

Dr. Alfred P. Clark:

My association with Citrus College began when I was invited to speak at an assembly on "The Origin and Interpretation of Negro Spirituals." The following events led to my becoming part of the teaching staff. When I joined the faculty, Citrus College had recently separated from Glendora High School. It was a small community college. Campus atmosphere was friendly and informal, like an extended family. Students and faculty ate in the same cafeteria. Many faculty had meals together on a regular basis. Facilities for classes were limited. Most of the buildings were old, like Haden Hall. Administration offices were scattered through<sup>out</sup> the campus. A few orange groves were around. Assemblies were held in an old auditorium. Many faculty and students attended those assemblies. This created a unifying atmosphere, a close bond. This gradually changed with the building program during the administration of Dr. Glenn G. Vaniman. The need for more newer facilities was evident. The physical changes brought about social changes. Relations have become more formal. There is less interaction among all faculty. There is isolation. We are a campus of strangers.

Adequate financing has always been a problem. There has always been conflict about how to spend the limited funds. This has created negative feelings between the Board and faculty. Tension varies. The Presidency of Dr. Bob Haugh brought a feeling of trust and caring. The worst atmosphere was under the presidency of Dr. Dan Angel. The administration of president Dr. Louis E. Zellers is well organized. Some of the wounds of the past are healing. He has won the respect and confidence of faculty because of his ability and sincerity.

Many of the old timers have retired. The spirit they brought to the campus no longer exists. It is a different campus with new teachers, students and classified staff. Change has and is occurring. The 60s were turbulent years with student protest and anger. We felt it in the class rooms. Many students were politically active and concerned about national and international affairs. Much of this was caused by the war in Vietnam. Our students seem to be less concerned about national and international affairs. Most seem to be more concerned about their future in terms of jobs, marriage etc. Our student population is multicultural. The Hispanic student population has always been large. There are more Afro-American, Asian and International students on campus. The diversity has enriched our campus. The faculty needs to be more multicultural to relate to the student population. I was the first Black teacher at Citrus College. My relationship with faculty, students, Board and Classified Staff have been positive. The students rewarded me with best teacher of the year trophies twice. I am grateful. I have served as President of the Faculty Senate. That was an honor. I represented our school at CTA State Council for a number of years. I was glad to be of service. The greatest shock occurred when President Kennedy was assassinated. Classes were dismissed. A great reward was serving as advisor for the international students club. I am semi-retired. I teach part-time because I love Citrus and the challenge of teaching.

*Manley Johnson*  
Manley Johnson  
Behavioral Science

# MANLEY J. JOHNSON

## Special Events Speaker



### AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Secretary with the YMCA in Berkeley, Bakersfield, and Los Angeles, California . . . Co-pastor of two interracial-interdenominational churches, San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area . . . Youth Counselor, Bakersfield Council of Churches . . . Regional College Projects Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee, Pasadena . . . *At present:* instructor of Sociology in the Behavioral Science Department, Citrus College, Glendora, California. *Academic preparation* . . . Graduate: University of Redlands, B.A. in Sociology; Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, B.D. and M.A. degrees in Theology; California State University at Los Angeles, M.A. in Sociology. Ordained Baptist Minister. Graduate studies UCLA . . . Guest Lecturer: La Verne University and Azusa Pacific University.

### TOPICS

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| Origin and Interpretation of Negro Spirituals | Religion in Spirituals, Blues and Jazz |
| Protests in Spirituals, Blues and Jazz        | Religion: What It Is and Does          |
| Ethics of Jesus and Confucius                 | Four Things To Do                      |

### Optional

The speaker has also served as Convocation and assembly speaker for many colleges, universities and high schools. Requests have been filled for Visiting Minister.

### TO CONTACT

Address

Correspondence

To:

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Honorarium and travel expense arranged

*Words cannot express how much we Ambassadors enjoyed you and your message the evening of June 21. And excuse the expression to an ordained Baptist minister, but you were REALLY "COOL!" The hour seemed like only five minutes. The rhythm of the Negro spirituals truly expresses the love the slaves felt for God and their faith in His promise for His children. And the Bible stories, I have never heard them told in such a way. They almost came to life right there.*

Dear Manley:

That was a tremendous experience which we had at Thousand Pines. We had the best of leadership and an excellent group of students.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

*Thank you for your presentation at the recent national meeting of Future Homemakers of America in Los Angeles. I think the tremendous ovation from the delegates showed just how much we all enjoyed and appreciated your presentation.*

Dear Manley:

You get better and better. Your visit here was another total success. As you can sense. I think, our students are more and more receptive to your approach; you help them discover what is in them. I hope that you will be able to come every year and will try anything you feel like trying. Verde Valley School, Arizona

Dear Manley:

