

THE GOSPEL

Fall 2020

messenger

SPECIAL EDITION

"THE CALLING"

BISHOP HANSON'S FINAL ARTICLE

WRITTEN IN JULY 2020

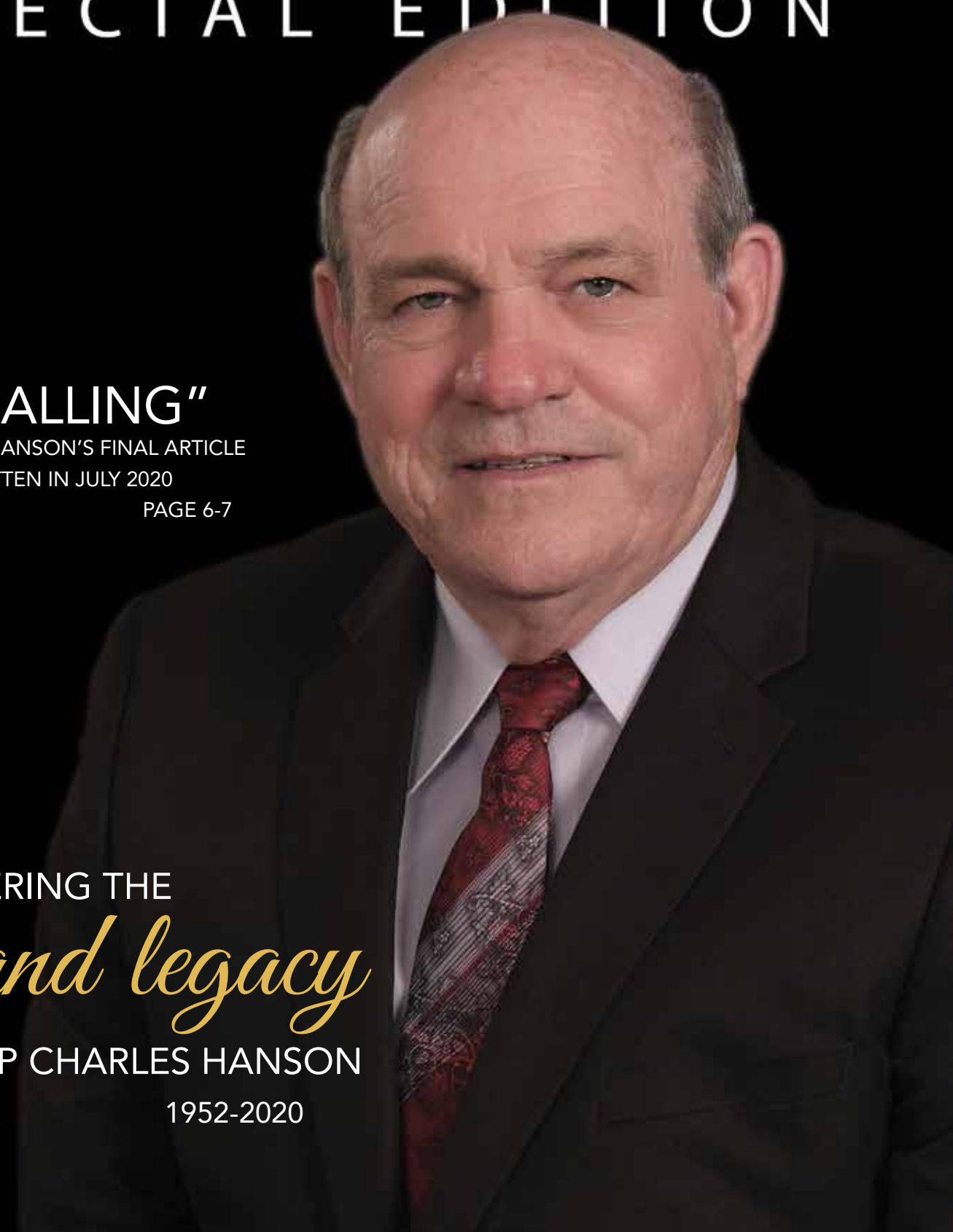
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REMEMBERING THE

life and legacy

OF BISHOP CHARLES HANSON

1952-2020



REMEMBERING BISHOP CHARLES HANSON

1952-2020

On Monday, August 10, 2020, Charles Hanson, loving husband, father of two children, grandfather to five, pastor, friend, and General Superintendent of the Congregational Holiness Church, passed away at the age of 67. Bishop Hanson was born on November 9, 1952, in Piedmont, Alabama. On June 16, 1972, he married his best-friend Susan and together, raised two daughters Dawn and Julia.

Bishop Hanson was a servant. He served in ministry as chaplain at the Medical Center of Central Georgia and also at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison, where he ministered to those on death row. He also served on the ministry board of Arms of Care International which conducted medical mission trips in many countries.

