The Fourteenth Commencement Exercise

W. L. Bonner College

Baccalaureate Services
The twenty-third day of May
Two thousand twelve
Seven thirty in the evening
Speaker: President William L. Bonner

Commencement Exercises
The twenty-fourth day of May
Two thousand twelve
Seven O’clock in the evening
Speaker: Dr. Charles Wright, Sr.

Held

Refuge Temple Church Sanctuary
Columbia, South Carolina
Bishop William L. Bonner has made significant contributions in church planting and evangelism, including the design and erection of sanctuaries, educational and social facilities. He is an outstanding educator and his received recognition in religious, civic and academic circles. He is the first inductee into the WLBC Hall of Fame.

Pastor Bonner is a visionary leader, church planter and builder, evangelist, pastor and educator. He established the Commission for World Evangelism to increase the involvement of parishioners in missionary work. His role as an evangelist has led him beyond his borders to edify and build up congregations everywhere. Empowered and anointed by the Holy Spirit to persuade and motivate people to respond to the Gospel in saving faith, he has won many souls to Christ, enriching and expanding the Kingdom of God. Under his administration the denomination (COOLJC) has experienced phenomenal growth. In 1961, the organization had 155 assemblies with a combined membership of 45,000. Today there are approximately 506 churches with a combined membership of 100,000. Church congregations are located in every major city in the United States, with churches and missions in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, West Africa and Europe. As a world missionary, Pastor Bonner has expanded upon the work began by Bishop Lawson in establishing, not only churches, but educational institutions and health facilities. In Bokaytown, Liberia, West Africa, he built a clinic so that women could come from the “Bush” to have their babies in sanitary conditions.

Bishop Bonner, an auto-pedagogical scholar, has written many books that enable Christians to know and understand who they are in Christ, and to comprehend, more thoroughly, tenets of the Christian faith. Some of his works include Another Comforter, The African Story, The Battle of Armageddon, The Uncontrolled Emotions of Young People, Life in the Holy Spirit, The Three Women: Sarah, Rebecca and Jezebel, The Apostolic Dilemma, Part I and II, My Father in the Gospel, and Add Thou To It. In addition, many books have been written by others as a tribute to his contributions to church growth and evangelism, Christian education and world missions. One of the most distinguished of these works is The Man and His God.

W. L. Bonner College is the crown jewel of Pastor Bonner’s educational ministry. Since 1995 the school has trained approximately 1,400 students for ministry and professional development that has made them eligible for promotion and advancement within their denominational institutions. Earning its first accredited status with The International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA) in 1999, the institution is now pursuing the accredited status with The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Representatives marvel as they listen to Pastor Bonner tell the vision that God gave him to start a theological institution for training ministers, missionaries and lay persons to become more effective in their ministry. Pastor Bonner has influenced those who once felt that higher education and training was not essential if you are called by God, to enroll in the college and many have remained until they received the institution’s highest degree, the Bachelor of Religious Studies.

As president of the college, Pastor Bonner has traveled extensively, using revivals and conferences to recruit for the college. The growing number of students who flock to his classrooms from diverse denominations is a testimony to his ability, through the Holy Spirit, to change lives. Pastor Bonner’s charismatic personality and kind spirit enables him to draw many as he communicates to them the changes that will take place within their lives as they proceed.
Bishop Charles E. Wright was born in Orangeburg, S. C. He migrated to New York in 1958. He was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit under the ministry of the late Bishop R. C. Lawson at Refuge Temple in February of 1960. After being saved Bishop Wright immediately became a student of the word of God. He attended youth Bible classes on Saturday evenings and in the Fall of 1960 he enrolled in the Church of Christ Bible Institute to begin formal study of the word of God. He graduated with honors in May of 1962, and he was the Valedictorian of his class.

Dean Wright continued studying the word of God and he received the Bachelor of Theology Degree in 1963 from the American Divinity College. He studied at the Manhattan Bible Institute and as a result of these studies he received the Master of Theology Degree from the American Divinity College. Dean Wright began as an instructor of New Testament studies at the Church of Christ Bible Institute in 1974.

