



Robert C. Williams Collection (S0191)

Collection Number: S0191

Collection Title: Robert C. Williams Collection

Dates: 1968 - 1999

Creator: Williams, Robert C.

Abstract: The collection contains photocopies of letters, photos, newsletters, and newspaper articles reflecting the ministry of Robert C. Williams and the history and evolution of the Church of God in Christ.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic foot, 5 folders

Language: Collection materials are in English

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-st-louis). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number]

The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Evelyn McCoy on November 30, 1984 (Accession No. SA2663). Additions were made on July 22, 2004, by Robert C. Williams (Accession No. SA3569); and on August 3, 2004, by Robert C. Williams.

Processed by: Zack Palitzsch and Micky Trost, August 2023

Historical Note:

Robert Chatman Williams was born June 23, 1928, in Rehoboth, Alabama. He became a licensed minister in the Southwest Michigan jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ

(COGIC) on March 27, 1958. Williams moved to St. Louis in 1959 and started working as an assembly line worker for the Chrysler Corporation, a position he held for 35 years. While in St. Louis, he joined the Memorial Church of God in Christ and served there until he was placed at the Crystal City Church of God in Christ in Crystal City, Missouri. After that, he was appointed pastor of the National Church of God in Christ located at Clara and Roosevelt streets in St. Louis. He worked there for over ten years. When the Memorial and National churches were combined, he was appointed pastor of the newly named National Memorial St. Louis Holy Temple Church of God in Christ. This church, located at 620 Spring Avenue, was struck by lightning, causing a devastating fire in 2000.

Throughout the years, Williams held many positions of leadership within the COGIC including Chairman of the Board of Superintendents of Eastern Missouri and District Superintendent of the M. H. Norman District. Williams supported COGIC missions in Africa ensuring that bibles and needed items were distributed there. He followed the development of the civil rights movement and, in 1999, was arrested for protesting inequalities of highway construction contracts in Missouri. He had a prison ministry, preached on street corners in St. Louis, and later, had social media accounts dedicated to spreading the gospel. He preached over a thousand sermons in 38 years of pastoring. He died on January 7, 2013.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged alphabetically into five folders.

Scope and Content:

The collection represents Robert C. Williams’ interest in the history of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC). It includes copies of articles and photos about Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, founder of COGIC, its leaders, and the women of the church. The collection contains a directory of committee members and church members of Eastern, Central, Western and Northern District of COGIC in southwest Missouri and western Illinois. In addition, the collection reflects Williams’ interest and support of African mission. There are copies of letters from ministers in Ghana, West Africa, and Lagos, Nigeria that reflect the turmoil of over two million Ghanaians being expelled from Nigeria. Also included are newspaper clippings about Dr. Martin Luther King and copies of family and congregation photographs.

Container List:

- f. 1 Articles, pamphlets, and photographs, 1981-2001
- f. 2 Biographies, directories, and photographs of congregations and churches, 1990-1997
- f. 3 Correspondence, 1982-1995
- f. 4 Newspaper clippings, 1991-1999
- f. 5 Newspaper clippings regarding Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968-1990

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Index Term	Folder
Church of God in Christ	1-5
Dzilemu, B. B. Elisa	3

Index Term	Folder
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968	5
Mason, C. H. (Charles Harrison), 1866-1961	1-2
Michael, T. C.	3
Murcia, Antonio de Jesus	3
Pentecostal churches--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-5
Salami, Ramoni	3
Williams, Robert C.	1-5
Wuanka, Israel Eddie	3