

Christian Youth Fellowship



Summer Conference Report *June 21-26, 2009*

Bishop Charles J. Williams, Sr.
Vice Bishop Calvin E. Davis

CYF Director..... *Linda M. Owens*
Assistant Director *Mary Jo Wilson*
CYF Convention President..... *Angelo Surles, Jr*
CYF Convention Vice President..... *Ciara Thompson*



The Western Assembly Disciples Of Christ Churches, founded in 1872

History of the CYF Program



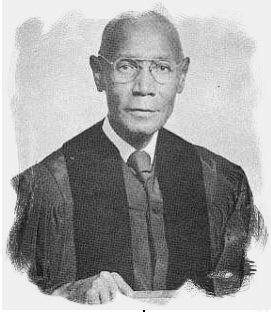
Under the leadership of Bishop W. L. Williams, an Assembly Building was erected on highway 301 in Four Oaks next door to [Juniper Grove Disciple Church](#). Bishop Williams was most concerned about our youth and wanted a place for them to be able to grow through our Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF).

He knew that our youth are the leaders of tomorrow so he wanted them to get a positive background. Also under Bishop W. L. Williams' leadership a Scholarship Fund was established so that we, the Assembly could play an important part in helping our youth obtain a much needed education which is vital to our everyday living.

The first CYF Training Session was held at Bentonville Disciple Church in 1968.

Under Bishop Charles J. Williams' leadership a new Assembly Building was erected on highway 701 just outside of Newton Grove. Two dormitories were added several years later to be used as dorms for boys and girls attending the CYF Summer Conference each year in June. Each dorm has bathrooms, showers and a fully equipped kitchen. The dorms are used for other Assembly functions, such as retreats and classes.

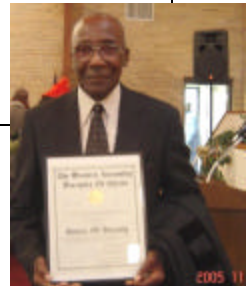
Mother Mildred Bagley directed the CYF program through year 1999. Sister Linda M. Owens became the director in year 2000.



Bishop W. L. Williams

The first CYF Training Session was held at Bentonville Disciple Church in 1968. The Assembly was anticipating a building for this purpose. However, Dr. W. L. Williams, Bishop of the Assembly and the Council Board agreed to begin the training sessions before the building was built. Mrs. Mildred Bagley was appointed as Director. Our first teachers were Miss Areatha Troublefield and Miss Margie Cole. Bishop James L. Williams was our first Conference Pastor. The training session began at 9:00 A. M. and closed at 12:00 noon. The children and an adult advisor commuted each day from Monday through Friday. Snacks were served each day prepared by Mrs. Mae Williams. One day we cooked an apple sauce cake and chicken in a hole in the ground. From that time until now the CYF has grown tremendously.

Note: Ms. Margie Cole last taught in the CYF Summer Conference in 2008.



Bishop James L. Williams

Current Leadership



Bishop Charles J. Williams, Sr. and Vice Bishop Calvin E. Davis



**CYF Director
Linda M. Owens**



Other CYF Staff

- Assistant Director – Mary Jo Wilson
- Activity/Recreation Coordinator – Mechelle Alford
- Activity Coordinator/Teacher – Terrie Bethea
- CYF Treasurer – Sarah Stevens
- Choir Director – Linda Bumpers
- Musician – Deacon Glenn Lofton
- Cafeteria Manager – Julia Davis
- Nurse – Phyllis James
- Nursing – First Lady Linda Williams

- Teacher - Bo Tart
- Teacher – Querranda Royster-Herring
- Teacher - Dr. Jannie Troublefield-Robinson
- Kitchen Staff – James Williams, Lou Ellen Owens, Quenita Lee
- Dean of Girls – Regina Tew
- Dean of Boys – Charles Williams, Jr./ Deacon Lenard Chesnutt
- Conference Pastor – Elder Angelo Surles, Sr.
- Security – Chief Mary Williams, Deacon Claudie Newsome, and Deacon Simmie Bennett

Yes I Can

With the inauguration of the first African American President, Barack Obama and his talking point of “Yes We Can,” we chose as our theme this year “Yes I Can.” Our scripture reference came from a very familiar verse Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” The bar has now been set high for our youth more so now than ever before.

