



Macon M. Wilson is national coordinator of African-American Ministries for the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC). After graduating from Philander-Smith College and the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, Macon pursued further studies at the University of Arkansas. In 1989, he and his wife, Zuella, established Message of Hope, a ministry to bring deliverance for those addicted to alcohol and drugs. He is a member of the IPHC Heartland Conference.



Bishop Dayton Birt is an ordained minister with the IPHC. He currently serves as bishop and chairman of the board of directors of Redemption Ministries of the Eastern Virginia Conference. He graduated from Emmanuel College with a B.A. in religion and from Regent University with an M.A. in ministry. Birt has served as a Christian school administrator, pastor, and teacher, as well as founder and director of RM School of Ministry. Dayton and his wife, Lynn, live in Chester, Virginia.



Chuck Coleman and his wife, Pam, are founding pastors of Touching Your World Church International, a growing ministry in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Coleman earned an undergraduate degree in social work from Shippensburg University and a master's degree in education from Arcadia University. He pursued advanced studies at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Colemans have three children.



Edward Cross, Jr., has over 25 years of experience as a church leader. He directs City of Champions, a growing multicultural ministry in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The heartbeat of his ministry is to build a new generation of champions to influence our world with the incredible nature of God. The passion of the ministry is to establish new churches, support ministries, and network worldwide to harvest more souls. He and his wife, Pamela, have been married for nearly 25 years. They have four children.



Jerome Edwards is responsible for planting nine churches in the United States. He is the founder of Body of Christ Ministries International, which specializes in planting churches, mentoring youth, and equipping men and women for ministry. Edwards attended East Texas State University, where he majored in marketing and business. In 1992 he graduated from C. H. Mason Bible College in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is currently leading Lighthouse Ministries, a church plant in Macon, Georgia.



Carl A. Franklin founded the Fountain of Life Kingdom Church 19 years ago. The fellowship is an interdenominational, Full Gospel ministry in Shreveport, Louisiana. Franklin still pastors Life Kingdom Church and is used mightily by God to bring deliverance and restoration to the body of Christ. He and his wife, Hattie, have three daughters, who are also involved in the ministry.



Rupert H. George pastors Victorious Living Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia (Redemption Ministries). George holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Tampa and advanced degrees in organizational management from Golden Gate University and educational counseling from Old Dominion University. He has served as adjunct professor of leadership and management at New Hampshire College, Florida Junior College at Jacksonville, and Columbia College. He has been involved in church plants, revitalization, and evangelistic community outreach throughout Virginia.



Bishop David J. Holton is superintendent of the Mid-South Conference of the IPHC. In their 34 years of ministry, David and his wife, Sally, have planted six churches, four of which are still in operation. Of the 28 churches in the conference, 12 are African American, and 2 are Hispanic. David and Sally pastor Journey Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana, which is still involved in rebuilding projects since Hurricane Rita.



FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM MEETS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

by Shirley G. Spencer

The first IPHC African-American Leadership Forum convened April 29-30 in Greenville, South Carolina, in the facilities of Redemption World Outreach Center (RWOC). The forum was a historic first for the denomination as 13 key leaders met with Dr. Ronald W. Carpenter, Sr., executive director of Evangelism USA, Macon Wilson, national director of African-American Ministries, and Garry Bryant, national field director for ACTS2DAY Ministries.

"The objective of the gathering was to focus on the future development of this ministry in the IPHC," says Carpenter. Besides the national leaders mentioned above, participants included the bishop and coordinator for each of the three IPHC conferences that have appointed African-American coordinators to date: Bishop Chris Thompson and Coordinator Stacy Hilliard of the North Carolina Conference, Bishop David Holton and Coordinator Kelvin Steward of the Mid-South Conference, and Coordinator Doug Wilson from Redemption Ministries. Bishop Dayton Birt from Redemption Ministries could not attend.

Bishop Clifton Smith of Sonshine Ministries in Florida has also appointed an African-American leader, Pastor Matthew Shaw, as director of Intercultural Ministries for the conference, but neither could be present for the Leadership Forum.

Eight additional leaders were selected based on their commitment to the IPHC, their leadership ability, and their geographical location. These included

Ricky Walter, Corsicana, Texas; Jerome Edwards, Macon, Georgia; Hasker Hudgins, Greenville, South Carolina; Rupert George, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Carl Franklin, Shreveport, Louisiana; Eddie Cross, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Chuck Coleman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Demetrius Miles, Phoenix, Arizona.

