

PROFILE OF THE DR. LEO C. BROWN, JR.

Dr. Leo C. Brown, Jr. was born in Washington, D.C.. He is the next to the oldest of four children born of Leo C. Brown, Sr. and Mildred Vera Brown. Dr. Brown came to this area via the Armed Services which he joined in July of 1961. Not long after his arrival at Fort Lewis Washington he became a member of Emmanuel Temple C.O.G.I.C. which is now known as Altheimer Memorial C.O.G.I.C.. It was in 1963 that Dr. Brown surrendered his heart to God as one of the Gospel Sons of the late Bishop R.E. Altheimer and Sister Bernice Altheimer (also know as Nana & Papa). In 1965 the Lord called Dr. Brown into the ministry to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Young and active as he was, Dr. Brown immediately became involved in forming many programs. In 1968 he formed the Emmanuel Temple Prison Ministry taking the Gospel to men behind prison walls. In 1971 the ministry was expanded and the group began taking the "Good News" to Purdy Treatment Center for Women. In 1970 Dr. Brown co-founded one of the first Christian Minority Youth Summer Camp programs in Pierce County.

But of course that's not all, in 1972 he founded the Progress House Association, which is a group of halfway houses designed to help men and women to readjust and re-enter society from the penal system. In 1974 he was co-founder of the Dorcas House which was the first successful female work release facility and alternative to incarceration program in this community.

Dr. Brown knew God had chosen him to preach the Gospel, but when the command to pastor became apparent...well, thank God our Pastor had an obedient spirit. And in 1975 True Vine Community Church C.O.G.I.C. was founded. Dr. Brown is also founder of the Barbara Jean Brown Manor, a low-income senior citizens and handicapped complex in Tacoma, Washington, the only black sponsored center of this kind in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

Dr. Brown possesses a Doctor Of Divinity Degree, a B.A. Degree in Public Administration and has received many awards of outstanding community work, among them: the Key to the City of Tacoma, The Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club, The Distinguished Citizens Award from the Tacoma Urban League, he was nominee and runner-up for the Rockefeller Foundation Humanity Award, and received national recognition in the "Who's Who Among Black Americans."

Dr. Brown has served as Vice President of the Metropolitan Development Council, as a subcommittee member of the Pierce County Law and Justice Panel, as Chaplain of the Tacoma Fire

Department, as a Board Member of The Tacoma Urban Policy Committee and he has worked with the Tacoma Drug Alliance in aiding and counseling those persons with drug-related problems.

In recognition of his tremendous spiritual and civic contributions, February 6, 1982 was proclaimed **DR. LEO C. BROWN, JR. DAY** by the Governor of the State Of Washington, the Mayor of the City of Tacoma, and the Pierce County executive.

Dr. Brown continues to serve his community and surrounding areas well. He is still the Pastor of the True Vine Community C.O.G.I.C. and Executive Director of the Progress House Association as he has been since their beginning. And with God's help I'm sure that Dr. Brown has planned higher heights and deeper depths for both True Vine and the Progress House Association over the next few months and years.

In addition to all of the previously mentioned accomplishments, Dr. Brown is presently Public Relations Chairman for the Washington State Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ. He is presently serving his fifth term as President of the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance, and since April 25, 1985 he has served as Commissioner of the State Housing Finance Commission, he was appointed to the position by Governor Booth Gardner, the Governor of Washington State.

We want to take this time to acknowledge that in the year nineteen hundred and ninety, the month of February, the Lord and our most honorable Bishop T.L. Westbrook elevated Dr. Leo C. Brown, Jr. to Superintendent Leo C. Brown, Jr., of the Puget Sound District. Pastor Brown is now Superintendent over four other Gospel preaching, tongue speaking, Holy Ghost filled churches who are on fire for the Lord. And under his dynamic leadership the Lord is doing a marvelous work, and we are glad.

God truly has his hands on Superintendent Brown's life, and we are proud and honored to have this great man of God as Pastor here at True Vine Community C.O.G.I.C..

