

# African American Disciples Woman

A Newsletter produced by Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## Haiti

May 2009

This spring an intergenerational group of African Americans journeyed to Haiti for an opportunity to interact and connect with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Haiti. Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea. This island was one of the first conquered by the Europeans in the early 16th century. The indigenous population was practically wiped out and replaced by African slaves.

not only an education, but also the power and joy that comes from being able to read and understand the word of God.

*Did you know:* The 2006 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide group journeyed to Haiti/Dominican Republic? (see insert)



The women on this trip shared that this was a life transforming experience. Rev. Courtney Stanton from Los Angeles, CA shared that this journey reminded her, in a profound way, that she was a part of the universal Body of Christ.

They visited The National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH) which is made up of 5,000 churches and serves as an umbrella organization for Haitian Protestant churches and associations. Established in 1986, it seeks to be not only an advocate for its member churches, but also a preacher of the gospel to all peoples everywhere. CONASPEH has projects in education and literacy.

CONASPEH is providing the means by which people in Haiti can have access to,

**2009-2010  
Quadrennial Service  
Project:  
Human Trafficking:  
Breaking the chains of  
modern day slavery**

Learn how to join Disciples women in breaking the chains of human trafficking. Visit our web site at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) and on the right hand side, click on "Human Trafficking" for downloadable resources, ideas and presentations.

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### Insert

To learn more visit [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) and click on "Woman-to-Woman Worldwide"/"Trip List"/"Haiti"; also click on "Called, Gifted and Sent" / "2008".



## Spring is Here, Sheila P. Spencer

### Ecclesiastes 3:1

<sup>1</sup> For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

*This spring signifies my completion of four full seasons in Indianapolis. It represents my completion of four full seasons in a new position.*

It's confirmation of a complete leap of faith that placed me right where God wanted me to be. There were several seasonal adjustments and the major one was to experience a real winter season with snow. I had to get winter gear and enlisted friends to be my winter wardrobe guides. I read "Winter Shopping for Dummies" I bought shovels, mittens, gloves, long johns, earmuffs, hats, scarves and snow boots. I saw several nice boots and coats, but my guide kept reminding me, "Sheila, that is a cute boot (coat) but is not a winter boot (coat), step away from it" I learned to embrace 45-degree weather as a warm day. I casually mentioned this during a conversation with my mother, who said to my father, "There is a woman on this phone who says that 45-degrees is warm. We need to know who she is and what she has done with our daughter." Once you've experienced several 12 below zero days, a 45-degree day will make you shout for joy!!!

Spring is not a new season for me. But Midwest life has taught me to experience all seasons through a new set of eyes. Even in the midst of winter, I experienced the beauty of snow. But I realized why I was so excited about this spring: Going through a true winter made me truly and fully appreciate the spring. In the midst of recent times, you appreciate and understand the blessing of giving.

Disciples Women have always exhibited a spirit of generosity. We have raised funds for scholarships, enabled missionaries to journey abroad and at home, helped to build schools and educate future generations. We will survive and thrive during the economic recession because

we are the descendants of women who survived the Great Depression, several world wars and gas shortages. The outward circumstances never affected or dampened our spirits. The key is that we know we serve a God who will never go bankrupt, nor will God ever file chapter 11 and God will never squander what has been created. With God's grace I not going to crumble or decline. Women are

steeped in generosity, it's our nature, an integral part of our DNA and simply pours out of us.

*There's no crisis where Christ is.....  
Spring is here,  
Sheila P. Spencer*

## Our Legacy, Carnella Jamison Barnes

Carnella Jamison Barnes, born in 1911, was educated at Southern Christian Institute and Talladega College. She became National Field Secretary of Negro Missionary Organizations, based out of the United Christian Missionary Society at Indianapolis in 1938. She was ordained to Christian ministry in 1938. For seven years, Miss Jamison traveled all over the United States. In 1945 she became the Director of the Community Christian Center for the Avalon Christian Church in Los Angeles. In 1945 she married Anderson B. Barnes and mothered triplets. She later became the first African American President of the International Christian Women's Fellowship from 1974 to 1978 Under her leadership the 1978 Quadrennial recorded the largest attendance in recent decades of 4,914 people.



(Courtesy of Black Disciples Who Made a Difference – Edition # 1)

Picture is from the holdings of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Thank you, Carnella Jamison Barnes.

### GA After-Sessions

All After-Session will be in the Well, located in the Santé Fe room at the Marriott Hotel -

**Wednesday:** 7/29

Enabler & Leader Apprentice Program

**Thursday:** 7/30

Clergy Women & Women Seminarians

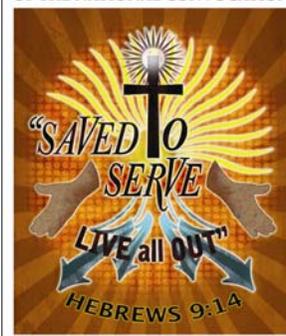
**Friday:** 7/31

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide & Women's Action Web

**Saturday:** 8/1

Former ICWF/IDWM Executive & Committee Members and ODW Staff

21<sup>ST</sup> BIENNIAL SESSION  
OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION



JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2010

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Charleston Convention Center  
Charleston, South Carolina

## WWW 2008—Israel/Palestine by Patricia Q. Bluit

*Note: For more of the story & pictures regarding Patricia's experiences see November 2008, page 3.*



Our journey began on Monday, September 28, 2008, in Newark, New Jersey, where sixteen women from around the U.S.A. gathered for this life-changing trip. Some of the women in our group were meeting each other for the first time. There were several of us renewing friendships. Later as we gathered for dinner, we learned that one of our ladies had broken her leg after she had arrived at the airport. We were all in disbelief that she would not be able to travel with us. The next day during our orientation we did get to meet her and wish her a speedy recovery before we departed for Tel Aviv that evening.

