

church of god in christ 2014 convocation Document

Church of God in Christ 2014 Convocation

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC) 2014 Convocation was a landmark religious event that drew thousands of worshippers, clergy, and community leaders from across the globe. As one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the United States, COGIC's annual convocation serves as a spiritual gathering, a platform for doctrinal teaching, leadership development, and community outreach initiatives. The 2014 event was particularly notable for its impactful sermons, inspirational music, and strategic focus on church growth and social justice. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the COGIC 2014 Convocation, highlighting its significance, key activities, themes, and lasting impact.

Overview of the COGIC 2014 Convocation

The 2014 Convocation took place in Memphis, Tennessee, from July 26 to August 3, 2014. Hosted at the historic Cook Convention Center, the event attracted an estimated 50,000 attendees, including pastors, ministers, lay members, and community leaders. The convocation was organized by the Church of God in Christ's General Assembly and featured a packed schedule of worship services, workshops, leadership seminars, and outreach initiatives.

Historical Significance

The 2014 Convocation marked the 107th annual gathering of COGIC, emphasizing the denomination's rich history of spiritual revival and community service. It also showcased the church's commitment to adapting to contemporary challenges while maintaining its Pentecostal roots.

Goals and Objectives

The primary objectives of the 2014 convocation included:

- Spiritual renewal and revival among members
- Leadership development for pastors and church leaders
- Promotion of social justice and community outreach
- Enhancement of church growth strategies

- Fostering unity within the Pentecostal movement

Key Themes and Messages

The 2014 convocation was anchored around several core themes that resonated throughout the event. These themes aimed to inspire, challenge, and mobilize participants toward greater spiritual and communal impact.

Spiritual Revival and Renewal

A recurring message emphasized the importance of personal and collective revival, urging members to deepen their faith and recommit to their spiritual calling.

Leadership and Innovation

The event highlighted innovative leadership models, encouraging pastors and church leaders to embrace change and leverage technology to expand their ministries.

Social Justice and Community Service

Recognizing ongoing societal challenges, COGIC emphasized its role in advocating for justice, equality, and service to marginalized populations.

Major Events and Activities

The convocation's diverse program included several key events that contributed to its overall success and impact.

Worship Services

Daily worship services served as the spiritual core of the convocation. These services featured:

- Dynamic sermons by prominent church leaders
- Powerful choir performances
- Holy Spirit-infused prayer sessions

Notable speakers included Bishop Charles Blake, the presiding bishop of COGIC, who delivered the keynote address emphasizing unity and revival.

Leadership Conference

A series of seminars focused on leadership development topics such as:

- Effective pastoral leadership
- Church administration and management
- Engaging youth and young adults
- Utilizing digital media for outreach

These workshops aimed to equip leaders with practical skills for contemporary ministry.

Youth and Young Adult Activities

Recognizing the importance of nurturing the next generation, the convocation hosted youth rallies, talent shows, and youth leadership forums.

Community Outreach Initiatives

The church's commitment to social justice was evident through outreach projects such as:

- Free health screenings
- Food drives and clothing giveaways
- Educational workshops for underserved communities

These initiatives underscored COGIC's dedication to holistic ministry.

Special Celebrations and Recognitions

The event also featured special anniversary celebrations, honoring long-serving pastors and community leaders, and recognizing outstanding contributions to church and society.

Notable Speakers and Leaders

The 2014 convocation attracted a roster of influential speakers who shared powerful messages and inspired attendees.

Presiding Bishop Charles Blake

As the spiritual leader of COGIC, Bishop Blake delivered the keynote address focusing on revival, unity, and strategic growth for the church.

Guest Speakers and Evangelists

Additional speakers included:

- Dr. Juanita Bynum, renowned evangelist and preacher
- Pastor T.D. Jakes, noted for his leadership and motivational teachings
- Other regional and international church leaders

Their messages emphasized faith, perseverance, and social responsibility.

Impact and Legacy of the 2014 Convocation

The 2014 convocation left a lasting impression on participants and the broader Pentecostal community.