In order to broaden his education, Dean Wright enrolled in Bronx Community College in 1969 and after two years he transferred to Herbert H. Lehman College, a four year college of the City University of New York. He received the Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in History in 1974 from Lehman College, he graduated Cum Laude. Dean Wright had several offers from other schools but he accepted the full academic scholarship to study at Columbia University in New York City so that he would be near his family while he studied. He began teaching full-time in the New York City school system on the secondary level while he pursued his studies at Teachers College of Columbia University. Dean Wright received his Masters of Arts Degree in 1975 from Teachers College of Columbia University. He was a member of Kappa Delta Phi, an honor society in education in 1974; he was also a member of the Association of Teachers of Social Studies in America.

Dean Wright was awarded the Doctor of Theology Degree in 1976 from the Southern Bible Seminary. He also graduated from New York Theological Seminary in 1999 Magna Cum Laude with a Masters of Professional Studies Degree. It was in the International Convocation in Topeka, Kansas that Pastor Bonner asked the then Elder Wright to become his Assistant Pastor at Greater Refuge Temple and to also serve as the Dean of the Church of Christ Bible Institute. After prayer and consultation with his wife Elder Wright yielded to the call of God on his life through Pastor Bonner. That was thirty-seven years ago. Dean Wright continues to teach at the Church of Christ Bible Institute, and serve as its Dean and serve as Assistant Pastor of Greater Refuge Temple. He also serves as the Chairman of the Catechism Committee of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. To God be the glory.
ORDER OF BACCALAUREATE SERVICES

Wednesday, May 23, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Apostle Matthew Norwood, Presiding

ENTRANCE OF PLATFORM GUESTS  “America the Beautiful”  Katherine Lee Bates
                                  Ms. DaBetta Smith, Soloist  Samuel Ward

THE INVOCATION
Bishop James Darby, Chairman
COOLJC Board of Bishops

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES
Old Testament  Bishop T. E. Woolfolk
                  COOLJC Executive Secretary
New Testament  Pastor Willie Shy, Chairman
                  COOLJC Board of Presbyters

THE MUSICAL SELECTION
South Carolina Upstate Diocesan Choir
Elder George Heyward, Sr., Director

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Mrs. Dawn Mills-Campbell
WLBC Board of Directors Secretary

REFLECTIONS  Ms. Denise Taiste, Women’s Ministries
                  Cum Laude

THE SALUTATORY ADDRESS
Mrs. Frances Moore, Women’s Ministries
                  Cum Laude

THE OFFERING (SOWING INTO THE MINISTRY)  Apostle Herbert Edwards, Sr.
                  WLBC Board of Directors, COOLJC, Region XI

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER  Apostle Henry A. Moultrie, II
                  COOLJC Region, I

THE INSTRUMENTAL SOLO  Brother Darryl Moore
                  Jacksonville, Florida

THE BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER  President William L. Bonner
                  WLBC President

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHP  Bishop Fred Rubin. Director of Development
                  COOLJC, Region III

THE BENEDICTION  Apostle Bradford Berry, WLBC Professor
                  COOLJC Region, IX
Order of Commencement Services
Thursday, May 24, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Pastor Charles Pollock, Presiding

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE
Selected Arrangements
Mr. Joseph Green, Jr.
Mr. Marvin Scott

(Please stand for the processional, and remain standing through the Invocation)

THE PROCESSIONAL
“Come Thou Almighty King”
Charles Wesley
Felice di Giardini

POSTING OF THE COLORS
Minister Willie J. Glover
Brother Raymond Jones

THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM
James Weldon Johnson
John Rosamond Johnson

THE INVOCATION
Dr. Melvin Bullock, Sr.
Vice Chair, WLBC Board of Trustees

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES
Old Testament
Dr. Fabian Maganda, WLBC Professor

New Testament
Dr. Ronnie Parson, WLBC Professor

THE MUSICAL SELECTION
W. L. Bonner College Fellowship Choir
Mrs. Sheneice Smith, Music Professor
Brother Joseph Green, Jr., Minister of Music (Refuge Temple Church)
Mrs. Glinda Roberts, Directress
Mrs. Jennifer Nyanfor, Directress
Brother Marvin Scott, Musician (Refuge Temple Church)

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RECOGNITION
Dr. Celeste Ashe-Johnson
WLBC Board Chair Lady

