Bishop McCollough here to dedicate East Baltimore House of Prayer For All People

Successor to Sweet Daddy Grace praises Eastside congregation; new church built free from debt in heart of East Baltimore.

"Whenever He gets here He'll still be on time."

These were the words used to describe the feelings of the throng of East Baltimoreans as they patiently awaited the coming of the Honorable Bishop W. McCollouth to the dedication services of the United House of Prayer For All People just before Easter.

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and the crowd included not only Eastside citizens but dignitaries from all Baltimore, the state of Maryland and surrounding states.

The willingness to await the arrival of the bishop who succeeded the church founder, Sweet Daddy Grace, was an honor and the sentiments of the expectant believers was expressed by Elder C. Taylor, chairman of the District of Columbia.

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Bishop McCollough is the spiritual advisor and leader of the denomination which includes followers across the nation and foreign countries the number of which is estimated in the hundreds of thousands.

The dedication ceremonies March 9 were for the new, mortgage-free, custom-designed church at 1515 Ashland Ave., the memorial to the praiseworthy members of the East Baltimore Mission that has been in existence since April, 1931.

According to Sister Margaret Barksdale, member of the program committee, the East Baltimore House of Prayer is one of many but the first in East Baltimore. It is the second in Maryland and the first since Sweet Daddy McCollough became the leader.

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Originally, the United House of Prayer moved from storefront to storefront within the area before it located in the 1500 block of Ashland Ave.

The Founding Father, the late Sweet Daddy Grace, visited the site and stated that he desired to own the property.

In 1972 when the urban renewal and redevelopment of Baltimore went through razing property, Bishop McCollough immediately requested the property and the alleyway which was formerly Dallas St. to erect a new edifice.

He purchased this property, fulfilling the wishes of the late founder and had plans drawn up for the construction of the beautiful church.

Elder C. Taylor presided over the opening ceremony which took place outside the doors of The House Of Prayer For All People.

The tenor of the comments to the congregation, which came from Elders who represented the region from South Carolina to Massachusetts, stressed the facts in scripture and prayer which served as the foundation for the Mission and for the service of Sweet Daddy McCollough.

The spiritual and moral elevation of the people upon the arrival of Sweet Daddy McCollough was quickly apparent as the throng pressed to enter the new Mission.

The building is decorated in a white and red motif with accessories of gleaming chandeliers which are illuminated in the mirrors at the altar and in the stained-glassed windows.

During the dedication ceremony, Elders who preceded Bishop McCollough's speech, praised God and honored the Bishop as the liason between God and the hearts and souls of man in preparing a foundation for God's will.

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Again scriptures and prayers were a prelude to Bishop McCollough who, in his prayer, spoke of a "Sabbath without end, where God would be praised by all peoples unendingly."

The presence of many guests was acknowledged. Those who spoke included the Honorable John Douglas and the Honorable Hattie H. Harrison from the House of Delegates. Del. Harrison is a life-time member of the House Of Prayer. City council members who were present were Clarence Burns and Nathan Irvy. Senator Robert Douglass was also in attendance.

In each comment, they complimented Bishop McCollough and the members of the House Of Prayer for their dignity and community purpose.

Also they noted that they did what they had to do for themselves, nobody helped them.

Congratulations were read from the pastor, the Rev. Walter Paige and members of Faith Baptist Church.

Their telegram noted, "In times like these, you and other Christian peoples are constantly striving for a better world."

It was also significant that Mayor Schaefer named March 9 as "United House of Prayer Day" in Baltimore.

In the proclamation read by Del. H. Harrison, the church was cited for community service, and outstanding moral principles. Further, the mayor commended their efforts to establish a place of worship.

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A musical program preceded and followed the dedication ceremony.

Many groups were featured from different regions in vocal and instrumental choirs and ensembles. Outstanding among these excellent groups was the East Baltimore Band of the United House of Prayer For All People.

Their music represented a superb effort in the glory and honor of Bishop McCollough and the East Baltimore Mission.

Some of the Elders in attendance were Elders S.C. Madison and R. Albertha from Washington, D.C.; G. Elliott from Massachusetts; E. L. Green from New York; R. P. Grier, Supervisor of Builders; L. Hector from Connecticut; A. Price from Virginia; H. Swaringer and C. Taylor from Pennsylvania; and E Webb from New Jersey.

The pastor of the East Baltimore Mission is Elder A. Moore.

Elder B. Myrick is the Assistant Pastor and Elder J. Barksdale is Pastor of The Young People.

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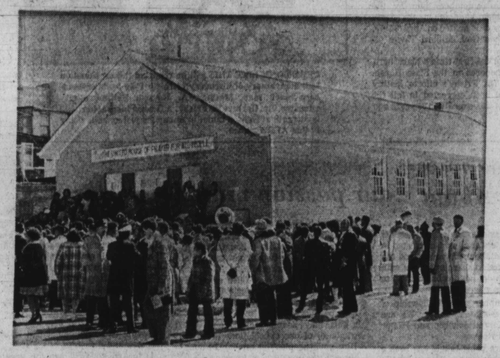
Elder G. W. Williams is chairman of the State of Maryland and pastor of the Mother House of Prayer in West Baltimore.

Throughout the services Bishop McCollough was praised for the progress and accomplishment of the church, the McCollough Scholarship College Fund; the Pension Plan for disabled ministers and those who have served many years and the Theological Seminary for younger ministers.