Spiritual Reinvigoration

Many attendees reported renewed faith and a stronger sense of calling, attributing this to the powerful worship experiences and sermons.

Leadership and Ministry Development

Church leaders gained new insights and strategies to expand their ministries, foster community engagement, and utilize digital platforms.

Community Engagement

The outreach initiatives fostered stronger connections between the church and local communities, demonstrating the church's commitment to social justice.

Promotion of Unity and Growth

The event reinforced the importance of unity within the Pentecostal movement and provided a platform for networking and collaboration among churches.

Conclusion

The Church of God in Christ 2014 Convocation was more than a religious gathering; it was a movement toward renewal, leadership, and social responsibility. By blending powerful worship, strategic seminars, and community outreach, the event exemplified COGIC's mission to spread the

gospel, uplift communities, and foster spiritual growth. Its themes of revival, leadership, and justice continue to influence the denomination's direction and inspire countless believers worldwide. As the church moves forward, the lessons and legacies of the 2014 convocation remain a guiding light for future generations of Pentecostal believers and church leaders.

Church of God in Christ 2014 Convocation: A Landmark Gathering in Pentecostal History

Introduction

Church of God in Christ 2014 convocation marked a significant milestone in the history of one of the most prominent Pentecostal denominations in the United States. As a gathering that drew thousands of clergy, laity, and spiritual leaders from across the globe, the 2014 convocation not only celebrated spiritual renewal and doctrinal unity but also set the stage for future outreach and organizational growth. This event, held in Memphis, Tennessee, from November 2 to 8, 2014, exemplified the church's enduring commitment to evangelism, education, and social justice. Over the course of this article, we will explore the event's historical context, key themes, notable leaders, and lasting impact on the church's trajectory.

Historical Context of the Church of God in Christ and Its Convocations

Origins and Significance of the COGIC Convocation

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC), founded in 1897 by Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, has grown into the largest Pentecostal denomination in the United States, boasting over six million members worldwide. The annual convocation serves as the church's flagship event—an opportunity for worship, doctrinal teaching, leadership development, and strategic planning.

Historically, COGIC convocations have been pivotal in shaping Pentecostal identity and expanding outreach efforts. From the early revival movements to social activism in the Civil Rights era, these gatherings reflect the church's resilience and adaptability.

The 2014 Convocation in Context

By 2014, COGIC had experienced significant growth, with an increasingly diverse membership and expanding global influence. The 2014 convocation took place amid broader societal conversations on racial justice, economic challenges, and the role of faith communities in social change. The church sought to address these issues by reaffirming its spiritual mission while emphasizing community service and leadership.

The event also coincided with technological advancements, enabling wider participation through live streaming and social media, thereby extending its reach beyond physical attendees.

The Theme and Core Objectives of the 2014 Convocation

Central Theme: "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges"

The overarching theme of the 2014 convocation was "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges." This focus encapsulated the church's desire to overcome societal, racial, and spiritual divides, fostering unity and collaboration among diverse groups.

Key Objectives

- Spiritual Renewal: Reinforcing faith and doctrinal fidelity among members.
- Leadership Development: Equipping pastors, ministers, and lay leaders with tools for effective ministry.
- Social Justice Engagement: Addressing issues such as racial reconciliation, poverty alleviation, and community empowerment.
- Global Outreach: Strengthening international missions and partnerships.
- Technological Integration: Leveraging media to expand the church's message.

Notable Leaders and Speakers

The Preeminent Leaders of the Convocation

The 2014 convocation featured an impressive roster of speakers and leaders, many of whom are influential figures within Pentecostalism and broader Christian circles.

- Bishop Charles E. Blake: Presiding Bishop of COGIC, delivered the opening keynote emphasizing unity and resilience.
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale: A renowned pastor and theologian, spoke on social justice and community engagement.
- Bishop T. D. Jakes: A prominent Pentecostal bishop and author, addressed themes of leadership and spiritual empowerment.
- Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams: An influential Ghanaian Pentecostal leader, highlighted the importance of global missions.

Special Guests and Honorees

In addition to regular leadership, the convocation honored pioneering figures in ministry, as well as emerging young leaders, to encourage continuity and innovation within the church.