THE SALUTATIONS
Dr. Robert Spellman, President
Church of Christ Bible Institute

Mrs. Elizabeth Eason, Principal
Hyatt Park Elementary School

Mr. Sam Davis, City Councilman
City of Columbia

THE MUSICAL SELECTION
W. L. Bonner College Fellowship Choir
HONORABLE MENTION REFLECTIONS
Elder Robert E. Woodard
Pastoral Ministries, Cum Laude

THE VALEDICTORY ADDRESS
Mrs. Valarie Woodard
Women’s Ministries, Magna Cum Laude

THE OFFERING (SOWING INTO THE MINISTRY)
Apostle Walter L. Jackson
WLBC Board of Trustees, COOLJC Region VIII

DELTA EPSILON CHI AWARD
Dean Elaine McQueen
Elder Isaac Pressley, Recipient (Pastoral Ministries)

THE INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Bishop Richard Williams
COOLJC Secretariat

THE INSTRUMENTAL SOLO
Mr. Derrick Roberts
Jacksonville, Florida

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Bishop Charles Wright, Sr., Dean
Church of Christ Bible Institute, New York City

PRESENTATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES
Ms. Elaine McQueen, College Dean
Dr. William L. Bonner, Founding President
Dr. Celeste Ashe-Johnson, Board Chairperson

THE ALUMNI INDUCTION
Pastor Luther B. Grier, Jr.
WLBC Alumni Vice President

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION
Pastor William Smith
WLBC Board of Directors
Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ

THE RECESSIONAL
“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”  Julie W. Howe

“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His Truth is marching on!
2012 Graduates

BACHELOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Valarie E. Woodard, Valedictorian
Women’s Ministries, Magna Cum Laude

Frances D. Moore, Salutatorian
Women’s Ministries, Cum Laude

Robert E. Woodard, Honorable Mention
Pastoral Ministries, Cum Laude

Isaac D. Pressley
Biblical Studies

Denise M. Taiste
Women’s Ministries, Cum Laude

ASSOCIATE OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Delores Gilmore
Religious Studies

CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Ronald Black
Ministerial Studies

Michael J. Brown
Ministerial Studies, Cum Laude

Doris T. Washington
Women’s Ministries

Samuel Wolfe
Biblical Studies
The Academic Regalia

The academic regalia worn in college and university ceremonies today have their origins in “The Middle Ages.” Monks and students wore them to keep warm in the medieval castles and halls in which they studied. From these practical beginnings, the traditional caps, gowns and hoods have come to symbolize scholarly achievement.

W. L. Bonner College is authorized to grant the Bachelor of Religious Studies, the Associate of Religious Studies and the Certificate of Christian Ministries. The bachelor’s degree (baccalaureate) takes its name directly from the medieval practice of bachelors wearing a garland of bayberries.

The Key to Symbols

The Latin phrases distinguishing the levels of performance recognized by medieval universities have come to be used to honor modern graduates, as well.

**Summa cum Laude**

“With greatest praise’, is awarded for cumulative grade point averages from 3.80-4.0.

**Magna cum Laude**

“With great praise’, is awarded for cumulative grade point averages from 3.60-3.79.

**Cum Laude**

“With praise’, is awarded for cumulative grade point averages from 3.40-3.59.

The gold rope worn by WLBC students denotes honor graduates as Summa cum Laude. The purple rope identifies honor graduates as Magna cum Laude, and those who earned honors as Cum Laude wear the white ropes.

Members of the governing body of a college often wear doctoral gowns under the rule of protocol. Those participating as marshals wear robes selected specifically for the Commencement Exercises.

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**In today’s Ceremony the baccalaureate candidates wear black robes, black board and gold tassel.**

**The associate degree candidates wear royal blue robes, blue board and gold tassel.**

**The Certificate candidates wear white robes, white board and gold tassel.**
COMMENCEMENT PROCESSION

Commencement Choir

Platform Marshals
College President
College Board Chairperson
College Dean
Platform Guests

Marshal
Board of Trustees

Marshal
COOLJC Board of Apostles and Wives
COOLJC Cabinet and Spouses

Marshal
Graduation 2012 Candidates

Marshal
Faculty
Administration
Staff

Marshal
Alumni Association

Flag Bearers
(Posting of the Colors)
Every effort has been made to correctly list the candidates for degrees and certificates, and citing those individuals graduating with honors. Please note, however, that the listings are prepared for program purposes, and do not constitute official records.