Bishop Hanson served the Congregational Holiness Church in many capacities over his life. He was the Senior Pastor of three churches in Alabama and Georgia: Plainview CHC (Piedmont, AL) 1979-1981, Living Hope CHC (Macon, GA) 1981-2003, and Living Waters CHC (Griffin, GA) 2004-2009. He also served as the Central Georgia District Superintendent on two separate occasions 1991-1997; 2002-2009. Bishop Hanson was elected as the World Missions Executive Director in 2009 and served in that position for eight years. In 2017, at the 32nd General Conference held in Gainesville, GA, Bishop Hanson was elected to the highest office within the Congregational Holiness Church, General Superintendent.

The highest accolades that can be shared about Bishop Hanson are two-fold; he loved God deeply, and he loved his family fiercely. He immersed himself into living a life that was pleasing to the Lord, the word of God, serving the Church, and strived to share his great faith with many whom he encountered. As a result, countless lives were impacted. Strangers who he met felt the same warmth and love as those who knew him best. He was kind, benevolent, strong, funny, and anointed. He was quick to listen and slow to speak just as the Father instructs His children to be. All of these traits and more he poured into the lives of his family. His two daughters, five grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, were the light of his life. He devoted himself to them and took every opportunity to see their needs and wants realized in every way possible. He is dearly missed by his loved ones, friends, and by the denomination that he faithfully served. He loved to play Monopoly, fly kites, was an avid University of Alabama fan, and went to sleep most nights after his personal devotion time watching The Honeymooners and The Andy Griffith Show. He had two beloved four-legged friends, Bud and Bo.





**BISHOP WAYNE AND
CHERRYL HICKS**

*Bishop Hicks serves the CHC as
General Superintendent.*

for the eight years that he was World Missions' Superintendent and also the more than three years that he served as General Superintendent. We never had a conversation without him talking about his precious wife, Susan, and his grandchildren and daughters. He was, beyond anything else, a family man. Family came before anything to him.

Another thing that comes to my mind is his love for his church. The day that they hooked him up to the C-pap, he called me. I couldn't understand everything that he said, but the central part I understood. He was concerned about one of our churches that was going through a difficulty. He said, "Wayne, I'm placing you in charge of the situation." He then began to tell me about it and how he thought it should be handled. I've thought many times since then, he was a very sick man, but his thoughts were on a small church that was having difficulty. That is the kind of man that he was: always thinking of others. I am sure that many of you reading this article can think of situations in your life in which he showed concern.

Many of you know that I underwent triple bypass surgery a few weeks ago. Bishop Hanson called my wife almost every day, checking on me. When I was finally dismissed from the hospital, he and Bro. Scotty Poole were the first visitors that came to my home. He told me numerous times how much he loved and appreciated me. One does not forget things like that.

Bishop Hanson will be greatly missed in our denomination, but one thing is for sure; he is leading that heavenly choir. And I believe that he is singing from the old Red Back Hymnal!



Bishop Charles 1992



Bishop Charles at the Garden Tomb in
Jerusalem, Israel.

The past few days have seemed like a dream to us. We fully expected Bishop Hanson to go into the hospital for a few days, get well, and come home. No one even considered the possibility that he would succumb to this illness. His Home-going has created a great void in our personal lives and also in our denomination.

It was my distinct privilege to have been acquainted with Bishop Hanson for more than thirty years. We worked very closely together for eleven of those years. I served as First Assistant General Superintendent

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EDITOR
Matthew Turner

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FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



It has been a privilege to serve alongside Bishop Charles Hanson for the past three years. Like you, I'm still trying to grasp his sudden departure from this life. Upon hearing of his passing, my mind immediately went into rewind mode as I thought of the last time I saw him, and the subject of our last conversation which took place on Zoom in a General Executive Board Meeting. Not surprising, the content of the conversation was all about the church he was serving as overseer. One part of our discussion was about the health of our churches and concern for local churches and districts. I remember particular concern for members of our denomination that were experiencing the effect of the health crisis.

