

# Apostle Gibson Has Long And "Illustrious" Period Of Service

By Audrey C. Ledata  
Post Staff Writer

Apostle C.B. Gibson, pastor of the Mother House of Prayer on Beatties Ford Road and chairman for the House of Prayer in the state of North Carolina, has had a long and illustrious period of service in the church.

"I got in when I was very young," Apostle Gibson reveals. "I grew up in the House of Prayer. My mother was secretary in the church in Macon, Ga., and my father was a deacon. I became a junior elder under Daddy Grace in 1949."

He was first called to preach by Daddy Grace in 1950. "That still lives with me," he states.

In 1953, Apostle Gibson left Macon for Detroit, Mi., where he began pastoring. During his 2½ years in Detroit, he studied sociology and law in his spare time. Then he was transferred to Buffalo, N.Y., where he was appointed chairman of the midwestern states. He retained that position until Bishop Grace died in 1960.

Leaving Buffalo to accept a transfer to Columbia, S.C., in 1964, Apostle Gibson became chairman for that state. During his tenure, he achieved "Victory," a recognition for South Carolina as most outstanding state in its class.

While in Columbia, he was named first president of the McCollough Scholarship program. "The Bishop wanted to help the young people," he explains. "He made the first contribution of \$12,000. Contributions have since come not only from House of Prayer congregation, but from the larger community as well.

In 1971 Apostle Gibson was appointed a judge of the General Council, a position which he holds to this day. As one of three judges nationwide, he presides over representatives to the General Council when they meet at Convocation. Be-



**APOSTLE C. B. GIBSON**  
—State of North Carolina chairman

cause the House of Prayer has become a tax-exempt organization under Bishop McCollough, it is vitally important that records be kept, books checked, and business kept in order. It is the purpose of the General Council to monitor these business aspects.

Apostle Gibson likens the church's system to the country's judicial system, with Bishop McCollough having final approval on decisions of the judges.

The years 1971 to 1977, the Mother House pastor spent in Savannah, Ga. There, too, he achieved "Victory" and became state chairman.

For the past eight years,

Apostle Gibson has been in the Queen City. His job as pastor involves the normal duties of any minister: preaching, counseling, visiting the sick, presiding at weddings and funerals. The church in North Caro-

lina has attained Victory and Apostle Gibson is "King" of A Class.

Except for a brief consideration of becoming a lawyer, Apostle Gibson always wanted to pastor. "It came up in me from

childhood that I wanted to be a preacher," he recalls. "I like talking to people. The Lord directed me that way."

The Mother House of Prayer has three assistant pastors: Apostle J. Young, Apostle Odell Alexander, and Apostle S. Mills Sr.

In addition to his pastoring responsibilities, Apostle Gibson chairs the church in North Carolina. The state is comprised of three districts. The Greensboro district has Apostle H. Cloud as chairman; Huntersville has Apostle D.C. Truesdale, and Charlotte has Apostle C. Taylor. The district chairmen report to Apostle Gibson.

As state chairman, it is his duty to see that rules and regulations are being kept and that the churches are moving forward. He reports to the Bishop, keeping him informed of conditions in the state as a whole.

Apostle Gibson is also an instructor at McCollough Seminary in Richmond, Va., where he teaches a variety of subjects. He explains that the purpose of the seminary is to teach the administrative aspects of pastoring rather than preaching or theology. The church's belief is that preachers are called and inspired by God.

An additional duty of

Apostle Gibson's is to serve as secretary of the General Assembly, a post which he has held over 10 years.

Apostle Gibson, as pastor of the Mother House, wants to see a larger membership. "I would like for everyone in Charlotte to be a member," he smiles. This hope, he states, is based on a belief that the House of Prayer has something very good to offer.

The mission of the church, he notes, is to spread Christianity through the home to the community and then on to the city and the nation. This can be done, he says, by "cultivating the heart."

Apostle Gibson is married and has three children. His wife, Bernice, also grew up in the House of Prayer. A graduate of Payne College in Augusta, Ga., Mrs. Gibson is "very dedicated to senior citizens." She is also most helpful to her husband in his endeavors.

Daughter Veda is studying medicine at UNC-Greensboro; Clifford Jr., is studying computer science at Kings College; and younger daughter Berniceata attends Ranson Junior High.

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