Major Events and Highlights During the Convocation

Worship Services and Spirit-Led Revival

Each day commenced with dynamic worship services led by COGIC choirs and featured passionate preaching, prayer sessions, and prophetic declarations. The worship theme aimed to inspire renewal and spiritual awakening among attendees.

Workshops and Seminars

The convocation hosted numerous workshops covering topics such as:

- Leadership in a changing cultural landscape
- Evangelism strategies
- Church growth and retention
- Media and communication in ministry
- Youth engagement and education

These sessions aimed to equip ministers and laity with practical tools for effective ministry and community impact.

The Youth and Young Adult Conference

Recognizing the importance of nurturing future leaders, a dedicated youth conference focused on leadership development, social issues affecting young people, and fostering a renewed sense of purpose.

Community Outreach Initiatives

In line with the theme of social justice, COGIC members participated in service projects, including food drives, health screenings, and neighborhood cleanups, emphasizing the church's role in societal uplift.

Business and Organizational Meetings

The convocation also provided a platform for organizational business, including elections for church leadership positions, strategic planning sessions, and reports on international missions.

The Global and Social Impact of the 2014 Convocation

Strengthening International Missions

The 2014 convocation underscored COGIC's global reach, with reports indicating active missions and churches in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia. Leaders discussed expanding educational and healthcare initiatives in underserved regions.

Promoting Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice

Amid rising tensions in U.S. society, the event emphasized the church's role in fostering racial harmony. Statements from leadership highlighted commitments to social activism, peacebuilding, and equitable community development.

Technological Innovations and Media Outreach

The church embraced digital platforms, broadcasting sermons, workshops, and event highlights online. This approach broadened participation, especially among younger demographics and international audiences.

The Legacy and Lasting Impact of the 2014 Convocation

Organizational Growth and Strategic Initiatives

Post-convocation, COGIC launched new initiatives aimed at church planting, youth leadership programs, and global partnership expansion. The event's emphasis on technology led to increased digital engagement.

Spiritual and Cultural Reaffirmation

The convocation reaffirmed core Pentecostal doctrines—holiness, salvation, baptism in the Holy Spirit—and emphasized cultural relevance, ensuring the church remains vital in contemporary society.

Inspiration for Future Gatherings

The success of the 2014 event set a benchmark for subsequent convocations, fostering a sense of unity and purpose that continues to influence COGIC's direction.

Conclusion

The Church of God in Christ 2014 convocation was more than a religious gathering; it was a strategic convergence of faith, leadership, and social consciousness. By addressing critical issues

facing the church and society, embracing technological advancements, and inspiring a new generation of leaders, the event reinforced COGIC's position as a dynamic and influential Pentecostal denomination. As the church moves forward, its 2014 convocation remains a testament to its enduring commitment to spiritual renewal, community development, and global outreach.

Question What was the main theme of the Church of God in Christ 2014 Convocation? The main theme of the COGIC 2014 Convocation was 'A Call to Holiness and Unity,' emphasizing spiritual renewal and church unity worldwide. **Where was the Church of God in Christ 2014 Convocation held?** The 2014 Convocation was held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. **Who were some of the keynote speakers at the 2014 COGIC Convocation?** Prominent speakers included Bishop Charles E. Blake, Jr., the Presiding Bishop of COGIC, along with other notable church leaders and ministers from around the globe. **What significant events or programs took place during the 2014 Convocation?** The event featured worship services, ordinations, leadership workshops, youth sessions, and the election of the 2014-2018 General Board members. **How did the 2014 Convocation impact the growth and outreach of the Church of God in Christ?** The convocation fostered increased global engagement, strengthened church leadership, and promoted initiatives aimed at community outreach and evangelism. **Were there any notable awards or recognitions given during the 2014 Convocation?** Yes, several pastors and church leaders received awards for their contributions to ministry, community service, and church development. **How can attendees access the recordings or highlights from the 2014 COGIC Convocation today?** Recordings and highlights are available on the official COGIC website and their official YouTube channel, allowing members and interested individuals to revisit the event.