The Forum began with a get-acquainted dinner followed by a two-hour work session on Tuesday evening. Apostle Ron Carpenter, Jr., pastor of RWOC, spoke to the leaders for an hour on the topic, "How to Fund Your Ministry." Afterwards, participants dispersed into small groups to discuss assigned topics.

Wednesday began with additional small group sessions followed by sessions in which the assigned questions were discussed corporately from the responses developed in the small group settings. Forum members attended service at RWOC that evening and were blessed by the fervent worship as well as the multiracial nature of the congregation.

According to Dr. Ronald Carpenter, the purpose of this meeting was twofold: (1) development of a set of core values for the ministry and (2) production of a procedural document for the ministry.

"Both goals were accomplished, and the development of a five-year plan for IPHC African-American Ministries is now under way as a result of this first leadership forum," he says. "Pray for this vital ministry of the church as we endeavor to impact our great nation!" 🙏

Group Shot (l-r; seated): Dr. Ronald W. Carpenter, Sr., director of Evangelism USA and vice chairman of the IPHC; Macon Wilson, director of IPHC African-American Ministries; Ronald W. Carpenter, Jr., pastor, Redemption World Outreach Ministries; (l-r; standing) Hasker Hudgins, David Holton, Jerome Edwards, Chuck Coleman, Chris Thompson, Demetrius Miles, Ricky Walter, Eddie Cross, Rupert George, Kelvin Steward, Douglas Wilson, Garry Bryant (national field director, ACTS2DAY Ministries), Stacy Hilliard, and Carl Franklin. (Dayton Birt and Andrew Shaw were absent.)

Stacy D. Hilliard united with the International Pentecostal Holiness Church in February 2006. In March 2007, the North Carolina Conference Board appointed him to serve as African-American coordinator. His commitment to accomplishing the vision of uniting God's people is unwavering and is evidenced as he preaches and teaches and lives on a foundation established on the will of God.

Hasker Hudgins, Jr., serves as director of evangelism for Operation GO! Ministries at Redemption World Outreach Center in Greenville, S.C. He holds a bachelor of divinity degree in practical theology from Destiny Bible College in Greenville. In addition to training in the U.S., he has trained in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Mexico, the Fiji Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He also serves on the advisory board of Homes of Hope International of Greenville and Law in Action, a program designed to reduce jail overcrowding.

Demetrius Miles is founding pastor of Tucson Church International, a progressive, Christ-centered, culturally diverse congregation in Tucson, Arizona. He is also the president of Kingdom Life Ministries, a ministry designed to impact the community through education and economic development. Demetrius and his wife, Angela, have one son, Isaiah Demetrius.

Kelvin G. Steward is the founder of Rivers of Joy Ministries in Jonesboro and Homer, Louisiana. He and his wife, Rhonda, live in Jonesboro. In May 2000, Bishop Stewart was licensed with the IPHC, and in 2006, he was elected African-American coordinator for the Mid-South Conference. In 2000 he established JOY I.M.P.A.C.T, Inc., a faith-based economic development program to provide youth and young adults with the resources and information needed to become productive citizens academically and economically in Jackson Parish.

Bishop D. Chris Thompson is superintendent of the North Carolina Conference of the IPHC. He also serves as Northeastern Zone representative on the General Executive Board and as a member of the General Board of Administration. Prior to his election as conference superintendent, Thompson served 7 years as assistant superintendent, 4 years as director of Evangelism, and 11 years as director of Evangelism/World Missions.

Ricky Walter, founder and senior pastor of Lifeline Fellowship Family Church in Corsicana, Texas, serves on the board of Grace Bible Ministries of the IPHC. Walter holds a bachelor of science degree in church ministries, as well as master of arts and science degrees. He is executive director of Lifeline Children and Family Services, which serves more than 150 children who have been removed from their families of origin due to abuse or neglect. Ricky and his wife, Dorothy, have two biological children and four adopted children and are guardians of two nieces and a nephew.

Douglas Wilson has established six churches. Bishop Wilson was blessed with his bishopric consecration and installation on October 11, 1998, after completing the Level I Program from the Joint College of African-American Pentecostal Bishops Congress of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1999. In June 2006, he was ordained into the IPHC and presently serves as the African-American Ministries coordinator, teacher in the School of Ministry, and on the Evangelism Board and the Ministerial Credentials Committee. He and his wife, Maxine, have three daughters.