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TACOMA—In recognition of Black History Week, February 6, 1982 has been proclaimed REV. LEO CHARLES BROWN, JR. DAY in the State of Washington by Governor John Spellman, in Pierce County by County Executive Booth Gardner and in Tacoma by Tacoma's Mayor Doug Sutherland.

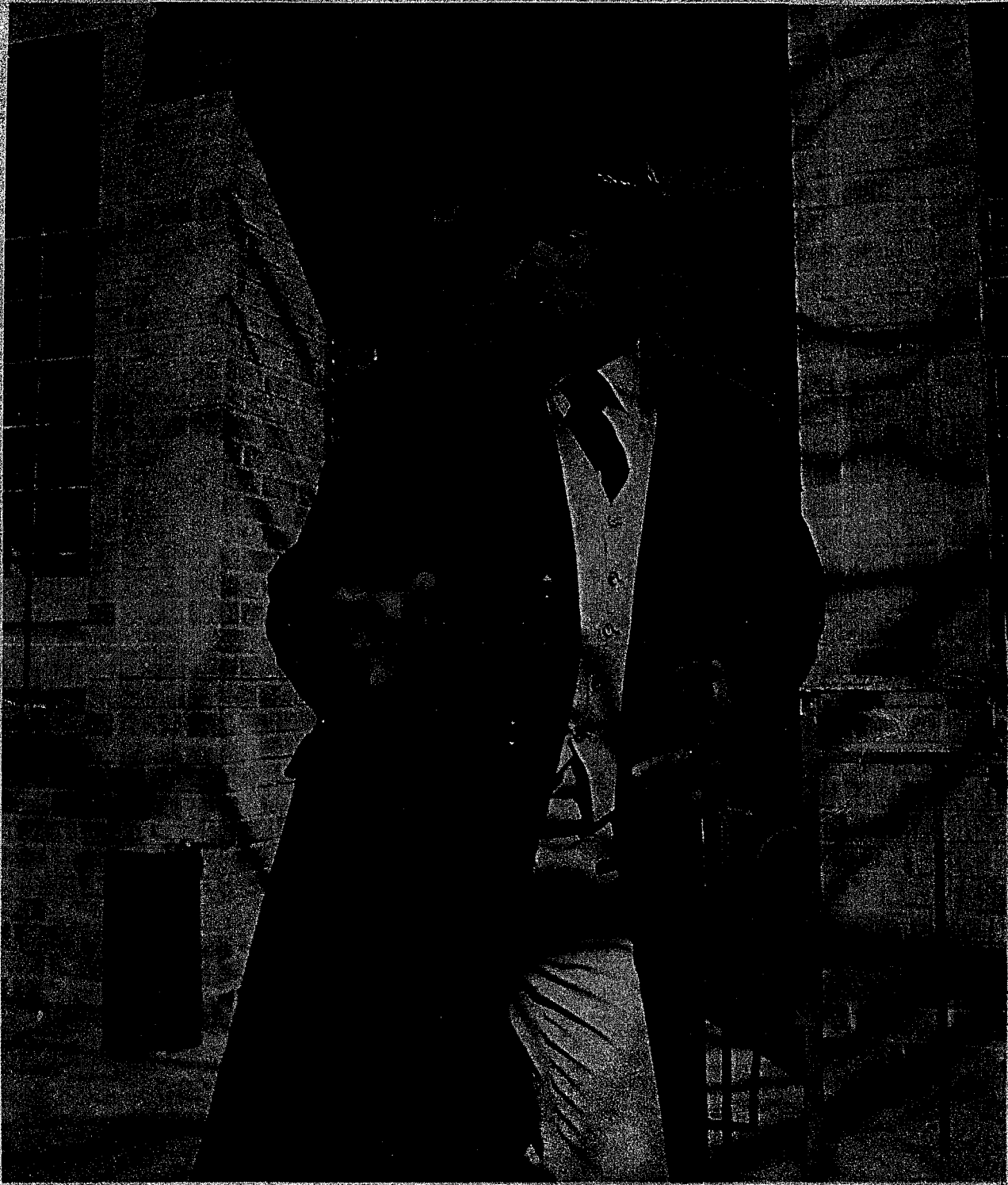
Rev. Brown has made meritorious contributions to the City of Tacoma, Pierce County and the State of Washington. He has dedicated his life to solving the problems associated with poverty, the criminal justice system; and where burdens have been placed upon human kind. Rev. Brown is a unique man in his style of providing Christian leadership through his church and his attempts to solve the very complex and difficult social problems which face this state and nation. Rev. Brown is the founder-pastor of True Vine Community Church at North 33rd and Pearl Street.

