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Bethel A.M.E. Church

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MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY (Parsonage)
April 8, 1962
(Fellowship Hall)

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

It is appropriate and highly significant that the mortgage on the parsonage our Ministers home should be burned in connection with the mortgage burning of the Church and the observance of our 131st Anniversary. Certainly God has wrought great things in our midst, April 8, 1962 should be a day long remembered by the faithful of Bethel. This is a day of rejoicing; for after many years of burdensome payments on principal and interest the mortgage on our property at 52 Eaton Street has been retired. Few churches ever live long enough to tell the story of a double mortgage burning. We believe that this note-worthy accomplishment points up the kind of progressive leadership that Bethel has been blessed with for the past ten years. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the Pastor of Bethel, Rev, Harry J. White.

PASTOR WHITE

Members of Bethel throughout the almost 30 years of my ministry I cannot recall any occasion that has afforded me more real pleasure and deep seated satisfaction than the two very significant occasions of this day namely our Mortgage Burning Ceremonies. It is true that a church seldom rises above its leadership and where there is no vision the people perish, but it is equally true that good leadership is doomed to failure unless it strikes a responsive cord in the hearts of the followers. When Pastor and people work together with a common objective namely the good of the church, all things are possible. I am happy to present to you at this time a wonderful group of people; The Trustee Board Of Bethel.

TRUSTEE BOARD

Almost 10 years ago God sent to us a Moses with orders to lead his people (Bethel) to the promise land. We feel that the most unbelieving among us must admit that under the matchless leadership of Pastor White we have come to the land that flows with milk and honey. We the trustees know full well the weighty responsibilities of our office and here-with pledge that we will continue to work primarily in the best interest of our beloved Zion. We pray that as the torch is set to these papers there will also be kindled within us new zest and a greater love for the cause for which the Master of men gave the last measure of his devotion; Even His Life.

MORTGAGE BURNING, *Fred Bell, Beulah Jones, Virginia Means + Muriel Glorck.*

SELECTION - Youth Choir - We Have Come This Far By Faith

MISPAH -----Social Hour

MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY (Church)
April 8, 1962
(Sanctuary)

SELECTION- All Hail The Power (Congregation Standing)
#3 AME HYMNAL

STEWARD BD. *Read by Alberta Nelson*

The Steward Board of Bethel Church being the spiritual custodians of the church, and the immediate lay helpers of the Pastor is happy to share in this challenging and momentous hour. We are sure that this milestone in our long and colorful history will tend to deepen the roots of our spiritual life and extend the reach of our faith. It is with a sense of deep humility that we place our approbation upon these proceedings and say to the Pastor and people alike "well done".

SELECTION- All Hail The Power Second Verse

MINISTER TO TRUSTEE BOARD

My Bretheren, God through his grace has brought us to this hour. Many of our loved ones who were here with us in times past would have rejoiced to witness this occasion but they died without the sight. God grant us the courage to go forth from this hallowed spot with renewed courage to do even more for the Master with each succeeding day. As your Minister I am deeply grateful for the encouragement and cooperation that you as a Board of Trustees have given me. Certainly we have arrived together, God Be Praised!

TRUSTEE BOARD *Read by Rudolph Lane.*

Pastor White and members of our beloved Bethel: the Trustee Board recognizes the deep significance of this all important milestone in the life of our Church, and take due cognizance of our continued responsibilities, as custodians of the properties of the visible body of Christ. We herewith pledge our full support to the program of the future and move forward from this hour with resolute determination, and fixed purpose. It is therefore in this spirit that we light a flame to these papers which in times past represented a measure of bondage. As they are transformed into ashes may we be liberated from all that symbolize bondage or fear, and face the future with faith in God, untrammled and unafraid.

MORTGAGE BURNING - *Rudolph Lane, Ethel Holmes, Jefferson Cayton.*

SOLO "Bless This House" - Mrs. Alberta Pinkard

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Congregation Standing)