My thoughts have beelined toward my first introduction to Charles Hanson when I was 18 years old. He was one of our teacher-preachers at CHC's General Youth Seminar being held at the North Alabama District Campground in Piedmont, Alabama. The year was 1987, and Hayward Clark was the General Church Ministries Director. The picture in my mind is of him preaching with much fire and vigor. His emphasis was the resurrection of Jesus. I can almost hear him now saying again and again, "in three days." As he would say it over and over, he would hold up three fingers. He was declaring the gospel of Jesus and the power of the resurrection. He passionately sought to win every teen that was lost in that camp. At that Youth Seminar, I remember one particular teen who came. He was not a professing Christian. In fact, he was the son of one of our Congregational Holiness pastors. I knew him well, and he was living in rebellion. I bring this up because I remember Brother Charles talking to this teen late at night on the grounds and showing great interest throughout the camp. I realize now, Bishop Hanson was trying to build a relationship with him to win him to Christ. He was trying to build a bridge to this young man's heart to lead him into

a relationship with Jesus. The sermon and evangelist fervor had to extend beyond the Tabernacle. That young man didn't accept the Lord during that camp. In fact, that guy's life went into many years of lostness and problems. However, I'm glad to report to you that young man is close to 50, and now professes the Lord as His Savior.

The seeds of the gospel and the expression of love no doubt were growing through the years.

Bishop Hanson made the theme of his service as General Superintendent all about "Bridging the Gap." This vision expressed a passion to see the Congregational Holiness Church be effective in the days ahead even to the coming of Jesus. He understood that we'll need to pass the torch of leadership at every level of our church into capable hands from generation to generation. I pray we'll keep Bishop Hanson's call to "Bridge the Gap" close to our heart as we move forward. May we serve this generation by the will of God and bridge all gaps of age and ethnicity. Most importantly, let us bridge the gap through the ministry of reconciling man to God through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Stephen Phillips



STEPHEN AND SHERRY PHILLIPS

Rev. Phillips serves the CHC as the First Assistant General Superintendent.



THE FITZPATRICK FAMILY

Rev. Jonathan serves the CHC as the General Secretary for the CHC.

Where do I begin with trying to Honor Bishop Charles Hanson? Our mission trips together? Our meetings on the World Missions and General Executive Boards together? Our meals together? Our private discussions about the ups,

downs, and frustrations of ministry and leadership? The many, many times, we laughed together as we recalled scenes from episodes of The Andy Griffith Show, The Honeymooners, or Sanford and Son, comparing them to some situation or another that was currently

happening in our lives at the moment? All of these things and more are who Bishop Charles Hanson was to me. The respect that Kristie and I had for him and Sister Susan is beyond words. Down to earth, loving, and approachable are understatement when you talk about this ministry couple. The many different leadership roles he held in the Congregational Holiness Church plays second to the love and respect I had for him as a man of God, husband, father, grandfather, friend, and mentor. I am a better person today because our paths crossed. If I had to sum up his leadership in only a few words, it would be these: wise, humble, firm, but gentle. I ever knew of him having to be firm on a matter when it was not done with gentleness and love. He lived by the idea that it is better to be kind than right. An idea that many of us should do our best to strive for.

Bishop Hanson loved the Congregational Holiness Church, and he had a vision for her. That vision was to "Bridge the Gap" between an older generation of Christians who are much respected and have long held to the tenets of our beliefs, and a younger generation

continued...

without whom we cannot effectively move into the future the way Bishop Hanson desired to do. He would often say something to the effect that, "My generation is going to have to learn how to let go of the reins a little bit." Meaning, of course, to give those who are younger an opportunity to serve in ministry and leadership roles.

The 18th Century writer and statesman Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, "Things which matter the most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least." Bishop Charles Hanson knew what mattered the most, serving God, loving his family, loving his brothers and sisters in the Lord, and leading people to Jesus, and these things were never at the mercy of things which mattered least. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, at least for a little while, until those of us who are followers of Jesus like he was, will meet him again on that glad reunion day!

—Jonathan Fitzpatrick



New Hispanic church in Arkansas



DANNY AND KATHY JONES

Rev. Danny serves the CHC as the General Treasure.

“And the LORD said unto him, what is that in thine hand?”
Exodus 4:2a

God does not measure success and impact within the Kingdom of God in terms of fame, fortune, or position, but through a life of servanthood, obedience, faithfulness and humble dedication to the work

of the Kingdom. God calls people to carry out impossible tasks within the Kingdom. Then using their yielded lives and “what is in their hand” --- singular talents, innate abilities, and unique backgrounds --- God accomplishes His will for that time and season. Such was the life, ministry, and impact of Bishop Charles Hanson upon the Kingdom of God and the Congregational Holiness Church. I served with him for over 20 years, and I witnessed this principle in his life.

IN HIS HAND was a genuine true love for all people without regard for their economic background, race, nationality, or social status. Bishop Hanson was a man of the people and was never a “respector of persons.” He never knew a stranger, and within this love of people, there was a divine energy to lead them to Christ. Whether he was ministering to prisoners on death row, leading inner-city crusades, preaching worldwide, or witnessing to one person on the street, Bishop Hanson was real.