Related keywords: Church of God in Christ, 2014 convocation, COGIC, Christian conference, religious gathering, gospel event, church convention, Pentecostal denomination, spiritual revival, faith event

NOT I BUT CHRIST

not i but christ: Embracing the Supremacy of Christ in Our Lives

In a world often centered around personal achievement and individual identity, the biblical principle of "not I but Christ" reminds believers to shift their focus from self to Savior. This phrase encapsulates the core message of humility, surrender, and the supremacy of Jesus Christ in every aspect of life. Understanding and applying this principle can transform how we view ourselves, others, and our purpose, fostering a deeper relationship with Christ and aligning our lives with God's divine plan.

Understanding the Meaning of "Not I but Christ"

Biblical Foundation

The phrase "not I but Christ" is rooted in the teachings of the Apostle Paul, particularly in Galatians 2:20, which states:

- "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

This verse emphasizes the believer's death to self and the life of Christ within, highlighting a spiritual transformation that prioritizes Christ's lordship over personal desires.

Historical and Spiritual Significance

Historically, this phrase was popularized during the 19th-century holiness movement, emphasizing sanctification and complete surrender to God. Spiritually, it calls for believers to:

- Recognize Christ as the central figure in their faith and actions
- Humble themselves beneath God's mighty hand
- Live a life that reflects Christ's character and teachings

The Core Principles of "Not I but Christ"

Humility and Surrender

At its core, "not I but Christ" demands humility—a recognition that our own strength and wisdom are insufficient without Christ. It calls for surrendering personal ambitions and desires, trusting that God's plan is better.

Crucifixion of Self

This principle involves a daily death to self:

- Letting go of ego-driven pursuits
- Rejecting pride and self-sufficiency
- Embracing God's sovereignty in our lives

Living Through Christ

Living "not I but Christ" entails:

- Allowing Christ's love and righteousness to guide our actions
- Reflecting His character in our interactions
- Prioritizing God's kingdom above personal gains

Practical Applications of "Not I but Christ"

In Personal Life

Applying this principle involves intentional daily choices:

- Starting the day with prayer, surrendering to God's will
- Practicing humility in relationships and decisions
- Serving others selflessly, following Christ's example

In Church and Community

Within the church and community, "not I but Christ" encourages:

- Leading with humility and love
- Prioritizing unity over personal recognition
- Engaging in service projects that uplift others

In Challenges and Suffering

During difficult times:

- Trust in God's sovereignty rather than self-reliance
- Endure hardships with faith, knowing Christ's strength sustains
- Use trials as opportunities to grow closer to Christ

Benefits of Embracing "Not I but Christ"

Deeper Relationship with Jesus

Surrendering self and focusing on Christ deepens intimacy with Him, fostering spiritual growth and

maturity.

Enhanced Humility and Compassion

Living with a Christ-centered perspective cultivates humility, making us more compassionate and understanding toward others.

Authentic Christian Witness

A life that exemplifies "not I but Christ" serves as a powerful testimony to others, drawing them toward faith.

Inner Peace and Joy

Letting go of self-centered pursuits relieves burdens of pride and anxiety, replacing them with peace rooted in God's grace.

Challenges in Living "Not I but Christ"

Self-Centeredness and Worldly Influences

In a culture that celebrates individualism, surrendering to Christ can be countercultural and challenging.

Spiritual Warfare

The enemy often seeks to distract believers from humility and dependence on Christ through temptation and doubt.

Maintaining Consistency

Living this principle daily requires perseverance, prayer, and accountability.

Steps to Embrace "Not I but Christ"

1. Daily Surrender

Begin each day with a prayer of surrender, asking God to help you live through Christ.

2. Study the Word

Immerse yourself in Scripture to understand Christ's character and teachings more deeply.

3. Practice Humility

Seek opportunities to serve and put others' needs before your own.

4. Seek Community Support

Surround yourself with fellow believers who can encourage and hold you accountable.

5. Reflect and Repent

Regularly examine your heart, confess shortcomings, and realign with Christ.