"Many of the members were out of work when they first came into contact with the church," Brown said. "They didn't have much of anything and were looking for something to provide significant meaning in their lives." Rev. Brown contends ministry has two very strong emphasizes—family orientation and community involvement, through which evangelism and motivation occur.

Rev. Brown has overcome numerous and powerful barriers to establish programs for men and women offenders, low-income senior citizens, disadvantaged children, and other oppressed persons. He is the President/Executive Director of the Progress House Association, a work-release half-way house for ex-offenders; involved in the Black Coalition, which was organized to aid the poor and needy during a national and state-wide crisis; co-founder and member of the Board of Directors of the Ministerial Alliance Credit Union; and founder of the Senior Citizen low-income complex presently under construction in Tacoma. He organized the Emmanuel Temple Prison Ministry at McNeil Island Federal Prison during his earlier ministry years; organized the first women's halfway house for work release and women parolees in the Tacoma/Pierce County area; and is the co-founder and director of the first Christian Youth Camp called Operation Long Thrust for black and other low-income youth in the Tacoma/Pierce County area. Rev. Brown was also instrumental in organizing the black voter's drive held in 1980 by participating in the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance voter registration drive.

Rev. Brown personifies qualities which are basic and dear to the people of this state and this nation are are succinctly summarized in his motto "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH"

Though millions of years old, jellyfish present numerous mysteries



SUNDAY MAY

Northwest

THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE, SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1982

The New Black History And Its Direction

available. Some are peaceful and passive, like the continuing desire for education and calculated use of votes. Some are peaceful and active, like the push to break down discriminatory and prejudicial barriers and the play to get more national publicity. The American society can no longer sit back, consoled by the thought that Black America is not prepared. The past decades shows his progress and in the decades to come, the new black direction will make it very clear.

Rev. Brown speaks of a vital link in the chain of black equality, support. This is Feb. 1982, new history month. What timing or mystifying coincident it is, and what better time than right now to began that support, that encouragement, began that new direction. Fitting ourselves responsibly and intelligently within our society. What better time than right now to create a momentum that will last throughout the remainder of time. Perhaps



*Rev. Leo C. Brown, Jr.
Mrs. Barbara Jean Brown*

even changing history. Some very profound words that I heard Mr. Tom Dixon, Executive Director of the Tacoma Urban League, say in August of last year. I can only believe the words Mr. Dixon spoke (which relate so

densely to the words and thoughts of Rev. Brown) we meant for the black community right now, during this month of this year. "MOVE ON TO THE MISSION"



Sen. George Fleming, State Rep. Maxie and Salentino, Rev. Leo C. Brown, Jr. and friend

Who's Who

By Jean Watley

Oh, Brown, I know him, he's the Pastor of that church on the hill on 33rd and Pearl. Good man...

These are the words that ring throughout the community about Leo C. Brown Jr., Pastor and Founder of True Vine Community Church.

Besides that, who is this man behind the pulpit? Where did he come from? In an exclusive interview with Brown, he was not always known as "Good man..."

"My mother was a very religious person", he recalls. "We were always in church, I couldn't stand the way she helped people all the time while they laughed at her behind her back. I made up my mind that when I grew up, I would never go to church or have any part of it."

Brown spent a large portion of his adulthood proving to himself that he did not want to be bothered with "nobody's church." In fact, he convinced himself that it was exciting and plenty of fun staying in and out of trouble. He especially enjoyed "going for bad."

