

How I Came to Monroe Street COGIC

By Stella Matthews Pete

It was a time in our lives, 1966-1967 school year in the Dougherty County School System, at **Flintside Elementary**. The first day of the faculty meetings, I met my co-worker, then Rosa Bowens Dent. She was a *4th Grade Teacher*, and I was a *6th Grade Teacher*. I was new to Albany, Georgia, coming from Crowley, Louisiana.

We worked well in school. She organized the **Flintside Faculty Chorus** and taught us the song, *No Man Is An Island*. This became our hit song. At the end of that school year, Rosa moved to South Dakota to rejoin her husband, who was a military man.

Upon her return to Albany, Rosa and I met again. This time we went to *Graduate School* at the **University of Georgia** in Athens, where we were roommates. She was working on her Master's Degree. I already had my Master's Degree from **Southern University**. I was going for a degree in Reading. We had a good summer. We bonded together well because we were both members of **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.** We also discussed our religious backgrounds, and I told her my up-bringing was **COGIC**.

Rosa told me she was a member of **Monroe Street COGIC**. She also invited me to attend there. At that time, Bishop J. Howard Dell was the Pastor of Monroe Street Church. I told her I had heard them on the radio.

That summer I attended a service at Monroe Street Church in the month of July, on a weekend in which Rosa did not come home. However she asked me what I would be wearing to church that Sunday and in turn told Bernice Seigler and Bishop Dell. Bishop took me in as a member that Sunday, and the rest is history.