*What do we have to do to entice you to Pine Valley Camp for your College Y weekend this year? Our kids who attended last year are hopeful you might be able to pick up where you left off on the history of blues and jazz. As I recall, you left them hoping and pleading for more.*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Our note of thanks to you for your contribution to the success of our State FHA Meeting is long overdue. Nevertheless we want you to know that your talk on "Opportunities Unlimited" was one of the highlights of our State Meeting. You were, no doubt, aware of this because of the standing ovation which you received from our FHA'ers. The group singing of Negro Spirituals at the close of our meeting is now a tradition and is enjoyed by youth and adults alike.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

*Many, many thanks for coming to us in Jacksonville and for giving our delegation of Future Homemakers the opportunity to profit from your wisdom and talents.*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America wishes to thank you again for your part in making our twenty-third state meeting a success. The state officers and delegates felt that your part on the program was one of the highlights of the entire meeting.

Dear Manley:

*We in California were proud of the fine contribution you made as panel moderator at our national FHA convention at the Colorado State University. Our girls were disappointed that more time had not been allowed for the question period. Thanks for so generously giving your time to our youth. I know it was difficult flying in and returning to Azusa the same day. I'm afraid if I had been in your place, I would have fallen asleep in the classroom.*

Dear Manley,

Thank you for your imaginative, involving presentation at the Forum yesterday! Some of those songs reverberate in my deepest heart and memory, and I can't tell you how I enjoyed understanding them in a spiritual and historical context. You gave us a rich experience. I hope we can get you back soon.

To: Armen Sarafian, President, La Verne University

From: Lowell K. Brubaker, Director of Financial Aid

*Your thank you note prompts me to send you another memorandum telling of an outstanding program presented by part-time instructor Manley Johnson. His topic before the San Dimas Rotary Club was "The Origin and Interpretation of Negro Spirituals." He gave a truly exceptional insight into the background and development of the Negro Spiritual. I would recommend him as an excellent speaker for one of our yearly meetings, i.e., Associates dinner, etc. I've attached his informational flyer for your use and file.*

Dear Manley:

I find it hard to describe to you the significant impact you had upon our congregation last Sunday. It is normally the case that our worship service is uninspired, dry and lifeless. Through the years the people have fallen into a pattern of those expectations. You came and within a half hour totally exploded those expectations and accomplished what I had been hopeful of happening these last 7 months. For the first time since I came to East Side there was a vitality, a joy, and aliveness and spirit that I had never seen in this church before. All I can say is thanks, Manley, for bringing us back to the drama, to the joy, to the vitality that is a worship experience.

Dear Manley,

*It never ceases to amaze me how quickly I get swept back up into my routine after an outing such as the Cazadero Family Camp back in September. But the memories of that special weekend come back to me often. In fact, just the other day, as I was strolling across our J.C. campus, I heard gorgeous singing; the music was coming from the Polish Choir giving a lunch time recital. Their last number was "Every Time I Feel The Spirit" and, as I listened, I flashed to Caz and on your contribution to its success. On behalf of the Santa Rosa contingent, thank you, thank you and a hearty AMEN for your willingness to help us move toward a spiritual experience through music. Your dynamic and enthusiastic presentations were informative and moving and I, for one, was very glad to be there. Everyone else I've talked from our group feels the same. So again, many thanks for a very special time together with a very special man.*

Cazadero Family Camp Committee, Santa Rosa.

First Congregational Church

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As you so aptly have done last July, once again we Rotarians had the privilege of having you present a most interesting program at our luncheon meeting last Thursday. One can easily see why your programs are so much in demand as evidenced by requesting you back with us again. The "Movement" of Jazz and Blues serves as a constant reminder that all of us need a release from the everyday world and to have the ability to express ourselves in a free and open way. Your program seemed to emphasize this point, particularly in your example of musicians talking to each other through their musical instruments. All of us at the Covina Rotary Club, once again, wish to express our "thanks" for a marvelous program and to wish you success in a subject that must live on as a true American heritage in generations to come.

*Pima Friends rejoiced in humanity's indestructible divine seed as Manley Johnson led us, through the spirituals, into America's Black experience. The experience stretched our awareness of all humanity. Singing together was joyful. Pima Friends Re-examined their basic beliefs as Manley Johnson challenged us, respectfully but incisively, from his Baptist perspective. We were compelled to seek greater clarity. We are grateful to Manley Johnson and appreciative, too, of the presence and participation of his wife, Alma.*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Several months ago in Tucson, Arizona at the request of Arline Hobson, I attended a meeting at which you delivered a compelling program about the history of the Negro Spiritual. I am very interested in the possibility of having a broad segment of the campus population exposed to your vital presentation. Students in the Black Student Union and the Gospel Choir are planning events for Black History month in February. Please advise me of your availability to visit sunny Tucson again either in February or at any other time during the year when we could plan on having you visit us. Please include whatever financial arrangements we would need to make also.

Sincerely, Vera Lander, Assistant Dean of Students, University of Arizona, Tucson