

# REV. A. D. Baxter Named Chairman of the National Council of Elders of the Church of God in Christ

With the best wishes of Mayor Frank L. Rizzo, inscribed Liberty Bells were presented recently to Rev. Alonzo D. Baxter, of Coatesville, Pa., in recognition of his having been appointed chairman of the National Council of Elders of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), by the Rt. Rev. James O. Patterson, of Memphis, Tenn., presiding bishop of the internationally renowned denomination. The Rev. Mr. Baxter is pastor of Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ, Fifth Ave. and Chestnut St., Coatesville.

The recognition by Mayor Rizzo was a highlight of a reception dinner in honor of the Rev. Mr. Baxter at the Holiday Inn, City Ave. and Monument Rd. Rev. R. T. Jones, Jr., pastor of Christian Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, Chester, Pa., presented the Liberty Bells on behalf of the Mayor. The Rev. Mr. Jones is a member of the Philadelphia Police Department, Community Relations Division.

**BISHOP PATTERSON** was the guest speaker. He was introduced by Bishop Leroy Anderson, of Buffalo, N.Y. Bishop J. H. Sherman, of Charlotte, N.C., was the master of ceremonies. He was introduced by Rev. J. E. Lee, of Dallas, Tex.

Remarks from the Rev. Mr. Baxter reflected his appreciation of the presentations made to him and his family, as well as the national, state, district and local tributes paid to them. Congratulations also came from the White House and from Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Norman A. Jenkins.

Program participants also included Charles Baxter, of Lancaster, Pa., musical interlude; Bishop L. T. Blackshear, of Wilmington, Del., invocation; Alonzo B. Baxter, welcome address; Rev. Samuel Holden, of New Haven, Conn., blessing of food; Mrs. Ida Sams and Mrs. Nadine Jackson, soloists, and Bishop E. C. Courtney, of Trenton, N.J., benediction.

**HOSTESSES WERE** Mmes. and/or Misses Doris Baxter, chairman; Ida M. Baxter, wife of the honoree; Alice Boots, Sarah Butler, Joyce Gadsden, Rosalie Phillips, Ethel Trowery and Sonia Trowery.

Mrs. Alonzo B. Baxter was coordinator of the souvenir book. She was assisted by Mrs. J. L. Hoffman and Mrs. M. White.

Honoree Rev. Mr. Baxter was born in Orangeburg, S.C. When he was nine years old, his parents moved to Coatesville, where he began his education in the public schools of Coatesville and South Coatesville. After nine and a half



**REV. ALONZO D. BAXTER** (left, top photo), pastor of Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ (COGIC), Coatesville, Pa., and the Rt. Rev. James O. Patterson, of Memphis, Tenn., presiding bishop of the COGIC, flank Rev. R. T. Jones, Jr., pastor of Christian Tabernacle COGIC, Chester, Pa., as he presents Liberty Bell. Presentation was made on behalf of Mayor Rizzo by the Rev. Mr. Jones, who also is a member of the Philadelphia Police Department, Community Relations Division, at recent Reception Dinner honoring the Rev. Mr. Baxter at the City Ave. Holiday Inn. Hostesses were Mmes. and/or Misses Joyce Gadsden, Doris Baxter, chairman; Ethel Trowery (seated, from left, bottom photo), Sonia Trowery, Rosalie Phillips, Ida Baxter, honoree's wife; Alice Boots and Sarah Butler (standing, from left). — LeRoy F. Brown, Jr. Photos

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able to continue his education on full-time basis, he furthered his schooling through lectures,

and correspondence courses. He also attended classes at Eastern Baptist Seminary,

Philadelphia; Immaculata College, Malvern, Pa., and Lancaster Theological College, Lancaster, Pa. He was honored with a doctorate degree from Otaga College, California, for his outstanding work in religion.

IN 1937, HE married Miss Ida McRae, of Trenton, N.J. They are parents of four children, Alan Craig, Alonzo B., Sherel R. and Morris K.

The Rev. Mr. Baxter accepted the call to the ministry in 1943. In 1944, he organized the Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ in a storefront at 643 S. First Ave., Coatesville. He was ordained in August, 1944, in Philadelphia.

The phenomenal growth of the church necessitated larger and more permanent quarters. In 1946, ground was purchased at 500 S. First Ave. Four years ago, the congregation moved to even larger quarters at Fifth Ave. and Chestnut St., where it now worships.

In June, 1965, the Rev. Mr. Baxter was elected to a four-year term as general secretary of the Pastors and Ministers Fellowship Council. He won re-election in 1969. In July, 1966, he organized what now is known as the Eastern Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, presently presided over by Bishop D. A. Burton. In 1967, he was appointed assistant bishop in that Jurisdiction by the executive board of the Church of God in Christ at Memphis. In April, 1970, he was elected to the National Board of Trustees of the Church of God in Christ for a term of four years.

"AN ACCOLADE of a Man," a poem composed by Mrs. Ida M. Baxter, is "dedicated with love and great pride to my husband." It reads thus:

*That he was honored was no surprise  
Knowing the character of the man  
Deeply concerned, conscientious  
and spiritually alive  
Championing a cause on every hand.*

*He was secretary for the Elders Council for years  
Working faithfully, honestly,  
denying self  
Toiling many times past mid-  
night with no fear*

*Loyal to past chairmen, whoever needed help.*

*The Council competed with children and wife*

*It was his job, his heart, his al-  
Many times "Council" won,  
was his very life*

*No task was too large, no pers-  
too small.*

*Whenever asked why he labored  
so hard*

*He would smile real wide and say  
Dad Mason worked and suffered  
for this Church of God*

*And we must have a vision for our  
day.*

*To him the honor came at last  
The presiding bishop and elder  
did note*

*In Memphis, April '77, they  
viewed his past*

*He was elevated as chairman of  
consenting vote.*

*They have a great man as I can  
attest*

*He is for the church one hundred  
percent*

*oh YES! They have chosen one of  
the best*

*ALONZO DAVIS BAXTER is  
one of God's men.*

(Editor's Note: Dad Mason, in the third line of the fourth verse, refers to Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founder of the Church of God in Christ.)

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