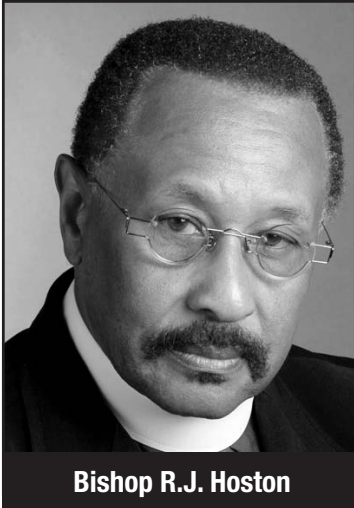


Face to the Name



Bishop R.J. Hoston

R. J. Hoston is Senior Pastor of Bethesda Church of God in Christ. He answered the clarion call to minister under the leadership of the late Bishop C. E. Bennett in South Bend, Indiana. Bishop Hoston moved from South Bend, Indiana to Rochester, New York with his loving wife in 1968. After moving to Rochester, he served at the Powerhouse Church of God in Christ under the fatherly and saintly tutelage of the late Pastor H. M. Newkirk. While serving at the Powerhouse, he started jail, street and migrant camp ministries. He also headed an evangelistic ministry team that traveled throughout the country for two years.

After a one-year interim pastorate in October of 1981, Bishop Hoston founded the Bethesda Church of God in Christ at 120 St. Bridgetts Drive in Rochester. Bethesda is "A CHURCH WITH A MISSION AND A PLAN THAT WORKS". The Church has a worship experience that is spiritually spontaneous, jubilant, and word-centered. The atmosphere is one of love and acceptance. The Bethesda Church has accepted the challenges of urban ministry by passionately modeling the life of Christ. The Church has drug and abuse counseling, family life ministry, a food cupboard, and an annual Christmas Love Box program that feeds and provides toys to over 150 needy families during the Christmas season.

Bishop Hoston is the Founder and the Chairman of the Board of Bethesda Charities Inc., a not-for-profit corporation established for the purpose of community development, housing, job placement and other social outreach programs. Bethesda Charities is the parent corporation for the Bethesda Child Development Center ("WHERE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR CHILD IS OUR VISION"). This is a \$2,000,000 economic development project that generates revenue of almost \$1,000,000 per year. Through this outreach objective Bethesda Charities is capable of touching the lives of 200 children as well as assisting parents in the community with the educational and social

development of their children.

Bishop Hoston has served many associations: United Church Ministries, Southwest Ministers Alliance, Minister Alliance and Bank CEOs Task Force, Urban League, Chairman of Footprints to Home Ownership (a community housing project), Black Leadership Summit Committee (Congress Of African American Unity, Inc.), and Rochester Religious Leader's Summit and Jobs 3000 Campaign (Congress Of African American Unity, Inc.) He is the Chairman of the board of the Daisy House (Senior Complex & Housing) and a board member and treasure of the Frederick Douglass Resource Center.

Denominationally, Bishop Hoston has served as Chairman of the Pastors and Elders Council and the Ordination Board as well as a standing member of the Bishop's Executive staff (C.O.G.I.C. W.N.Y. 1st Jurisdiction). Nationally he has served on the C.O.G.I.C. National Doctrinal Review Committee, C.O.G.I.C. National Judiciary Screening Committee, and was a Commissioner for the Constitutional Convention. On Friday, February 22, 2008, Bishop Hoston was consecrated as Prelate of the Central New York Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Bishop Hoston worked for the Xerox Corporation for 20 years as an Engineer and Technical Writer. He left Xerox in 1990 for full time ministry.

Bishop Hoston is married to the lovely Mrs. Jennifer Hoston (affectionately known as "Lady Jennifer"). Lady Jennifer has just completed her first book titled: "Will There Be Any Coffee in Heaven?" It will be marketed worldwide and will go on sale at the end of July. The book can be ordered on Amazon.com beginning August 1.

Bishop and Lady Jennifer have one son, Erike who is married to Kioya. Bishop and Lady Jennifer have three wonderful grandsons: Erike Jr., Damani and Izaiah, and one beautiful granddaughter whose name is Taylor.

Obama defends policies on Iran, domestic issues



President Barack Obama says he is "appalled" by the violent crackdown on demonstrators in Iran and has called on Iranian leaders to respect the rule of law.

In a wide-ranging press conference at the White House on Tuesday, the president declined to criticize the election process itself but did complain about the Iranian regime's response to the post-election crisis. After days of criticism from Republicans who say he is not doing enough about Iran, the president defended his administration's measured role in responding to the crisis. Asked by a reporter "What took you so long" to condemn Iran, the president said he would not allow the U.S. to be used as a "foil" for Iranian leaders to argue that the protests in Tehran were being led by the U.S. government. He also acknowledged that the U.S. did not have election observers on the ground so it could not verify the accuracy of the reported election results.

Iranian leaders have already accused the West, including the BBC, Voice of America and the CIA of helping to sponsor the huge anti-government protests during the past week, but President Obama called the accusations "patently false" and said they were an "obvious attempt to distract people" in Iran. He said the "tired strategy of using old scapegoats won't work anymore, not about the United States."

The president seemed determined to communicate to the Arab world that he would let the Iranian people speak for themselves and cited his speech to Arabs in Cairo as an example in which he had encouraged autonomous democracy.

Obama also slammed Iran's leaders for censorship in the light of the

protests. "No iron fist is strong enough to shut off the world," he said. What he called "powerful images and poignant words" were being communicated by cell phones and computers, he added.

Among those images, the president noted the "timeless dignity of tens of thousands of Iranians marching in silence" and the "searing image of a woman bleeding to death on the streets," a reference to a recent cell phone video broadcast on YouTube.

"Those who stand up for justice are always on the right side of history," the president said. He called on the government in Iran to respect the "universal right to assembly and free speech" and to "govern through consent and not coercion."

On domestic issues, the president also defended his proposals for new energy regulation, health care reform and a new financial regulatory authority to prevent future economic crises.

Obama prodded Congress to pass the energy bill he supports, calling it "historic legislation that will transform the way we produce and use energy in America" and promised that it would be "paid for by the polluters." He called health care a "complicated issue" but said he is still "very optimistic" about the prospects for reform and insisted that any health care plan "must and will be paid for" and will not add to the federal deficit over the next decade.

The president also made news when he defended his decision to sign anti-smoking legislation this week, despite his own longtime smoking habit. President Obama admitted that he had "fallen off the wagon" from time to time, but pronounced that he was "95 percent cured" of his nicotine addiction.