

# RELIGION

## Institutional C.O.G.I.C. Radio Choir

"He lives, he moves, he abides in me," testifies Rev. Carl Williams Jr. when describing his thorough gospel career as the influential leader of Institutional C.O.G.I.C. Radio Choir.

Ironically, "He Abides In Me" is also a key upcoming single of which Rev. Williams serves as soloist on the choir's 25th upcoming album entitled "After The Rapture" on CGI Records. Other singles to be released on the 12 selection project are the title cut "After The Rapture", "I Will Worship" and "Ready To Meet The Lord", which features Williams' cousin Bishop J.C. White as soloist. Institutional C.O.G.I.C. Radio Choir is a close knit family. In fact, the music ministry's own stable of writers wrote most of the tracks on "After The Rapture". "God has given us fantastic writers. All of our songs have a message", Williams declares. Bro. Isaiah "Butch" Heyward wrote 7 tracks and Pastor LeRoy Woodise wrote two worship and praise songs. Meanwhile, Rev. Williams, a self-described critical perfectionist, produced all of the tracks.

The Brooklyn, New York-based choir was formed and trained in 1953 at Institutional Church of God in Christ by its current shepherd Bishop Carl Williams Sr. from a lowly storefront locale. As youngsters, both Rev. Williams Jr., choir director/songwriter Bishop J.C. White and organist Prof. Alfred White



Institutional Radio Choir



Taken from the live Silver Anniversary recording at Historic Institutional Church Of Good In Christ, Brooklyn, NY.

sang as part of the teenaged Glee Club, before transitioning into the adult choir called The Choral Group. When Bishop Williams Sr. went on the air in 1954, both groups were then combined into the current name Institutional C.O.G.I.C. Radio Choir.

The year was 1956, when a young female singer left her group The Gospel Caravans and went solo. Her name... Shirley Caesar.

Institutional C.O.G.I.C. Radio Choir would record their first two albums with this anointed vocalist, most notably the "Well Done" project in 1964. Thereafter, a small NY label named Hobb Records purchased this release and renamed it "Stretch Out". The single "Stretch Out" was initially to be used as filler for one of the two Caesar albums. However, history was taking form as the tune's

hook, "When Trouble Comes - Stretch Out", caught the attention of a smitten local disco jockey and his captivated audience.

That song took off into the stratosphere and would place the choir on the map. Next up... the big time. Institutional C.O.I.C. Radio Choir signs with colossal Atlantic records and takes the good news all over the world.

In Loving Memory Of Dannella P. Bletson

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for your accomplishment in graduating with your Master Of Science in Psychology from The University of Oregon.

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### Installation of New Pastor for Martin Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

Rev. Herman Hawkins will be installed as the new pastor for the congregation of Martin Luther Memorial Lutheran Church on July 5, 1998. The 4:00 p.m. service will be held at the Lutheran Community Center, 4219 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd. Hawkins will also serve as the Director of Lutheran Inner City Ministries, the social ministry agency of the church.

Hawkins was raised in northeast Portland, attended Concordia University and graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1985. He has since served ministries in San Jose, and Fresno, Chicago and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Hawkins will return to Portland with his wife Glenda and their 11 year old daughter, Christina.

Hawkins is excited to, "serve Jesus Christ in a quality multi-ethnic, multi-faceted, multi-dimensional church and center that seeks to serve inner-city children and their families."

He believes that his personal mission is to "humbly serve Christ and His gospel in a radical love manner where God's spirit will evidence, empower and equip others for transformed relationship that matter most."

## Oregon/Washington Conference Western Episcopal District To Hold 109th Annual Session

The 109th Session of; the Oregon/Washington Conference will convene at:

### Pauline AME Zion Church

3593 Sunnyview N.E.  
Salem, Oregon  
June 24-28, 1998.

The Reverend Joyce Smith, Host Pastor; the Reverend L.J. Thompson, Host Presiding Elder; Mrs. Barbara S. Carr, Missionary Supervisor, and Bishop Clarence Carr, Presiding Prelate who presently serves in the capacity of the Chairman of the Board of Bishops for the AME Zion Denomination.

Theme: Our Mandate and Model for Ministry  
Luke 4:18-19

All are invited and welcome to attend any or all sessions daily.

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