Bishop Sherman Has Always Had A "Repenting Heart"

Post Managing Editor
At the age of three J.
Howard Sherman was flipping through the pages of the Bible and contemplating the colored photos. At 14 years of age he had begun to preach. Now that Bishop Sherman is an officer of the Church of God in Christ—the largest black Pentecostal Church in the world with a membership of about 3.6 million members—some may wonder why did God choose this man to be a leader?

"I wouldn't say I was any different from any other child," Bishop Sherman reminisced, "but I remember I always had a repenting heart."

In Bishop Sherman's mind loving and helping people regardless of their race, creed or color are two of the foremost principles of any ministry. "It's also important to know how to pray for others' conditions: physical, financial and spiritual."

He has found that study and total dedication has led him in the right path to oversee 22 churches and missions in North Carolina. He has also founded churches in several North and South Carolina cities, including Charlotte. In 1973 he founded the Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ located at 1401 Parkwood Ave. with eight members. Today there are over 300. The mortgage on the building has been chipped from \$150,000 to \$15,000 in only 12 years

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Bishop Sherman is also founder and principal donor of the J. H. Sherman Scholarship Fund. "This is one of the joys of my hinistry," Bishop Sher-

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Bishop J. Howard Sherman "First comes love!"

man shared. "The scholarship allows people in poverty to get a new start on life." To date 40 young individuals have benefited from the scholarship fund. "And today these same people are helping others."

If Bishop Sherman is so sure about the path of his life in God how are others to be sure what God's will is for their lives? The Bishop feels that for people who truly want to know what God's will is in their lives the answer is prayer.

"You must have area in your life for prayer," Bishop Sherman began. "This allows you to seek Divine guidance and allows you to ask for Divine guidance. God will give you the answer."

One of the most important scriptures concerning God's will, the Bishop offered, is St. Matthews 6:33. "But you, seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

"Only Christ can give you that inner quietness and great peace," Bishop Sherman confirmed.

Bishop Sherman's experiences as a Christian have also helped him prepare for the duties of chairman of the Board of Bishops of the International Church of God in Christ (comprising over 116 Bishops both foreign and domestic).

He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Charles Harrison Mason Scholarship Foundation, a member of the Saints Center Board of Directors, member of the National Hymnal Committee - Church of God in Christ, and Board of Directors of the Church of God in Christ Hospital Fund.

A recipient of several awards, honors, citations and commendations, he received such honors as Outstanding Citizen of Wadesboro, Special Commendation from Religious Workers' Guild and the J. Howard Sherman Day proclaimed by the Mayor of Charlotte, City Council and Board of County Com-

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missioners

He is also founder of the successful feeding of the 500 Valentine's Day Act of Love which fed and provided clothing for 575 people in the Charlotte area without assistance from public programs. This feeding of the 500 was sponsored by the Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ and radio

listeners

Bishop Sherman holds the Doctor of Divinity Degree from Trinity Hall College and Seminary and the Doctor of Laws (honorary) from the New Haven Theological Seminary in consort with the Southeastern University and the Eastern-American University. Bishop Sherman is married to Daisy.

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