



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

# MESSENGER

Vol. 78, No. 4 December 2016

**Merry  
Christmas!**



**from the office staff of the  
Appalachian Conference Ministry Center**



**Appalachian Conference**



## Immanuel, God's Cure for Loneliness at Christmas

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22, 23; Luke 2:7



It is always hard to release a loved one in death, especially at Christmas. The season is one of joy and celebration; yet, for many it is extremely lonely, especially for those who have had a loved one to die close to or during the holidays.

As I have thought long and hard about this, I have taken comfort in the fact that Immanuel is God's cure for loneliness at Christmas. I'm referring to the Christ-child as referenced in Isaiah's prophecy and subsequently quoted in Matthew's narrative of the Savior's birth.

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV): *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

Matthew 1:22, 23 (NIV): "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means, 'God with us.'"

Luke, a physician, provides significant insight and detail about the birth of Jesus not mentioned elsewhere. *"She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger..."* (Luke 2:7).

Luke's detail in this seventh verse is explicitly concerned with a lonely birth. There are no midwives, no assistance to Mary at all. The Bible doesn't even mention that Joseph was present. Perhaps he was, but if he was typical of first-time fathers, he would have been of little help to Mary. She was basically on her own.

G. Campbell Morgan wrote, "It is very beautiful, but oh, the pity of it, the tragedy of it, the loneliness of it; that in that hour of all hours, when womanhood should be surrounded by the tenderest care, she was alone."

But, the question on my mind is, "Was she really alone?" The very child she cradled in the loneliness of this moment was none other than Immanuel, "God with us." Hence, it may have been a lonely birth, but she was never alone!

Loneliness speaks of an inner emptiness, a preoccupation with "Poor me. I am all alone and so blue." Aloneness, in contrast, refers to an inner fulfillment; "I am now alone with Jesus; I can recover, repair, and regroup."

We walk many roads in life, surrounded by those we love, and sometimes by destiny's choice we must take a step alone. In that vacant spot, there is God. An old gospel song reminds us, "No, never alone. Alone, no never alone. He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone."

Hebrews 13:5, 6 (GW) records this great promise. "God has said, 'I will never abandon you or leave you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid...'"

When my Dad died 40 years ago at the young age of 37, I remember a lady saying to my mother, who was only 34 at the time, "Everywhere you look for Albert, God will be there." As a 12-year-old boy, it seemed rather elusive to me. Years later, I discovered that one of God's compound names is Jehovah-Shammah, which means, "The Lord Is There." Since the passing of my dear wife earlier this year, this revelation means more to me now than ever before.

Immanuel is with us now even in our grief. The shortest verse in the English Bible reminds us that Jesus understands our grief and sorrow when a loved one passes. That verse is found in John 11:35, and it simply says, "Jesus wept." He wept outside the grave of his friend Lazarus. He wept with his sisters Mary and Martha just as He weeps with you today.

You may be lonely this Christmas, but I promise you, on the authority of God's Word, "You are never alone." May you discover Immanuel this Christmas in a fresh, new dimension that will fortify your faith and strengthen you for the journey ahead.

– Submitted by W. A. Mills, Jr., Senior Pastor, Buena Vista P.H. Church; Executive Council member

See G. Campbell Morgan, *The Gospel According to Luke* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Revell, 1929), 36.

# SAFELY HOME

Rev. William M. Post, Sr., went to be with his Lord on November 8, 2016, at the age of 91. He transferred to the Appalachian Conference in 1981 as an ordained minister and subsequently pastored New Life Temple in Roanoke, Virginia (what is now New Life Christian Ministries). His ministry included serving as superintendent of the Northwest Conference, as well as assistant superintendent of the IPHC. In 1991 he and his wife moved to Greeley, Colorado, where he lived at the time of his death. His funeral was Monday, November 14.

## JANUARY RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY 3

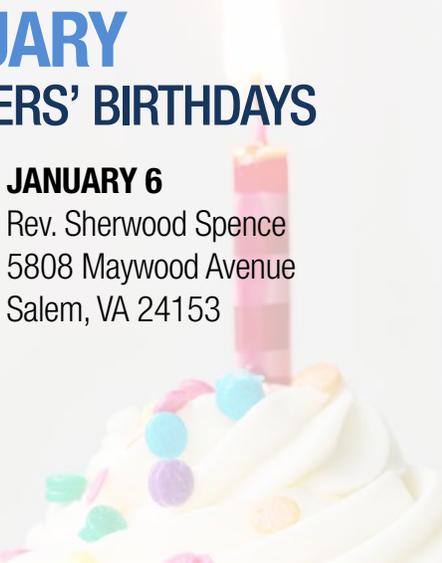
Rev. W. F. Monday  
922 Sheffey School Rd.  
Wytheville, VA 24382

### JANUARY 6

Rev. Sherwood Spence  
5808 Maywood Avenue  
Salem, VA 24153

### JANUARY 30

Rev. Richard Black  
4004 West Main Street  
Princeton, WV 24750



## JANUARY EVENTS

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1     | New Year's Day (office closed)          |
| 7     | Bible Quiz Scrimmage                    |
| 11    | IPHC National Day of Prayer             |
| 16    | Martin Luther King Day                  |
| 17    | Call to Prayer & Fasting for the Unborn |
| 20-21 | Maranatha College Classes               |
| 20-22 | Bridging Our Ministries—Ridgecrest, NC  |
| 26-29 | Accelerant—Gatlinburg, TN               |
| 31    | WIN Prayer Call                         |

**MESSENGER**  
(USPS 621-580)

**Vol. 78 — December 2016 — No. 4**

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR — Preston Mathena**

#### STAFF

Phone 540-674-4131  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

#### EVANGELISM & WORLD MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Larry Meadors  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

#### DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Ron Fredericks  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Kathy Mathena  
103 Windsor Circle  
Bluefield, VA 24605  
Phone: 276-326-3000

#### WIN

Donna Hankla  
139 Ridgeway Drive  
Bland, VA 24315  
Phone: 276-688-3709

#### Deadline for all script to reach the office:

1st of each month for the next month's issue  
Email to woodsh12@gmail.com.