IN HIS HAND was a unique ability to see leadership potential in ordinary people and provide guidance to fulfill that potential. He helped people to discover their purpose and identity in the Kingdom as he served as pastor, District

Superintendent, World Mission Executive Director, and General Superintendent of a worldwide denomination. Bishop Hanson always maintained a caring pastor’s heart whenever dealing with pastors and churches. His conversations with others always centered upon their needs, circumstances, and families. He made people feel people important.

IN HIS HAND was the vision of uniting all generations of leaders of the CHC. The Gospel message and doctrinal truths never change, but application and proclamation must be relevant and connective to all generations. God gave Bishop Hanson the theme of “Bridging the Gap” for our denomination. His vision for the 21st Century CHC was to couple the energy, visions, and new directions of the ministry of our younger generation of CHC leaders with the wisdom, knowledge, and experience of our older generation of CHC leaders to create a united, multi-generational dynamo of ministry. His urgent goal was to nurture and bond our younger leaders into the wonderful 100-year CHC heritage of ministry, as they would soon fill local, district, and national leadership positions. May this vision continue!

IN HIS HAND was a balance of life. Bishop Hanson demonstrated the importance of family life by example. He and his loving wife, Susan, always balanced family time with the ministry. He understood the importance and well-being of ministers’ families, and his opening conversation was, “How is your family?” You also sensed the balance of his strength as a leader and his empathy as a co-worker. He could offer positive correction without making a person feel a failure.

He could laugh with you and cry with you. He could listen and provide guidance without judgment or criticism. Bishop Hanson was the brother you could always talk to without fear of rejection.

Bishop Charles Hanson faithfully served, and using “what he had in his hand,” he powerfully affected our lives and the Kingdom of God. Should we do any less?

—Danny Jones





The Hanson Family

The Calling

In Matthew 4, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days and nights. After this, He comes to Capernaum and begins His ministry. As Jesus walks by the sea of Galilee, He sees Peter and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water. Verse nineteen says, “He said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” This verse lets me know **God has always called people to help Him with His kingdom’s work.** I remember so well the day I heard the call from God to the ministry. I remember trying to reason with God as to why I couldn’t do what He was calling me to do only to realize that God never makes a mistake. **I learned God qualifies who He calls and doesn’t necessarily call you because of your ability but availability.** I believe that just as Jesus called these disciples to follow Him, He would make them fishers of men. Today He calls us to a life of service for Him. In our call to Christ, we will need to be willing to be faithful and flexible.

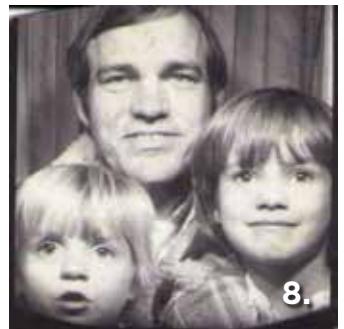
Moses has always been one of my favorite leaders of the Bible. In Acts 7, we get a history lesson on Israel and a breakdown of the one hundred and twenty years of Moses’ life and him following God’s call. Moses spent forty years in the palace of Pharaoh, living the good life with anything he wanted. Then the next forty he spent on the backside of a desert working for his father in law as a shepherd being nothing. In the last

forty years, he led the children of Israel through the wilderness, seeing God’s hand move time and time again.

Let us notice three things about Moses and his call. In Exodus 2, we see where Moses has to choose one day and identify with Israel. In verse 22, it says Moses was **CONTENT**. His days are over in the palace, and he is willing to now go back to his people. There, he finds contentment, so we can say we can find contentment in our **CALL**.

In the **CALL**, we can find **ENCOURAGEMENT**. In Exodus 3:11, Moses ask who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh and bring these children out of Egypt? In verse 12, God said, “Certainly, I will be with thee.” God needs you, and he knows you can do it. For every question Moses would ask, trying to convince God he wasn’t qualified, God would give him a word of encouragement.

In Exodus 4:7-9, Moses’ **ACHIEVEMENT** was that God would use him to save a whole nation. We never know where our call of God will carry us, but we can be assured of this, He which had started a good work in us will keep us and complete that which He has begun. I would have never thought that morning when God called me to the ministry where that call would carry me over a span of forty years, but **I can tell you God has been faithful to me.**



1. Charles and Susan on their wedding day June 16, 1972
2. Cecil and Ruby Hanson and children.
3. The Hanson family 1988
4. The Hanson Family while pastoring the Plainview CHC in 1979
5. Bishop Hanson 2020 at Florida District Campground
6. "Left to Right: Jimmy Hanson, Charles Hanson, Edward Hanson."
7. Bishop Charles, Dawn and Julia
8. Bishop Charles, Julia, and Dawn – 1978 in a Kmart photo booth.