We arrived at the Tel Aviv Airport at 9:30 AM Tuesday Sept. 29, 2008. We were taken to the Sister's of Nazareth Inn in Nazareth where we would spend three nights. Our schedule was full and the nights were long. Over the three days based in Nazareth we visited several places, to name a few, the Ecumenical programs in Palestine and Israel, Jayyous Place; the Holy Sites around the Sea of Galilee. I stood in the Sea of Galilee. Our



last day in Nazareth we visited the Israeli Arab Christian women, Mar Elisa College, Muchraka (site of the Prophet Elijah battling Ba'al) and local Christian women from Sabeel Nazareth. We heard many stories about the persecution on Christians, and the wall that separates Israel and Palestine. It was sad and mind boggling to see how the wars in 1946 and 1968 divided the people.

We traveled to Notre Dame Hotel, Jerusalem hotel, on Friday, Oct. 3, 2008, where we stayed for two nights. We left for a side trip to Haifa to meet Isha I'isha women (Israel) and had lunch with them by the Mediterranean Sea and heard of



their situations and struggles as women in Israel. The Mediterranean Sea was so beautiful with clear blue water as far as you could see. We left there and checked in the hotel. At 5:30 we visited The Work of the YWCA in Palestine, here we saw the different things they made: quilts, banners, etc. We had dinner with Mira R. General Secretary of the YWCA.

On Saturday Oct. 4 we visited the Holy Sites in the Old city, toured The Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. I cannot tell you how beautiful the synagogues, chapels the art work in each one was magnificent and very moving. The Garden of Gethsemane was beautiful and I was standing there remembering the



events of Jesus praying there, the events afterwards, his death, burial and resurrection. I was so moved I stood there thanked God for God's son and how good he has been to me, my family and everyone there. We left there and went to Ramallah to visit Friends International Center and ice cream at Rukabs. The ice cream was different but good; the people in the place were nice and let us take their pictures.

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008 we worshipped at two different churches. We left Jerusalem after we all returned from church and went to the Bethlehem Inn in Bethlehem where we will stay three nights. While there, we went to the Israeli organization B'tselem to visit with Risa for an overview of the conflict, Israeli coalition against house demolition, and the village of Nu'eman.

On Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 . . . The story will continue in another issue.

*After hearing all of those stories and seeing the wall that separates Israel from Palestine, my prayer is that*



*some how the wall dividing Israel and Palestine will come*

*down just like the Berlin wall came down in peace and in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

2008—2010 Officers of the  
National Convocation Disciples Women



|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| President                | Patricia Bluit (Southwest)                 |
| 1st Vice President       | Pamela Dubose (Mississippi)                |
| 2nd Vice President       | Marilyn Williams (North Carolina)          |
| Immediate Past President | Daisy Chambers (North Carolina)            |
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| Treasurer & Staff        | Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women) |

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## Connection Section

General Assembly 2009  
July 29 to August 2, 2009



registered you may still purchased meal tickets via the registration system. They are also available by calling (317) 713 2406 - Doris Speaks, by July 6, 2009.

**National Convocation Disciples Women!!!!**  
**We have you covered for lunch and for dinner on Thursday, July 30, 2009**

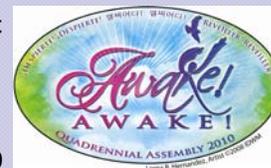
**Friday, July 31**, features the Unity Reception at 9:30 PM in the Convention Center rooms 120-121.

*Be Well Fed—purchase all your tickets in advance.*

Registration for General Assembly is at <http://www.disciples.org/> (look on the left hand side for the link to GA).

### Exhibit Hall .

Visit the QA Booth and register for Quadrennial 2010 and select workshops. The workshop listing may be found in advance at [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org). Registration begins July 29, 2009 at the General Assembly or online.



At the same site you will be able to purchase your Disciples Women luncheon tickets for \$25 each with a credit card. Lunch will be in the Convention Center at noon. Program includes installation of Sheila P. Spencer, Gloria F. Hernandez, and Amber R. Dixon; and performances by Light of the World Christian Church liturgical dance group. For those who prefer to write a check for the luncheon ticket; you may purchase the ticket through the Office of Disciples Women. The order form is posted on our web site at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org).

At the International Disciples Women's Ministries (next to the QA booth) you may pursue logo merchandise available for purchase.

At the National Convocation booth, visit with friends, talk with staff, and pick up information.

After ordering your ticket for lunch, click on the best dinner choice for the evening and join the National Convocation for their banquet in Marriott Ballrooms 7-10 at 5:30 PM. The price per ticket is \$33. The feature speaker is Pastor Jeffrey A Johnson, Sr., pastor of the Eastern Star Church of Indianapolis. If you have already

**Stay connected** with African-American Disciples Women -If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail us at [odw@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:odw@dhm.disciples.org); include "African American Disciples Women Newsletter" in your subject line; you will be added.

## Great Dates

|                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>July 29 to August 2, 2009</b> | General Assembly<br>Indianapolis, IN |
| <b>July 30, 2009</b>             | Disciples Women's Lunch              |
| <b>July 30, 2009</b>             | National Convocation Dinner          |

**November 8 to 23, 2009** Woman-to-Woman Worldwide  
Venezuela and Colombia

**June 23 to 27, 2010** Quadrennial Assembly  
Greensboro, NC

**July 28 to August 2, 2010** National Convocation  
Charleston, SC

[www.disciples.org/  
convo](http://www.disciples.org/convo)

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