Bishop McCollough announced that more than 600 ministers answered the call in 1974.

The church is open seven days a week to those who wish to come and serve.



THEY CAME from far and near, from South Carolina to Massachusetts, to witness the opening of the newest church in the heart of East Baltimore, the House of Prayer for All People.

THE DEDICATION PRAYER was delivered by the Honorable W. McCollough who is recognized as one of the most dynamic of all the nation's clergymen.

LOVELY LADIES were in attendance and on the program. From left in J. D. Howard photo are Mrs. Walter Paige, wife of the Faith Baptist Church pastor; Mrs. Sarah Bell, secretary of the House of Prayer for All People and Mrs. J. Gilliam, longtime member. Mrs. Margaret Barksdale served as mistress of ceremonies and member of the program committee.

HOUSE OF PRAYER officials from left in J. D. Howard photo are Elder S. C. Madison, chairman of the District of Columbia; Elder A. Moore, pastor of the church and assistant chairman of the State of Maryland and Elder G. W. Williams, chairman of the State of Maryland.

1,200 at 48th Spring Conference of Churches of God in Christ

REV. W. ERNEST NELSON *coordinator and master of ceremonies*

The Greater Maryland jurisdiction of the churches of God in Christ, held its annual spring conference at the Maryland Church of God in Christ.

The church, a former synagogue, was filled to its 1,200 seat capacity. Bishop T. R. Young is the state bishop. Mrs. Catherine Carter and E. Griffin are state supervisors of the Women's Department.

Highlight of the conference was the presence of International Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson of Memphis, Tenn, the national headquarters of the Church of God in Christ.

Bishop Patterson's message told the conference, "while churches today are content with themselves, thousands of souls are hungry and in need of spiritual help.

"But, first we must take care of the natural hunger. The church cannot do this on marches and fish fries. The only way is every member a tither, every pastor a tither to the state and every bishop a tither to the national work."

* * *

Many outstanding people greeted the presiding bishop of the three million member church.

Present were Dr. C. C. Alexander, president of the United Baptist Convention of Maryland; Bishop Edward Stancil, Pentecostal Temple of God Churches and Bishop Jake Fullard, St. James Apostolic Churches.

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Rosco Herring, administrative aid to the Mayor, presented Bishop Patterson with honorary citizenship papers and a silver plaque with the Baltimore crest.

Bishop James I. Doswell, bishop of the Central Maryland diocese, was present. Elder W. Ernest Nelson, pastor of Refuge Temple Church of God in Christ, and superintendent of District No. 6 was coordinator.

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The 100 voice choir sang under direction of Carlton Hamilton, state minister of Music.

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Presiding Bishop T. R. Young brought his annual message, "Christ, The Life," on Sunday and again the 1,200 seat former synagogue was packed.

The Church of God in Christ was founded by the late Bishop Charles Harrison Mason.

The prophecy was, if he would name the church, the Churches of God in Christ, he would never be able to build a building big enough to hold the people.

* * *

That prophecy has been fulfilled. The national temple in Memphis seates 7,600 and during the international convocation, thousands are turned away, only to start service camp meeting style on the rolling lawns and grounds of the temple.

On Sunday the convocation was at the new convention center where over 25,000 people packed the center to hear Bishop J. O. Patterson on official day.

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The Church of God in Christ is the root of many churches in this area that are now under other names.

The late Bishop R. A. Carr and the Rehoboth Church of God in Christ Jesus, was part of the church. Bishop Carr was the overseer in Maryland.

* * *

The Church of God in Christ has 4,000 churches in the USA and 400 churches abroad. C. H. Mason Theological Seminary, University of Atlanta; the Saints Junior College, Lexington, Miss; which goes from kindergarten to first two years of college and is nationally accredited.

The richest family in Tennessee gave the church, the Chesca Plaza Hotel worth $5,000,000 which the family owned for years. The faculiity has 500 rooms and houses offices and the bookstore for the national church.

The Church of God in Christ goes to many of the 50 states for various conventions such as for this year 1975, the Women's Convention, San Francisco, Calif.; Sunday School Convention, Portland, Oregon; Youth Congress, Memphis, Tenn, and Music Convention in New Orleans.

BISHOP J. O. PATTERSON is presented honorary citizenship certificate by Roscoe Herring on behalf of the Mayor and citizens of Baltimore.

INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES OF GOD Bishop J. O. Patterson; Bishop W. L. Porter and Rev. C. C. Alexander, president of the Missionary Baptist Convention of Maryland.

THE REV. PARIS H. THOMPSON and his congregation break ground for the new Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, 2651 W. North Ave. The beautiful building is slated to revive the area and embrace the community where thousands of citizens reside. The church is financed by Advance Federal Savings and Loan. All photos on this page are by J. D. Howard, photographer.

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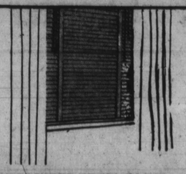

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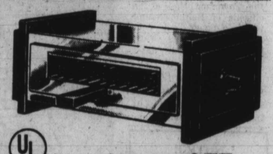

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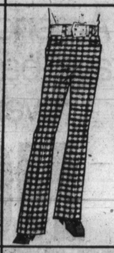

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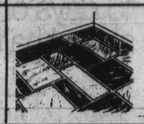

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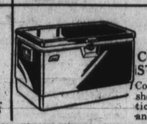

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