

PRESIDENT GARFIELD TO PREACH AT **PLACE**

At the invitation of the **place**, President James A. Garfield has agreed to preach to **congregation, city or region at time and date**. The public has been invited. President Garfield, portrayed by Dr. Gary M. Gray, will deliver a sermon entitled "On These Rocks I Stand." It is based on Garfield's belief that Christianity and Democracy would be the foundations of his Presidency.

Dr. Gray is the author of *MR. PRESIDENTS: Voices of Freedom, Equality, and Dignity* (Presidential Press, ISBN: 0-9774194-0-1), now available at bookstores everywhere. Along with TR, the book features nine historical "moments in time" featuring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

One of America's least known Presidents, James Abram Garfield was among the best-equipped and brilliant men ever to assume the Presidency. Born into poverty in 1831 in a NE Ohio log cabin, Garfield was to become a Disciples of Christ minister, an educator, a college president, a two-star general, and the minority leader in the U. S. House of Representatives.

Dr. Gray is a historian, actor and writer renowned for his brilliant and historically accurate portrayals of seven of America's greatest citizens. His performances have received acclaimed reviews and standing ovations. Dr. Gray holds graduate degrees from Phillips University, Southern Methodist and Notre Dame, along with a doctorate in education from Oklahoma State. He has performed/lectured in every state and worldwide, and taught at Phillips University and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gray is the author of eleven books and the former publisher and editor of two national magazines.

Gray says, "apparently Garfield wanted to be a minister even during his early childhood. When little Garfield was three, he asked his mother if he could be a preacher. Eliza, his mother said, "Yes, of course, when you are older." The family was startled later that afternoon when they heard the little tyke shouting. They found him in front of a huge boulder waving his arms and preaching a make-believe sermon. From that point on, the family came to call this boulder Pulpit Rock."

Garfield was a preacher in the early days of the Disciples of Christ, a small American church that "*speaks only when the Bible speaks and is silent when the Bible is silent.*" The young Garfield is to have great difficulty with other denominations; the older Garfield chose to broaden his theology. It is this mature Garfield that Gray portrays in this unique "*moment in history*" sermon presentation.

Gray adds "*an understanding of democracy was a critical part of how Garfield understood religion—the Disciples of Christ is an American-born church with democracy as its local church organizational format. Likewise, Garfield's belief*

in freedom, equality, dignity, and educating the masses so they could experience the fullness of democracy permeated both his religious and political views.

Host directors' name suggests *“the people of **city or area** will have a invigorating time at this James A. Garfield presentation. Although Garfield was among the least known of American Presidents, he was among its most brilliant and well equipped for the position in addition to being the only ordained minister. His sermon brings to life much of the religious and political thought of the 1880’s. In particular, his insightful views on evolution vs. creation, that of slavery, war, and the separation of church and state are of interest today. Please plan to join us on **date**.”*