I first became acquainted with Bishop Hanson in the 1970s. My travels with Royal Rangers were what initially brought us together, but through the years I was blessed to serve with him in numerous positions. We became especially close when we were both elected to our respective District Presbyteries and the various General level activities that we attended.

We traveled some outside the United States when we were both serving as a Pastor, but that significantly increased over the last twenty years. He and I were both honored to serve as the World Missions Executive Director of the Congregational Holiness Church, and we both shared the same desire to reach as many people as we could around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

During the years that he was the World Missions Superintendent, and I was the General Superintendent, we made several trips together. But one of the more memorable, and certainly the most exhausting, was the trip we made to the continent of Africa in 2015. We visited several countries on this trip to officially organize and install leadership. We had a full agenda of preaching and teaching. While in Kenya, we learned they had scheduled two nights of preaching in the streets, in the middle of a Muslim community. The included photo shows the night that Brother Charles preached, and the people who responded to the altar invitation. When we returned home, some were talking about how brave; some said foolish; we were to preach in that environment, but I have always said that the truly brave ones were the people who came to the altar and accepted Jesus as their Savior. Brother Charles and I left, but they had to remain among their family and friends. The following night when I preached, people again came to the altar. I have prayed for those people many times since that trip that God would shield them and use them for His glory.

In 2017, when I felt it was time for a new direction in my life, the General Conference elected Brother Charles to be our next General Superintendent. His desire was to "Bridge the Gap." In a day that is characterized with so much division and strife, his heart was for unity between all generations. It is truly tragic that he was only able to serve as our Bishop for three years.



Bishop Hanson preaching in Kenya in 2015.

in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

—Bishop Ronald Wilson



BISHOP RONALD AND MARLENE WILSON

Bishop Wilson serves the CHC as the Second Assistant General Superintendent and Director of History and Archives.

A Man of Missions!

In 1995 I was with a church group in Mission, Texas, waiting to go to Tampico, Mexico, to help build a church. I was a young preacher, but I was not there to preach; I was there to build. We were held up for a few days because of a storm approaching Tampico. With not a lot to do, my friend Tommy came to me and told me about two men leaving Mission to go to Monterrey, Mexico, and ask if we should join them. We did not know them and had never met them, but we went. Those men were James Grace and Charles Hanson. After spending a couple of days with them, it was apparent, they loved missions, and they loved to laugh.

My first several interactions with Bishop Hanson was somewhere on the mission field, traveling together to Israel, or in his office (as World Missions Director) talking about World Missions. Our introduction to each other was working in missions, but it would soon become apparent that Bishop Hanson was a man of the people. Through missions, he ministered to more and more people. So, he could love them, fellowship with them, and share the gospel of Christ with them. I also realized that missions for him began in his front yard. Ministering continually to his family, friends, and the stranger that crossed his path, he was a man (and Bishop) of the people.

There are many memories I have of traveling, ministering, and working with Bishop Hanson. Like the waterfall in Costa Rica, that was JUST a little walk away that turned into a test of endurance for us both. Or the excitement in his voice and eyes when he would tell of the time he preached in Mexico, and the only person saved in the meeting was his interpreter. Bishop Hanson



Mexico Friends



Bishop Hanson and Scotty at a Costa Rica waterfall.

would always say, “The interpreter preached himself to salvation.” Or the many times we would minister together in altar services seeing people saved and healed. Or just talking together with him about how God is working in our lives. But what I will remember about Bishop Hanson the most is that he was always a man of faith, family, and friends (to him, strangers were friends too), and no matter where he was, he was always the same, he was a Christian. He left us all an excellent example to follow. I am a better person because I was able to know Bishop Charles Hanson. Bishop Hanson will be missed, but because of his and our faith, we will get to see him again.

—Scotty Poole



REV. SCOTTY POOLE

The Poole family. Scotty Poole serves as the World Missions Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.



DR. MATTHEW TURNER

The Turner family: Matthew, Anna & Elia. Matthew serves the Congregational Holiness Church as the Mission USA Director.

In 2017, on one of our many trips out of the country, Bishop Hanson and I roomed together. We spent so many of the nights talking well into the night. On one particular evening, Bishop Hanson, who then served as the World Mission Executive Director for the CHC, began to share his heart with me about how he was praying and asking the Lord about his next step in leadership. He shared with me that while he had not made his mind up, he felt as though if he became General Superintendent, one main goal he would have would be to reach out with both hands to the coming generations and help prepare them for leadership. While he knew that hardships might come, as they do when any of us follow the call of Christ on our lives, he was unafraid to follow Christ. There are many things I have admired about him, but this is one fact that stood above the rest to me. Bishop Hanson was a pioneer and visionary. And while he guided the whole denomination forward, I never saw him afraid. When he was settled in his Spirit about which direction to take, either personally or as a denomination, he boldly journeyed on. That example he displayed, for me, will ever be etched in my memory. It will remind me that regardless of what Christ calls me to do when I know God has said go, may I follow Him boldly and unafraid.

