the general constituents of the church have allowed Bishop Charles Blake to lead them off of the cliff. In 2013 just after returning from the Holy Convocation—I was in a dream/vision, sitting in Mason Temple, and I saw the entire Temple over-run with fowl beasts. "So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about." (Ezekiel 8:10) I completely forgot about this dream until I mentioned to one of my members what had taken place in the 2014 Holy Convocation. Then, she reminded me of what I had said to the congregation one year earlier.

The fact that the Presiding Bishop is suing a pastor in public court without giving him an official hearing in the church, that he made a great living preaching in for over forty years, tells you exactly where the problem lies in COGIC. Everybody who has any spiritual foundation knows that this should not be happening. **What does it say about any church that will allow its leader to openly defy God's word and not hold him accountable? The only reason this is allowed to happen is because Bishop Charles Blake have made a reputation of being brutally crippling to anyone who opposes him. So, the fellow leadership of COGIC is portraying "false humility," but many are really AFRAID of reprisal and the consequences of Bishop Blake. And, some are not speaking out because they are posturing themselves for the next promotion—speaking may be political suicide. His actions are the epitome of a tyrant and not a spiritual leader.**

Until the General Board, The Board of Bishops and the General Assembly fulfill their spiritual and moral responsibility to deal with the, "Chief Apostle" of the Church Of God In Christ" and force him to do what is right in the site of God and the church, we are FINISHED in the eyes of the world as a spiritual and moral authority. Yes—we are the butt of the joke in the eyes of many because of all this wickedness being covered up. But it's really not covered up because God has exposed us—we just have our heads in the sand wishing that it will go away. Some are actually saying what Ezekiel said: "...For they say, the LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth." (Ezekiel 8:12) At this point in the history of COGIC we simply have a form of godliness. We have lusted after the influence of the Catholic Church for so long until we have literally inherited its corruption as well. Any institution that will not properly enact judgment on those within their ranks when they are blatantly WRONG is upholding a system that is tantamount to "the fox watching the hen house." **COGIC, judge yourself now!**



**INTERNATIONAL Youth DEPARTMENT CHURCH OF God IN Christ, Inc. D R. B ENJAMIN STEPHENS, III International Youth Department President.**

**May 29,2016 B ISHOP CHARLES E. B LAKE, SR. - P RESIDING B ISHOP To Presiding Bishop Charles Blake, Sr.: Evangelist Joyce L. Rogers International YOUTH DEPARTME CHAIRLADY**

As International Youth Department President, I would like to apologize for the inclusion of content within the Young Men of Valor (2015 Edition) that is inconsistent with the Church of God in Christ doctrine. I am very passionate about the total well-being of the young men to whom we minister through the Young Men of Valor, with their spirituality and sanctified living, being of utmost importance. Whereas, I am fully aware of the difficult choices that many young men face on a daily basis, it is my charge to teach, preach and distribute doctrine that is wholly consistent with that of the Church in God in Christ. It was under my watch that the Young Men of Valor (2015 Edition) was published that omitted the Church of God in Christ's well-established theological, biblical, and doctrinal information surrounding "sanctified" sexuality. In its stead was clinical information acquired from various (non-Church of God in Christ) professional sources. The 2015 edition clearly represents a lapse in judgment and failure in supervision, and I take full responsibility for it. Young Men of Valor's stance, teachings, and views are: 1. Sex is not to be engaged in outside the context of marriage; therefore, encouraging young men to maintain their virginity until marriage, by practicing celibacy. 2. We support the concept and commitment to sexual abstinence prior to marriage. 3. We encourage and support holy matrimony only between a man and woman. 4. We find it vital to address sexual temptations but from a holy and biblical perspective. 5. · S¥1gle Young