President Obama’s story is the American story — values from the heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others. He was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009.



(http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/President_Obama/)

Our goal for 2009 is to guide our youth with positive messages that “we can do ALL things - but ONLY if Christ is with us.”

We can only do everything in line with the Spirit. We need to remember to let the Holy Spirit guide and lead us. We, as Christians, still tend to occasionally lead out of our humanly flesh, only to become overwhelmed, tired, worn out, etc. But when we live in the Spirit and do things prompted by the Spirit, we should feel renewed and rejuvenated.

People call us to do all sort of things...it is ok to say "No!" However, when we commit our lives to Christ, he teaches us to let our Yes be yes and our No be no.

When you make a promise, say only "Yes" or "No." Anything else comes from the devil.

We cannot say "No!" just because we do not want to do the task ahead, but rather say "No!" because the Spirit prompts us or we know we cannot complete the task with excellence. God calls us to be servants. If we truly seek the Kingdom of God and continue to commit our lives to Him everyday, He will bless you. But it is not the blessings we seek, it is the desire we have within to do what He ask us and go where He tells us.

In Isaiah 55:11, God says that wherever He sends His word it never returns empty, but always achieves the special purpose for which it was sent.

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

(Excerpt from Story by Molly Garner on 8/5/2007)

CYF Summer Conference Officers - 2009

President
Tiesha Melvin
Mingle Hill



Vice President
Jasmine Coleman
Thaddeus Chapel



Secretary
Je'Leighna Killett
Cedar Point



Assistant Secretary
Alicia Robinson
Goshen

Parliamentarian
Alex Jimenez
White Oak





Yes I can

Best All-Around Conferees
Alex Jimenez and Je'Leighna Killett

Photo Gallery





The Climb

Songwriters: Alexander, J; Mabe, J;
Recorded by Miley Cyrus

I can almost see it
That dream I am dreaming
But there's a voice inside my head saying
"You'll never reach it"

Every step I'm taking
Every move I make feels
Lost with no direction
My faith is shaking

But I gotta keep trying
Gotta keep my head held high

There's always gonna be another mountain
I'm always gonna wanna make it move
Always gonna be a uphill battle
Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose

Ain't about how fast I get there
Ain't about what's waiting on the other side
It's the climb

The struggles I'm facing
The chances I'm taking
Sometimes might knock me down
But no, I'm not breaking

I may not know it
But these are the moments that
I'm gonna remember most, yeah
Just gotta keep going

And I, I got to be strong
Just keep pushing on

'Cause there's always gonna be another mountain
I'm always gonna wanna make it move
Always gonna be a uphill battle
Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose

Ain't about how fast I get there
Ain't about what's waiting on the other side
It's the climb, yeah!

There's always gonna be another mountain
I'm always gonna wanna make it move
Always gonna be an uphill battle
Somebody's gonna have to lose

Ain't about how fast I get there
Ain't about what's waiting on the other side
It's the climb, yeah!

Keep on moving, keep climbing
Keep the faith,
It's all about, it's all about the climb
Keep the faith, keep your faith in Jesus

These CYF Conferees sung their own rendition of this song incorporating the CYF Theme "Yes I Can!" as a tribute to the graduating class.



On behalf of the CYF Department in the Western Assembly, I submit this summary report of the 2009 CYF Summer Conference held the week of June 21-26, 2009.

Linda M. Owens, CYF Director

***Yesterday I met a stranger during the week...
Today this stranger is my friend.
Had I not attended the camp or
Took the time to say hello,
or return a smile, or shake a hand, or listen,
I would not have known this person.
Yesterday would have turned into today
and our chance meeting would be gone.***

CYF Conferees thank YOU for allowing them to attend the CYF Summer Conference