Conclusion: The Transformative Power of "Not I but Christ"

Living with the mindset of "not I but Christ" is a lifelong journey of humility, surrender, and transformation. It challenges believers to shift their focus from self-centered pursuits to a Christ-centered life marked by love, service, and spiritual growth. As we embrace this principle, we not only deepen our relationship with Jesus but also become powerful witnesses to the world, demonstrating the transformative power of living through Christ. Ultimately, it is in surrendering ourselves that we find true purpose, peace, and fulfillment?living not for ourselves, but for Christ alone.

Not I but Christ: A Deep Dive into the Centrality of Christ in Christian Faith

Understanding the core of Christian faith requires a focus on one fundamental truth: Not I but Christ. This phrase encapsulates the essence of Christian humility, surrender, and the transformative power of Christ's presence in the believer's life. This review explores the theological, historical, and practical dimensions of this profound declaration, illustrating its significance across various facets of Christianity.

The Origin and Biblical Foundations of "Not I but Christ"

Historical Context

The phrase "Not I but Christ" finds its roots in the writings and teachings of early Christian figures who emphasized the importance of surrendering personal agency to Christ. It gained prominence through the ministry of figures like Charles Wesley, who often emphasized the necessity of divine empowerment over human effort. The phrase also echoes biblical scriptures that highlight the humility and reliance on Christ rather than self.

Biblical Passages Supporting the Concept

Several key scriptures serve as the foundation for the declaration "Not I but Christ":

- Galatians 2:20 ? "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."
- John 3:30 ? "He must increase, but I must decrease."
- 2 Corinthians 5:15 ? "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."
- Philippians 1:21 ? "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

These verses underscore the biblical principle that the believer's identity and life are rooted in Christ, emphasizing dependence rather than independence.

Theological Significance of "Not I but Christ"

Humility and Surrender

At the heart of this phrase lies a call for humility. Recognizing that salvation, sanctification, and spiritual growth are not achieved through human effort but through Christ's divine work. It is an acknowledgment that:

- Human strength and wisdom are insufficient for salvation.
- Christ's sacrifice is the only foundation for redemption.
- The believer's role is to surrender and allow Christ to work through them.

This attitude fosters a mindset of humility, reducing pride and fostering dependence on divine grace.

Union with Christ

Theologically, "Not I but Christ" emphasizes the doctrine of union with Christ. Believers are seen as joined to Him through faith, making His life, death, and resurrection integral to their own spiritual existence. This union:

- Transforms the believer's identity.
- Empowers them to live righteous lives.
- Ensures that Christ's victory over sin is reflected in their daily walk.

Sanctification and Transformation

The phrase also relates to sanctification—the process of becoming more like Christ. It implies that:

- True change occurs when Christ's life is lived out through the believer.
- Human effort alone is insufficient; only Christ working within can produce genuine holiness.
- The believer's role is to surrender, allowing Christ to mold and shape their character.

Historical Figures and Movements Emphasizing "Not I but Christ"

John Wesley and the Wesleyan Movement

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, championed the idea that spiritual progress depends on divine grace rather than human effort alone. His teachings emphasized reliance on Christ's power, which aligns closely with "Not I but Christ." Wesley's sermons and writings often highlighted the necessity of surrendering oneself entirely to Christ for sanctification.

William Booth and the Salvation Army

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, preached a message centered on complete reliance on Christ's saving power. His emphasis on personal surrender and divine empowerment echoes the principles behind "Not I but Christ."

Revival Movements

Throughout history, various revival movements have invoked this phrase or its principles, emphasizing the need for believers to relinquish self-reliance and yield fully to Christ's lordship.

Practical Implications of Embracing "Not I but Christ"

In Personal Spirituality

Living out "Not I but Christ" involves:

- Daily surrender in prayer, acknowledging dependence on God.

- Recognizing that personal efforts are insufficient without divine grace.
- Cultivating humility, acknowledging one's limitations and need for Christ's strength.

In Evangelism and Ministry

Ministers and evangelists who adopt this mindset:

- Avoid preaching or ministering in their own strength.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit to empower their work.
- Emphasize Christ as the source of salvation, not human wisdom or charisma.