I am very thankful that Bishop Hanson had such vision and boldness to do whatever necessary to help prepare the CHC to continue to open its arms wide for the coming generations. Our young adults and students have a place in leadership in our church today. It is opportunities given that enable young adults and students to learn and to be proud to serve the Congregational Holiness Church. I will never forget what Bishop Hanson taught me, I love and miss him.



Touring the streets of Cuba



2017 in Chile with Superintendent Jose Vallejos



JOSE AND MARY RUBIO

Jose is the Hispanic Conference Superintendent for the CHC.

Dear brothers and friends,

I would like to say a few words about BISHOP CHARLES HANSON. I had the opportunity to meet him 40 years ago. He impressed me with his good personality, his cheerful spirit, and his wonderful smile. We worked in the mission field. He was our world mission superintendent while I served as Latin American

Representative. We visited Mexico, Cuba, all of Central and South America where we have works. I was his interpreter from English to Spanish and from English to Portuguese. We are faced with many things, but one that stands out I would like to share with you. We were in McAllen, Texas, on the way to Cd. Victoria, Tamps. Mexico. We had a group of about 24 people who were traveling in two vans. About three hours into our trip, we noticed that Brother Charles was not in any of the Vans. We turned around and headed back to McAllen to look for it. He told us that he was talking to his wife and didn't realize we were gone. Since then, we call him the lost sheep. It was a pleasure to have companionship with him for 40 years.

—Rev. José Rubio



REV. BRIAN WILLINGHAM

The Willingham family: Brian, Rebecca, Zach and Ally. Brian is the Royal Rangers National Commander for the Congregational Holiness Church.

Few of us can ever forget where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001. I was driving west on Interstate 20 near the Alabama/ Georgia state lines when news came on the radio that radical terrorists had attacked the World Trade Center. Disbelief and anger stirred in the hearts of American citizens all across the world as the somber realization of what was happening set in.

It was a gorgeous fall day as I passed the Georgia Welcome Center to my left. The jet blue skies were cloudless, and the warm autumn sun-splashed a kaleidoscope of color across the nearby mountains. The day was too beautiful to be ruined by the news. Within hours, air traffic at every major airport was gridlocked by heightened security measures. Within days, churches filled with hurting people searching for answers to the senseless violence that

claimed the lives of three thousand souls. Within weeks, America was back. Open for business as the resilient spirit of freedom and courage prevailed despite the loss of some of our most treasured national pillars. But I will never forget that sunny fall morning when I first heard the news.

August 10, 2020. I was standing at the kitchen stove of Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department's Station 17, where I am employed as a firefighter. My shirt was still damp with sweat from responding to a structure fire a half-hour earlier. It was my turn to cook for the guys on shift, and I had returned to work on the meal I had left half done when the fire alarm sounded. Feeling a bit disheveled, I can remember thinking I would prefer a shower and some dry clothes over food. Suddenly, my sullen mood was interrupted by the ringing of my phone. My father was on the other end.

“True Servants Heart”

“To the weak became I as the weak, that I might gain the weak; I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

Bishop Hanson was a man of significant accomplishments, yet at the same time, he was known to be just simply Brother Charles. He could and would make time for anyone that needed him. Not out of duty or responsibility, but rather take joy in the love of friendship.

While serving as our General World Missions Director, during my pastorate at the Carrollton CHC, Brother Charles knew we had been planning a BBQ to buy a bus to send to Mexico. Without invitation or anyone expecting him to be there, he surprised us and came and stayed and worked with us all day not because he HAD to but because he WANTED to.

Bishop Hanson knew how important it was to our church to support the missions of our denomination, so therefore it became that much more important to him. He came to us that day not as just a General Official



REV. RONALD COOK

Ronald and Tonya Cook. Ronald Cook serves as the Men's Ministries Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.



Rev. Ronald Cook and Bishop Hanson

but as a common man uniting with us as common people for a common goal....”that I might by all means save some”

Bishop Hanson might not have been able to reach the whole world, but he was striving every day to introduce the lost to Jesus at any cost. I'm proud to say he was my Bishop, but today I can say I'm so proud he was my friend!

—Ronnie Cook



Royal Ranger meeting in Honduras

“I don't know if you've heard the news, but Bishop Hanson passed away.”

Instantly, an uncomfortable knot formed in my throat as tears puddled in my eyes.

“Why?” I thought as I recalled the mission trip I had taken with Bishop Hanson just a few months before.

“God, you could have healed him.” I thought quietly. I wasn't angry with God, but I really wasn't happy with Him either.

