



“From Where I Sit ...”

A Compliment to our Staff!

Over the last 16 years of my tenure as General Secretary, I have received numerous “verbal” compliments regarding my staff and the efficient manner in which they have done their work and I have often said to those who offered these compliments, “Please put your compliments in writing ...” Unfortunately, although well intended, most limited their compliments as verbal.

It was in this context that I had the pleasure of meeting Sister C. Jean Cotton Davis of Mt. Zion in Minden who was more than willing to send to me her experience as follows:

“It was a pleasure meeting you at the event honoring the Bishop [Thomas Brown]. My church is Mt. Zion CME in Minden, LA. The Pastor is Rev. Raymond Hampton.

“At about the same time that we were changing insurance, our long time Chair of the Board of Trustees resigned, and shortly thereafter the long time Chair of the Board of Stewards resigned. Add to that our Church Secretary was relatively new. It was in this environment that I became Chair of the Board of Stewards. Needless to say, a few things “fell through the cracks”. The most urgent of these was our insurance. We received a Cancellation Notice!

“I called the office and met (over the phone) Ms. Audrey Johnson. I told her our story and asked for her assistance.

“The purpose of this letter is to let you know how caring and professionally she helped me. She explained to me the insurance changeover and what I needed to do. She told me how much we owed and worked with me to figure out how we could correct the problem.



“There was no judgement in her tone. She was compassionate, patient, informative and efficient. With her help, we figured a way (at the time, it was a very big \$-number).

“I realize she was doing her job, but she did it with caring and firmness. I just want you to know, she is excellent. If all of your staff is as good as Ms. Johnson, we are all blessed!”

I am pleased that Sister Davis was willing to put her compliments into writing because I could never tell this story as well. I Timothy 5:18(b) says “the laborer is worthy of his hire” and those of us who work in the Church are keenly aware that sometimes a portion of our wage comes in the form of compliments that show we are appreciated.

I would hasten to say that I have also received numerous compliments, over the years, on the work of Ms. Brenda Anderson and the late Ms. Ruby Dyson. And I can readily say that the work performance of these ladies has often made me look good as General Secretary. Or at least that’s the way it looks to me...

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the

Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)