



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 78, No. 9 May 2017

CONNECT

Young Adults Retreat | M a y 19-21

Appalachian Conference
Campgrounds

Contact:

rfredericks58@aol.com

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More information:

www.appconf.org

Register here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/t18bcQNFGWsIkML53>

Featuring:

Nathan Wright

Ryan Linkous

Ray Kingrea

Jeremiah 29:13



FRIDAY, MAY 19

Pastor Ray Kingrea



SATURDAY, MAY 20

Pastor Ryan Linkous



WORSHIP WITH

Nathan Wright and the
Chi Alpha Band



Appalachian Conference



Bishop's Page

PRESTON MATHENA



CHURCH PLANTING DOESN'T COME EASY, OR DOES IT?



Pastor Brandon Hay

Planting a church, now there is a daunting task — or is it? While planting a church is never a decision to be taken lightly, it does not have to be a painstakingly difficult process. How, then, do we debunk the misconceptions surrounding a church plant to take it from something that seems nearly impossible to something that is totally achievable in the Lord?

I'm Brandon Hay, the pastor of Life Church in Claypool Hill, Virginia, and while I do not claim to have all of the answers, I am thankful for the opportunity to share our journey with you that led to the church plant of Life Church.

I believe that the remedy to the majority of headaches associated with a church plant can be found in the foundational truths in the book of Acts. In the early church, we see an emphasis on prayer and relationships in all aspects of ministry. It is easy to overlook these two important details of ministry, but we found these to be central to this church plant.

During my family's service in the youth ministry, we developed a relationship with Travis Lowe, who is the current pastor at Crossroads Church in Bluefield, West Virginia, and his family. In the summer of 2013, Travis approached my wife and me about the idea of a church plant. Christy and I knew that the Lord had been preparing us for a season of transition for some time, and because of the already established connection with Travis, the idea of a

church plant resonated well with us.

Going into this, both Travis and I knew we did not have all of the necessary answers it would require to take this God-given vision from a vision to a reality and that anything we could learn on the matter would prove to be invaluable.

In the fall of 2013, Travis and I attended a class the IPHC offers on church planting. This class was centered around the idea of churches planting churches, with a direct focalization on the mother/daughter church plant model. It was apparent that this was the model the Lord would have us use.

At this point, we had identified prayer and relationship building as key essential tools within this process, and part of that is the importance of submitting to, relying on, and coming under the covering God has given you. The consistent support of Bishop Preston Mathena, Larry Meadors, and the Appalachian Conference was integral to the success of this church plant, and it was unlike anything I had ever been a part of! We were also very thankful to have the blessing of our previous pastor, Pastor Kenny Fields. We will always be thankful for Pastor Fields, his family, and the churches in Bishop, Virginia, not only for allowing us to serve alongside them but for the support and encouragement they freely gave when it was time to take the next step in ministry.

In the spring of 2014, we began to attend our mother church, Crossroads Church, under the leadership of Pastor Travis. During the next several months, my family had the joy of serving side by side all of the wonderful, loving people there. Pastor Travis and Crossroads Church provided all the support you could possibly imagine from a mother church, seeing us through the journey of this church plant every step of the way, and we remain connected to this day! During this time and through regular prayer, we decided upon many of the core specifics that go into a church plant. We decided the church would be called "Life Church" and that the vision of Life Church would be "Trusting God to lead the nations from the self-centered life to the Christ-centered life." We also began to address the logistical issues, such as the actual location of the church plant, launch team services, and what those services would entail. Ultimately, we decided the perfect location for Life Church was within our local Claypool Hill Mall.

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2015, marked our first Launch Team service. The first meeting had 10 to 15 people in attendance, including children. Launch Team services were every other Wednesday at 7 p.m. and ran just as a normal church service would, with a time of praise and worship, a time of offering, a sermon, and time at the altar. Without a doubt, there were times along the journey that it felt overwhelming; however, we found that the people who had begun this journey with us were eager to lend a helping hand when we involved them in the process. If there were situations where it seemed like we were treading water, we reached out to our Launch Team.