Over the next few days, my thoughts were never far from Bishop Hanson, the prayers we had prayed for his healing, or the 100th Anniversary milestone the CHC will celebrate without our beloved General Superintendent.

“God, don't you think you could have let him stay a while longer?”

As we continue to process our loss, I am certain there will be days when we will have questions. We will grieve as God created us to. But we will overcome. Our faith in God will prevail- even after the loss of one of our most beloved pillars of faith. Still, I will never forget the moment when I heard the news.

And may we never forget that we must carry on the work faithfully advanced by Bishop Hanson until Jesus comes.

—Brian
Willingham



First Royal Ranger Troup outside the USA for the CHC in Honduras

So much to be said about this Great Man of God, Bishop Charles Hanson. He was a friend to everyone, no matter their social status, the color of the skin or what country they were from. He was always smiling and willing to witness, testify, and pray at the drop of a hat. Just a country boy that God blessed with friends from around the world, just goes to show that being faithful to God will take you places that you never imagined.

He always encouraged me with words such as; "if I can ever help you in any way, I'm just a phone call away."



REV. WANDA MURRAY

Wanda Murray is the Women's Ministries Executive Director.

He and Sister Susan always supported me by showing up at whatever event the WMs were having, especially the Women's Ministry Spring

Retreat, and if he could not come, he would let me know he was praying.

He was a true friend to my husband and me. When Michael received his 30-year pin in ministry, Bishop Hanson was there to present it to him along with Rev. Mark Willingham.

I prayed hard that God would heal him because we need faithful men like him in this day that we are living, but God chose to take him to Heaven, the place he had worked for so long. Bishop, you and all that you accomplished while you were on this earth will never be forgotten.

—Wanda Murray



Mission and Music

I guess if any two things that sparked a conversation between the Bishop and myself, it would be our love for Missions or Music.

Our last phone conversation was in mid-January and he called about my upcoming trip to Ecuador. We talked a long while and even made a plan that we would see what we could do about the CHC reaching out to Ecuador. Even tho this wasn't a CHC trip, but one I felt impressed to take on my own, he let me know that he and Sis. Susan "had my back" and was praying for me! That meant the world to me that he would have confidence in me. When I saw him in mid-June, he made a beeline to me to talk about my trip. We talked for a long time he was so enthused to know everything. You could see his heart swell as I told as



Bishop Hanson and Mrs. Susan with Tonya and Ronald Cook.

many stories as I could. His heart truly wanted to see the world come to know Jesus!

On our last church gathering, the Bishop said probably a dozen words, which we all know was nothing short of a miracle lol, and then broke out into a song. Ronnie, Matt, and I chuckled and said that we had just witnessed a miracle. When the Bishop returned to

his seat, I turned to thank him. He looked at me, puzzled. I told him he had just taught me a valuable lesson. You see, I struggle to get up and speak at things, so I usually just stand and wave and say, "it's good to be here" or something to that effect. He said, "well, what did u learn?" I told him if I can't talk my way thru it, you have shown me I can sing my way thru it!" He told me to stick around; he would teach me lots of things! Little did I know that would be our final conversation and laughs. He was full of life and energy, and I'm so thankful that I got to be just a small part of his life.

Thru Missions and Music, I'll keep striving to learn more each day, Bishop! Thank you for the valuable lessons you have already left behind! We miss you already!

—Tonya Cook



TONYA COOK

Tonya Cook serves as the Missionettes Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.

Stand *BY* Your Man

We've often heard the old expression "behind every good man there's a good woman," and I believe that statement to be true. But in the case of our beloved First Lady, Susan Hanson, a little more would have to be added. Yes, she stood behind our Bishop 100 percent, but when it came to our church and the love for it, she stood right **BESIDE** him step for step. I have personally witnessed her hours of work simply because her husband needed help, and she wanted to do just that. She indeed proved to be his soul's helpmate. No matter what position she was placed in, she would show nothing but grace and integrity. She has never wanted to be out front or gain any recognition but to simply serve those that the Lord had entrusted her with. Sis. Susan is more than just our Bishops wife; she is a caring, compassionate, and loving person who takes our needs as important as her own. I know this from personal experience that she will listen, talk, and pray with no hesitation. She became one that myself, as well as many of you, learned you could talk to and pour your heart out to, and it would stay between you, her, and the Lord. Those types of people are few and far between. I know this edition is to honor our Bishop, but I thought it is fitting as the generation coming behind to take note and pay attention to the attributes of a true Godly woman and give honor where honor is due. Our denomination is blessed to call you our First Lady and all of us to call you, friend. We love you and honor you!

—Tonya Cook





ANNA YORK

Anna serves the Congregational Holiness Church as a General Secretary at General Headquarters.