While in the Army, Brown's buddies regarded him as pretty tough. He had a reputation of being afraid of nothing.

One day, while he was driving to the Army base in Ft. Lewis, his car hit an ice patch as he was crossing a bridge, his car skidded toward the rail. Brown panicked and began calling to the Lord, "Please-Lord please..." The Lord saved him, but not without a witness. One of his buddies was in the car with Brown. Yes, the Lord stopped the car, but his buddies mouth didn't and word got around



Leo C. Brown, Jr.

Brown recounts. Apparently he was not really serious. "I really meant I would cut down on some of the things I was doing. I wasn't ready to give up everything yet."

The Lord tapped on Brown's shoulder again. This time using his son Wayne, only four months old. Wayne managed to swallow a large portion of cloroxide. After Wayne was rushed to the hospital, Brown was notified of what had happened and he rushed to his son's aid. On his way to the hospital, he prayed, "Lord, please don't let my son die, please Lord, please..." When he arrived at the hospital, the doctors told him that there was a possibility that the baby's stomach could be eaten away by the cloroxide.

Again, Brown pleaded to the Lord, "Please don't let my son die, Lord. If you just let my son live, I'll get myself together."

Once again, Brown proved not to be serious, the Lord saved Wayne, but Brown didn't keep his end of the bargain. "I had no plans to get

It appears that the Lord had another plan for Brown. One of his very good friends got saved. "I knew how Floyd used to be, I was very impressed in the way he had changed. One day I went to Floyd to get a haircut. He talked to me about the Lord and propositioned me to come to church with him on that following Sunday in exchange for the haircut."

Brown agreed and went to church with Floyd. The Lord touched Brown in a different way this time. He stood up to testify and found himself singing with tears streaming down his face. He was led to the altar where he begged the Lord to save him. He committed himself to the Lord and immediately left the church to throw away his knife and all his dice into the sewer outside.

Later, Brown's ministry began under the late Bishop R.E. Altheimer. Rev. Brown served at Emmanuel Temple Church of God In Christ as one of the Associate Ministers until 1975.

The rest of the story goes on and on. He is presently making preparations for a new senior citizens complex over on 19th and Tyler. He is known for his activities in the community and his interest in political affairs.

Of course, this is an unfinished story, but it is a beginning to say, "Thank you, Leo C. Brown Jr. for all that you have done for us and/or our friends and relatives. We have all heard about you and encourage you to continue encouraging us with your fine example of a human being."

Health, Housing & Human Services Committee



By Request of County Executive

RESOLUTION NO. R82-10

A RESOLUTION Proclaiming February 6th, 1982, as REV. LEO CHARLES BROWN, JR. DAY in Pierce County.

WHEREAS, Reverend Leo Charles Brown, Jr. has devoted his life to the improvement of the social and economic conditions of minority and disadvantaged persons; and

WHEREAS, this man is unique in his style of providing Christian leadership which directly involves the church in attempting to solve difficult social problems which face this state and nation; and

WHEREAS, he has overcome numerous barriers to establish programs for men and women offenders, for low-income senior citizens, for disadvantaged children and for other oppressed persons; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Leo Charles Brown, Jr. personifies qualities which are basic and dear to the people of Pierce County, being succinctly summarized in his motto, "Where there is no vision, the people perish"; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Pierce County Council:

Section 1. In recognition of his spiritual and civic contributions, February 6th, 1982, is hereby proclaimed REV. LEO CHARLES BROWN, JR. DAY in Pierce County and all citizens are urged to follow the rare example he has set.

PASSED this 19TH day of JANUARY, 1982.

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Council Chair

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PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL

PIERCE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
[Handwritten Signature]
Booth Gardner

FILE NO. 136

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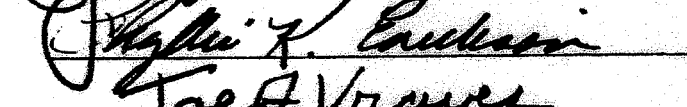

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