Over the next several months, time seemed to pass quickly. Before we realized it, our services had grown to approximately 50 people. In order to remain intentional in encouraging relationship building and unity within the body, we had a meal and a time of fellowship together after each service. We also incorporated connection cards into our services. Connection cards are a great way to obtain contact information from people who attend services. They also provide those in attendance an opportunity to respond to the message. This will always be a key component at Life Church, as it allows for an immediate and ongoing connection with people.

Social media is an influential avenue to use for connecting as well. It not only facilitates connection with people who attend the church, but it also gives the church a presence with people who have not yet attended.

On March 29, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., Life Church officially launched. Our first official Sunday service had 230 people in attendance. We had been prepared in the church planting class that statistically after an official launch, the attendance of the second service is half of the first, and it takes approximately one month to get a base attendance. Our experience would agree with the statistics, as we had about 130 in our second Sunday service, and after one month, our initial base attendance was between 80 and 100. We are now in our second year with 149 official members and an average attendance of 170. We have around six special event services each year. These services emphasize bringing in the unchurched and connecting with them. We have seen this help with a steady growth over our first year and a half. We have implemented small groups to continue in unity as we grow larger and smaller at the same time.

Being a part of planting Life Church has been the culmination of some of the most incredible moments in my life. When I was first approached to write this article, it was with the thought "Church planting doesn't come easy" — and in a sense, it certainly doesn't come easy. However, with the right relationship connections, it is a radical, amazing, and life-changing adventure! With that in mind, I would say this about our experience: "Church planting doesn't come easy, or does it?"

DR. DONALD ELLIOTT FINISHES THE RACE

Dr. Donald Elliott, 80, of Lashmeet, died Friday, March 24, 2017. He was licensed with the IPHC in 1962 and ordained in 1965. He subsequently pastored churches in West Virginia, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina. He is survived by his wife Linda. In lieu of a funeral, Donald asked long ago that he be remembered by time shared with friends here and his salvation messages. He has finished the race and now enjoys the presence of the One he loved and served.

JUNE RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 5

Rev. Larry Buckland
WV Nursing Facility
One Freedom's Way
Clarksburg, WV 26301

JUNE 7

Rev. Patrick Wheeler
160 Foxridge Road
Narrows, VA 24124

JUNE 9

Rev. James Newton
204 Apa Way
Lenhardt Village
Greenville, SC 29611

JUNE 9

Rev. Edward Richardson
1005 West Madison Street
Wytheville, VA 24382

JUNE 12

Rev. Mrs. June Canavesio
8152 NW 25th Street
Bethany, OK 73008

JUNE 17

Rev. D. L. Board
2243 Pilot Road
Christiansburg, VA 24382

JUNE 18

Rev. Albert Jarvis
4450 Sherwood Drive
Titusville, FL 32796

JUNE 24

Rev. Larry Roberts
259 Snow Vista Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

CONFERENCE WORK DAY RESCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 30 at 9 A.M.

JUNE EVENTS

- 3 Retired Ministers' Luncheon
- 6 Board of Examiners
- 12 Prayer Walk for Camp Meeting/Youth Camp
- 13-17 Camp Meeting/Inspirational Conference
- 17 Maranatha College class
- 18 Father's Day
- 18 Men's Ministries Day
- 19-23 Extreme Teen Camp
- 24 Girls' Ministries/Boys' Ministries Day Camp
- 26-30 Destiny Camp
- 27 WIN Prayer Call

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World Missions & Evangelism



LARRY MEADORS



Pastors Roger and Rebecca West and World Missions & Evangelism Director Larry Meadors and wife Gloria

“We are building a community by a culture of love, prayer, and unity.”

On March 19, 2017, Convergence Church became structured and organized with the Appalachian Conference. We were honored to have Bishop Preston Mathena and First Lady Kathy Mathena, along with Missions Director Larry Meadors and his wife Gloria, to speak into the lives of the members of our church. Convergence Church is an urban style ministry in the heart of Staunton, Virginia.

Here at Convergence Church, we believe the broken-hearted and the lost can be reached by fostering a community based on a foundation of love, prayer, and unity. In this way, we hope to walk in the footsteps of the early church, experiencing the power of the Spirit on miraculous levels. “A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity, all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved” (Acts 2:43-47, NLT).