I've had the wonderful opportunity to work with four different General Superintendents of the Congregational Holiness Church. Each one brought their very own unique God-given gift to our denomination. Bishop Charles Hanson was one of a kind! He was full of adventure and wasn't afraid to pursue a dream or vision he had for our church. As soon as Brother Charles, as I liked to call him, stepped into

office, he blazed a trail accomplishing each one of those visions! I remember our first staff meeting with him as Bishop. He laid several ideas on the table and scheduled dates for those ideas to be accomplished before anything could deter them. There was a whirlwind of activities in his very first year. It was amazing! I witnessed him working with our upcoming young leaders as well as with other established leaders from around the world.

Outreach ministries seemed to be the heart of Brother Charles. I remember while in Baltimore during our Youth Mission Trip to inner-city Washington, D.C., we participated with an already established Sidewalk Sunday School. The kids of the neighborhood would gather in the middle parking lot, listening to Bible stories, singing, doing crafts, and tossing a football with our missionary youth. But Brother Charles was busy going door to door witnessing to the adults who were out watching the kids. I saw him walk up to a man at least a foot taller and heard him say, "Sir, do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?" I was holding my breath thinking, "Someone needs to go stand beside Bro. Charles and give him support!!" It wasn't long until they were talking and laughing.

Everyone always well-received Brother Charles from every walk of life. But serving as Chaplain to the death row inmates was one of the most amazing ministries I had ever witnessed. Once per week, during his schedule to minister, he would close up his office and announce, "I'm going to prison! I hope they don't keep me!" He led many of them to the Lord and conducted several of their funerals while comforting their families all at the same time. The stories he would tell were heart-wrenching. But he knew those people needed to hear the Good News more than any. So they made it into his busy schedule.

When any of the office staff had a birthday, we would gather in the kitchen area to celebrate. Brother Charles was big on celebrating! He would always lead us in his version of a very peppy Happy Birthday song. Then at Christmas, he would always make a big deal about decorating his home with lights. One year he was frustrated because he didn't have time to put any lights up, so he purchased the rotating laser light projector. He made it well known that this option did not meet his standards, but would suffice for the present time.

I'm sure there will be Christmas lights, celebrating, and lots of singing in Heaven this year.

—Anna York

Pictures are from the 2016 World Missions trip to Washington D.C.



I have known Bro. Charles, for many years. I remember him leading songs at North Alabama's Campmeeting when I was just a young girl. I didn't get to know him and Susan personally until I was grown. Brother Charles was one of the kindest people I have ever known. What I loved about him most was his down to earth personality. It didn't matter where you saw him or what title he held; he was always the same. Brother Charles loved and respected others. He had a huge heart for ministry to all people. He always displayed the character of Jesus.

Brother Charles loved the Congregational Holiness Church with all of his heart, and that was evident. He did an excellent job leading us. I admire his vision to "Bridge the Gap" between generations. That is what this world needs for our young people to know Jesus and learn from their elders.

Often, when he wasn't traveling, he would come to West Sunny Side on Wednesday nights and sing. He was a regular attendee at the Burning Embers events with our senior adults.

I will always cherish the friend he was to Jonathan and me. He and Susan came to both of our girl's weddings. One of my

fondest memories is his slow dancing with Susan at Joshlyn and Hunter's wedding in June of this year. I thought that was so sweet. Brother Charles loved to have fun and was always laughing.

It has been an honor to work as his secretary for the past six months. I did not realize my time working with him would be so short. He is greatly missed at the CHC Headquarters and West Sunny Side Community Church. He will forever be in our hearts, and we will remember the excellent example of Christ that he was to us all.

—Kristie Fitzpatrick



KRISTIE FITZPATRICK

Kristie serves the Congregational Holiness Church as the General Superintendent Secretary.

While there are endless words I could say, today I am honored to pay tribute to Bishop Charles Hanson:

Just as a yellow ribbon is tied to a tree as a tribute to soldiers at war, we pay tribute to a man who lived his life on the truth of God's word. Although there is not enough ribbon we could tie to amount to his generosity and kindness, nor the vastness of trees that could surmount to the life he brought to every room with his laughter and singing. He was a true crusader for Christ and exemplified the love of Christ in his everyday life. He reminded us that despite the daily struggles that we are not less than because of those struggles. I know that I only had the privilege of working with him for ten months, but his character preceded him well. I am honored to be part of everything he was doing, and we will continue to do in making strides for the Kingdom. He will be deeply missed in this office as well as our denomination.

—Lacy Duffee



LACY DUFFEE

Lacy serves the Congregational Holiness Church as the General Headquarters Finance Secretary.

Christmas 2018



2020 Go Serve Day in Griffin, GA



Bishop Hanson with the Superintendent of Cuba, Andres and Dorkis Torres



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