

... And They Yet Speak

Historical Survey of African American Pentecostal – Holiness Churches In The Nation's Capital Washington, D. C. 1900 – 2006

By E. Myron Noble

When one thinks of the major centers of early Pentecostalism in the United States, Washington, D. C. normally does not readily come to mind. One generally thinks first of Los Angeles, California, then Chicago, Illinois, and perhaps Indianapolis, Indiana where such internationally known leaders as William J. Seymour, William H. Durham, and George T. Haywood quickly emerged. In contrast, Pentecostalism developed "under the radar" in the nation's capital, quietly and unheralded.

Because no "big name" Pentecostal leader became associated with Washington during the early years, the significance of the Movement's impact on the city has been eclipsed from our historical consciousness. This is about to change. In this sweeping and ground breaking work Dr. E. Myron Noble demonstrates how the Movement took root early and found fertile ground, especially within the growing African American community. William Seymour recognized the importance of Pentecostalism in the city by visiting churches in Washington several times from 1907 to 1919, to encourage and instruct these flourishing congregations

The volume documents, with painstaking clarity, the entire sweep of Pentecostalism's penetration throughout the city, decade by decade. In fact the volume is organized into ten – year segments, providing the historical narrative of each African American Pentecostal Congregation that was started during the time period under the particular section's purview. As one reads, it quickly becomes apparent the countless hours that went into making this work possible; interviewing hundreds of people, tracking down correspondence and minutes in people's attics; working through archives; reading through old newspapers. What emerges in this labor of love is an amazing story as Dr. Noble gives voice to those too long silenced. He allows us the readers to discover that indeed "And They Yet Speak!"

D. William Faupel, Ph.D.

Professor of Theological Research

Wesley Theological Seminary Washington D. C.

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