Creating an atmosphere of love is crucial to our mission. With this in mind, we offer a weekly Connect Group for young adults. Not only is it a place to encourage and support each other in their individual walks, but it is also a place to ask difficult questions, share ideas, and develop an understanding of our fellow brothers and sisters. By solidifying such bonds through Christ, we hope to create and nurture a culture of prayer, love, and ultimately unity.

Additionally, we are reaching out to the local community by hosting our own Food Pantry and, inspired by the efforts of the Valley Mission, aiding those transitioning out of homeless shelters. Furthermore, we will begin our Celebrate Recovery program this upcoming spring.

All in all, Convergence Church strives to become a true beacon of Christ and his love in the Shenandoah Valley.

–Submitted by Pastor Roger West

We are happy to welcome Convergence Church to the Appalachian Conference family of churches. Roger and Rebecca West are to be commended for their perseverance in planting this church. Please pray for them as they continue to establish this work.

WELCOME REDEEMING GRACE CHURCH

We welcome Redeeming Grace Church in McGaheysville, Virginia, as an affiliate member of the Appalachian Conference. The church is led by Pastor John and Jessica Bradshaw. The church is approximately six years old and has a vibrant congregation. We look forward to working and fellowshiping with them.



NOTE: Last month’s page, “Have a Cup of Coffee,” was submitted by Carolyn Kirk, missions director at Harbor of Hope P.H. in Christiansburg, Virginia. We appreciate her commitment to promoting missions.



Discipleship Ministries

RON FREDERICKS

www.appconf.org



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

CAMP MARANATHA 17

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. (Acts 20:24)

NOT MY LIFE HIS

NOT MY LIFE HIS

SPEAKERS CAMPS

Extreme Teen Camp

Ages 14 - 17

June 19 - 23

Speaker: Josh Lafferty

Destiny Camp

Ages 12 & 13

June 26 - 30

Speaker: Adam Williams

Adventure Camp

Ages 10 - 11

July 2 - 6

Speaker: Tim Bennett

Kidz Quest Camp

Ages 7 - 9

July 9 - 12

Speaker: Valerie Meadows & the Christian Life International Team

Josh Lafferty



Adam Williams



Tim Bennett



Valerie Meadows



FOR MORE INFORMATION

SEE OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.APPCONF.ORG; PHONE: 540.674.4131 X201; E-MAIL: DMSECRETARY1@AOL.COM; CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK AT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE.



A Strong Spirit

Proverbs 18:14 (AMPC): “The strong spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain or trouble, but a weak and broken spirit who can raise up or bear?”

Does God want us strong? Is there a scripture that says, “Be weak”? The Bible tells us in Proverbs 4:23 (AMPC): “**Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.**”

Do you suppose there is a good reason we are to guard our hearts? I am a spirit; that’s where my life comes from. I have a soul (mind, will, and emotions), and I live in a body. Modern science is beginning to realize this more and more. There’s more to why some survive sickness and disease and some die than what meets the eye. If your spirit is weak, does it affect the body? Yes. Does it make your immune system weak? What about your heart? What about if your spirit gets built up? We need to watch what is going into us. Guard your heart, your spirit man. How do I get my spirit strong? Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:8 (AMPC): “**For physical training is of some value (useful for a little), but godliness (spiritual training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come.**”

I believe there are three main things to do for a strong spirit.

- 1. Eat the right thing.** Your spirit needs the Word of God. It is life to those who find it and health to all their flesh (Prov. 4:22). Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matt. 4:4). Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35). In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God and the Word was with God (John 1:1). All these are found in the Bible. So eat up.
- 2. Exercise spiritually.** How do we do that? One way is praying in the Spirit. Jude 1:20: “**But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.**” I believe another way is your confessions – speaking what God has said about you. Hebrews 10:23 (AMP): “**Let us *seize* and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful [to His word].**” That’s not just talking about your confession for salvation. What does God’s Word say about you? He says to “**let the weak say, I am strong**” (Joel 3:10). He says that “**by whose [Jesus’] stripes ye were healed**” (1 Pet. 2:24). These are some of the confessions that will give you a strong spirit. Singing praises will build you up also.
- 3. Stop up the drains.** What saps the strength out of your spirit? Fear, worry, too many irons in the fire, strife. Signs of a strong spirit: Peace, love, joy, confidence, assurance. Signs of a weak spirit: fear, anxiety, dread, dragging, lack of excitement, giving up.

