Flying Home From The Nelson Mandela Inauguration

This poem was reprinted as Bishop James again returned from South Africa Celebrating the Founding of African Methodism.

Indelible images of South Africa's liberation' of the triumph of Political righteousness in our time;

And before our eyes ~ and in our ears ~ and in our hearts ~ and In our spirits:

Of Nelson Mandela, the Soaring Symbol, the Shining Son, the Prepared Personal, the People's Preference, the Able Advocate, The ANC Angle, the Magnificent Manifestation, the Momentous Man!

Dignity beyond dimension; Courage beyond contention;

Readiness to rule; smarts not learned in school;

Support from strange sources, facilitated from foreign Forces.

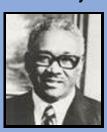
Tears of joy and gladness, dilute earlier thoughts of sadness;

Victory yell singing from poorly housed peoples,
Church bells ringing from Holy house steeples.
A moment in time, with justice high-faluting,
When the leaders of the earth came bowing and saluting;
GREAT SOUTH AFRICA AT LAST IS FREE!

Now the American Delegation sent by the Clinton Administration, Led by Vice President and Mrs. Gore, First Lady, Hilary and many more.

Step aboard that star-striped steel bird,
Let the mighty jet engines under her wings be heard,
Lift her eagle-crested cabin toward this salutary sky,
"South Africa, we are leaving, but we do not say,

Goodbye."

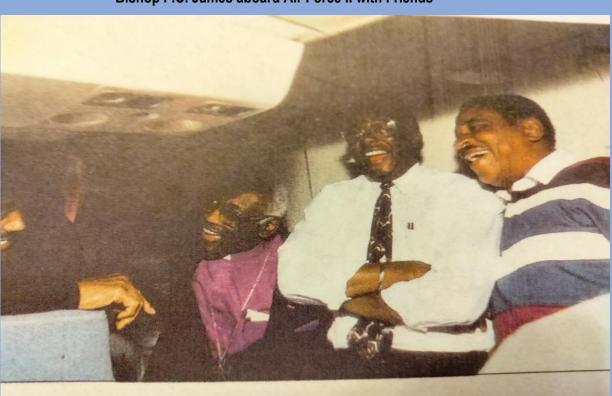


Bishop Frederick Calhoun James – May, 1994

Preparing to return from the Nelson Mandela Inauguration aboard Air Force II



L-R: Honorable Ernie Green; Senate Leader Paul Simons; Secretary Ron Brown; General Colin Powell; Bishop F.C. James; Honorable Jesse Jackson; former Governor Lowell Weicker; Congresswomen Maxine Waters; Ambassador William Gray; Congressman John Lewis; Superstar Quincy Jones.



Bishop F.C. James aboard Air Force II with Friends