

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



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The son of freed slaves, Charles Mason was the founder of the Church of God in Christ, known as COGIC. When Mason was 12, his family moved from Tennessee to Plumerville, Arkansas (Conway County). He began his ministry in Preston (Faulkner County) in 1894. While members of his family were part of the Missionary Baptist Church, Mason worked closely with his community to organize a new denomination which became the largest African American Pentecostal denomination of the 20th century. Mason played a significant role in helping establish programs for young people in the church and starting a Sunday school program in the 1920s. In 2021, a historical marker was placed on the corner of 8th and Gaines streets in Little Rock (Pulaski County), the location where Mason said he had been given the church's name by God.



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HERITAGE