Ephesians 6:10: “**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.**” Psalm 71:16: “**I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.**”

God has a work for each of us to do, and we will accomplish it by building up our spirit man and being all that He has created us to be.

Upcoming Events:

Raising Hope – September 16

Fall Retreat – November 3 – Beth Stephens-Johnson, speaker

Watch for more details to come!



COME TO THE PLACE OF BREAKTHROUGH

2 Samuel 5:20

Even as the morning sun BREAKS the night of darkness, God's Spirit brings BREAKTHROUGH for those in the place of prayer!

JOB 38:12-13 – God talks to Job about the power of the morning breakthrough. **“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, So that [light] may get hold of the corners of the earth and shake the wickedness [of night] out of it?”**

YOUR BREAKTHROUGH can begin in the morning, if you come to that place of prayer. Your entire day can be victorious if you have spent time in that PLACE OF BREAKTHROUGH!

KING DAVID – King David found that PLACE OF BREAKTHROUGH! He was led by the Lord to the place of Baal-perazim. Here in this place, he won two battles of great importance for himself and the nation.

WAR CAME AGAINST KING DAVID – 2 Samuel 5 – A wonderful thing had just happened. David had been declared king at the city of Hebron. The people gathered around him and made him king. But this joy was short-lived. The Philistine army came in great numbers to fight against the new king. They tried to intimidate the king by showing off their great army. But King David spent time in the PLACE OF BREAKTHROUGH. He asked the Lord what to do. The instructions were to go up against the Philistines and fight. The Philistines lost the battle!

A SECOND TIME – Have you ever had the devil come back a second time? The Philistines rose up again against King David. So King David came to the place of BREAKTHROUGH. He asked the Lord for instructions. This time, the PLAN of the Lord was different. He was told to go around the army at the mulberry trees. The Philistines lost this fight also!

THE BREAKER – Micah 2:13 (AMP) – Come also as the PERSON OF BREAKTHROUGH! Come like King David, with a heart of reverence and inquiring of the Lord! **“The BREAKER [the Messiah] will go up before them. They will BREAK THROUGH, pass in through the gate and go out through it, and their King will pass on before them, the Lord at their head”** (caps added).

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“ELI THE ELF” INSPIRES TOY DRIVE AT GREEN VALLEY-NEW VISION

Early in 2016, the youth of Green Valley-New Vision P.H. Church in Princeton, West Virginia, began discussing ways they could put what they had been taught about missions into action. With the Christmas season just ending and the excitement of receiving presents still fresh in their minds, Elijah Bauer decided that his vision was to see less fortunate children receive Christmas presents. Therefore, “Eli the Elf” was born.

With the support of Pastor Samuel Edgell and the congregation, the last Sunday of each month was designated as “Eli the Elf Sunday.” Eli the Elf, accompanied by his friends, would don his elf hat, and as Christmas music played, he and his toy collectors would gather toys from the congregation.

As the 2016 Christmas season was quickly approaching, it was decided to contact Toys for Tots to receive the donation of toys. Mr. Rod Mayberry, the Princeton coordinator of Toys for Tots, was gracious in coming to New Vision in December to collect the toys and provide a very informative presentation about Toys for Tots.

Lots of smiles and warmth were found that Sunday morning as the congregation gathered around the tree to offer praise for the bounty of gifts that had been supplied and for God to bring salvation and blessings to each household that received the gifts. New Vision was deeply touched that morning as they felt the love of God, and all experienced Acts 20:35 – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Eli the Elf, better known as Elijah Bauer, is the son of Craig and Rachel Bauer of Princeton, West Virginia. He is 12 years old and a student at Princeton Middle School.



Rod Mayberry and Elijah Bauer

–Submitted by Meagan Rotenberry