Men of Valor are encouraged to live chaste and sexually pure according to the Bible and the Doctrine of the Church of God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian (Young Man of Valor) is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world. To date, all Young Men of Valor (YMV) manuals have been pulled from circulation and the new YMV Manual is being completed for distribution. For those who have obtained a YMV Manual with this error, you are asked to return it to the COGIC Publishing House or visit the IYD Booth during the upcoming AIM Convention, and once the new amended edition is completed, you will receive a copy (free of charge). Again I would like to apologize to our Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. and the entire leadership of the Church of God in Christ, her constituents, and to those who support YMV. I can assure you that going forward, I will represent the COGIC doctrine, in all verbal and written communications, in a sanctified manner. Again, I offer my sincere apology. Prayerfully,  
Dr. Benjamin Stephens, III— International youth Department President



### **Church of God in Christ Statement on the Young Men of Valor Training Manual for Adult Facilitators (Edition 2)**

**Purpose:** To repudiate unbiblical teachings on sexuality expressed in the Young Men of Valor Training Manual for Adult Facilitators (edition 2) and delineate actions taken and revised protocols implemented to ensure this situation does not happen again in the future.

Holiness is the defining doctrine of the Church of God in Christ. In the twentieth century, the Church of God in Christ, the Mother Church, gave birth to a distinctive holiness-Pentecostal movement. In 1907, one year after the Azusa Street Revival, the Church of God in Christ was founded. Embracing and living in accordance with the Word of God has always been the foundation of our faith, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). A recent publication, The International Youth Department, Church of God in Christ, Young Men of Valor Training Manual for Adult Facilitators (Edition 2), has come to our attention. Unfortunately the section on sexual health in this manual is contrary to Christian teaching – teenagers are counseled to decide when it is right to have sex by consulting their “partners” and their feelings and beliefs. There is no mention of God’s commands, the Bible, prayer or the prohibition of sexual activity outside of marriage. Young men are directed to talk to parents, counselors and others about sexual activity, but they are not directed to consult scripture, pastors, evangelists or other church leaders. The text includes several references, which seems to imply that homosexuality is a permissible choice for teenagers to consider. The text also seems to imply that it is appropriate for teenagers to decide to engage in sexual activity, again, without any mention of marriage, the bible or church teachings. Abstinence is discussed, but only as an option, not as a requirement of godly conduct. Some, perhaps most, of the content of this chapter appears to have been lifted from a secular publication designed for a secular audience. Other sections of the manual that deal with the use of tobacco and marijuana are also not in line with our church teachings. The erroneous teachings referenced above are repudiated by the Presiding Bishop and by all church leaders. The inappropriate information was included in the revised manual without proper vetting. In addition, critical information that aligned with the beliefs and teachings of the Church was excluded. The President is responsible for ensuring the doctrinal integrity of documents published by the department. He also has a grave responsibility to protect the faith and innocence of our children at all costs. In both instances, he failed in the case of the Young Men of Valor Training Manual for Adult Facilitators (Edition 2). The failure to have in place processes that provide for appropriate review and sign off constitutes a failure by departmental management. Further, the failure to notify the Presiding Bishop immediately when he became aware of the issue is troublesome. Pastor Stephens has accepted full responsibility for the failure to provide appropriate supervision. This situation has also brought to light the fact that the Publishing Board does not have in place adequate safeguards to ensure that all materials that are promoted on the website and sold online or at the bookstore are properly vetted to ensure that they are in line with our teachings.

#### **To address this matter the following actions have been taken:**

1. Pastor Ben Stephens has given a strong reprimand and his actions will be subject to oversight for an undetermined period of time;
2. Oversight and management of the Young Men of Valor program has been reassigned;

3. Bishop James L. Whitehead, Jr. has been appointed to lead a standing commission that will be responsible for reviewing all printed departmental materials as well as all materials promoted or sold through the Publishing House to ensure they are in line with COGIC doctrine;
4. Representatives of the Publishing Board will appear before the General Board semi-annually to provide information on content being offered; and,
5. All department leaders have been tasked with conducting an audit within their respective departments to determine if any documents now exist that are in need of revision to ensure alignment with COGIC doctrine.

From time to time, God allows troublesome situations to occur so that we will move to a higher level of diligence. Out of the pain of this trying situation, we are applying what we learned to improve our processes, which ultimately makes us more effective.