In Relationships and Community

Applying this principle promotes:

- Forgiveness and humility within relationships.
- Serving others selflessly, reflecting Christ's love.
- Building community on Christ's principles rather than personal agendas.

The Role of "Not I but Christ" in Christian Worship and Devotion

Worship Practices

Many Christian worship traditions incorporate this mindset through:

- Hymns and songs that emphasize surrender (e.g., Wesley's "And Can It Be").
- Personal testimonies of surrender and reliance on Christ.
- Liturgical prayers focusing on divine empowerment.

Devotional Life

In personal devotion, believers are encouraged to:

- Confess dependence on Christ daily.
- Seek empowerment through the Holy Spirit.
- Allow Christ's life to manifest in their thoughts, words, and actions.

Challenges and Misunderstandings

Potential Misinterpretations

While the phrase promotes humility and dependence, some may misunderstand it as:

- Diminishing personal responsibility.
- Encouraging passivity rather than active faith.
- Overemphasis on surrender to the point of neglecting personal growth.

Balancing "Not I but Christ" with Personal Responsibility

True Christian life involves a balance:

- Recognizing that faith involves active obedience.
- Understanding that surrender is ongoing, not a one-time act.
- Engaging in spiritual disciplines to foster dependence on Christ.

Conclusion: Embracing the Heart of Christian Discipleship

The declaration "Not I but Christ" encapsulates the essence of Christian humility, dependence, and transformation. It challenges believers to relinquish self-reliance and embrace Christ's lordship fully. Rooted in biblical teaching and echoed throughout Christian history, this principle serves as a guiding beacon for authentic discipleship.

Living out this truth requires daily commitment, spiritual discipline, and an ongoing surrender to the work of Christ within. Whether in personal devotion, ministry, or community life, embracing "Not I but Christ" leads to a more profound experience of grace and a life that truly reflects the character and love of Jesus Christ. It is not merely a slogan but a life-changing reality that, when embraced wholeheartedly, transforms believers into vibrant witnesses of Christ's power and presence in the world.

Question What is the meaning behind the phrase 'Not I but Christ'? The phrase emphasizes that believers should prioritize Christ's life and work over their own, acknowledging that it's through His strength and guidance that they live and serve. How can I apply 'Not I but Christ' in my daily life? You can apply this principle by surrendering your desires and efforts to Christ, seeking His guidance in decisions, and allowing His character to be reflected through your actions. Who popularized the phrase 'Not I but Christ'? The phrase is closely associated with the hymn 'Not I, But Christ,' written by Christina Georgina Rossetti and popularized by Christian evangelists and

hymnwriters as a reminder to rely solely on Christ. What biblical verses support the idea of 'Not I but Christ'? Verses like Galatians 2:20 ('I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me') and John 3:30 ('He must increase, but I must decrease') support this concept. Is 'Not I but Christ' a common theme in Christian sermons and teachings? Yes, it is a prevalent theme emphasizing humility, surrender, and the importance of Christ's work over personal efforts in spiritual growth. How does 'Not I but Christ' relate to Christian humility? It encourages believers to recognize their limitations and to rely on Christ's power, fostering humility and acknowledging that salvation and service are through Him alone. Can 'Not I but Christ' help in overcoming personal struggles? Yes, focusing on Christ rather than oneself can provide strength, hope, and encouragement to overcome challenges by trusting in His sufficiency. What role does surrender play in embodying 'Not I but Christ'? Surrender involves yielding one's own will and efforts to Christ, allowing Him to work through you and guiding your actions in accordance with His purpose. Are there famous Christian figures associated with the message 'Not I but Christ'? Many Christian ministers and evangelists, such as D.L. Moody and others, have emphasized this message to inspire believers to live Christ-centered lives. How can believers share the message of 'Not I but Christ' with others? Believers can share their testimony, live lives exemplifying humility and reliance on Christ, and teach others about the importance of surrendering self to serve and honor Jesus.

Related keywords: Christianity, Jesus Christ, faith, salvation, surrender, spiritual growth, disciple, grace, surrender to Christ, divine guidance

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