#### CONFERENCE BOARD

*Superintendent* — Preston Mathena  
*Assistant Superintendent* — Mike Dodson  
*Secretary/Treasurer* — Frank Neff  
*Board Member* — Larry Meadors  
*Board Member* — W.A. Mills  
*Board Member* — Wanda Myers  
*Board Member* — Jim Tunnell

**MESSENGER** (USPS 621-580) is published monthly by LifeSprings Resources, 2425 W. Main St., Franklin Springs, GA 30639, for the Appalachian Conference. Subscription price \$2.00 per year. Periodicals Postage Paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to MESSENGER, 5847 Oak Grove Avenue, Dublin, VA 24084.

**WEBSITE:** [www.appconf.org](http://www.appconf.org)

**CREDIT GRAPHICS:** *Thinkstock.com*



LARRY MEADORS

## LINDA FANNIN FINISHING WELL

It is a difficult assignment to condense 42 years of missions ministry on one page. This month, Linda Fannin will officially retire as a career missionary from the IPHC World Missions Ministries Division. In her words, it is time to “pass the baton to the next generation.”

David Sr. and Linda were approved as IPHC missionaries in August of 1974 and began their service in Malawi, Africa, in 1975. They served on that continent for 26 years before transferring to Eastern Europe for the past 16 years. Linda has served without Dave for the last five years, after his sudden passing while ministering in Ukraine.

The Fannins have been connected with the Appalachian Conference for many years, having transferred their membership from the Pennsylvania Conference (River of Life Ministries). Walter Lee Wood shares about their involvement: “David and Linda became members of New Life Temple (New Life Christian Ministries) in September 1984. Their dedication to missions touched the people of this congregation, and the church became regular supporters of this great couple. From that time until now, this church has been one of their strong supporters. It was always a joy to welcome them home when they would return for a time of furlough. When they spoke to the congregation, it would send a spark of joy and victory and a renewed sense of support for their ministry.”

Here is more of their journey in Linda’s words: “I think the biggest accomplishment in Africa, as well as Eastern Europe, is the fact of ‘making disciples’ in all the places we traveled to. Another accomplishment is the church planting efforts of over 300-plus churches in Malawi, and instrumental in church planting efforts in many places of Eastern Europe and in the Middle East. Mind you, without the nationals, these efforts would not be possible. I think the biggest part of a successful ministry is in building relationship. One of my favorite stories is the time when Dave was preaching outside under a bonfire. We usually sat around listening to African proverbs. While Dave was speaking, a woman tried to pick him up and throw him into the fire. He said at first he was afraid, but then something came over him and the fear was gone. The Scripture came to him, ‘Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world.’ He then rebuked the demonic spirit in Jesus’ name. The woman fell in a heap at his feet. She came back in a few moments and gave him the gods that she prayed to (small objects in a small basket). She threw them in the bonfire. The people saw what she had done, and they went to their houses and brought out the representation of their gods and threw them in the bonfire. At that instant many were saved and delivered. God showed us that evening His great power through the Holy Spirit. The chief was saved and a church was put at that site. God gave Rev. Donald Duncan a prophecy over Dave and me when we transferred from Africa to Europe. ‘Even though you are church planters, you will not be so much involved with buildings, as you will in the “building up and repairing” people. Your building efforts will be poured into people.’ And so it was true. We mentored and were part of teaching, planting, and getting Europe involved in the Great Commission.”



When we began itinerating in 1973



Our last night in Ukraine together.

Gloria and I appreciate Dave and Linda’s close friendship through the years. A great testament to their desire to raise up the next generation is when they mentored our son Timothy. He spent his first summer after graduation from William and Mary in Budapest with them. He now is an IPHC missionary to Europe, based in Norway. We wish Linda God’s richest blessings on this next season of life and ministry.

It is important to note that Linda will continue to be available for teaching and training ministry. She is keeping a travel account open in which you can continue to support her. You can also express your personal appreciation at our next Ministers’ Summit in Pigeon Forge. Linda has made plans to attend in order to thank the conference members for their many years of support. You can also use the following contact information if you would like to send a personal note of appreciation: 1964 Stonehill Drive, Justin, TX 76247 or [Lindafannin1@aol.com](mailto:Lindafannin1@aol.com).



# Discipleship Ministries

RON FREDERICKS

[www.appconf.org](http://www.appconf.org)



## Encore Ministries, New York City... We Came... We Saw... We Conquered!

On Monday, Oct. 24, 51 young-at-heart senior citizens from the Appalachian Conference loaded a bus and headed out to take New York City by storm! The city was amazing. The sights were breathtaking as we walked Times Square after dinner. We were in awe at the reverence as we stood at the pool at the 9/11 Memorial... the respect and silent awe as we walked through the 9/11 Museum... putting faces with names, the visual impact of remnants of a city devastated and make-shift memorials that rose out of the ashes that showed the fortitude of the heart of America... looking out from the 102nd floor of One World Trade Center to view the landscape and harbor of New York City. The magnitude of Liberty Island, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island loomed before us. Walking through the museum at Ellis Island, we were reminded of the sacrifice many made in the pursuit of freedom... climbing to the base of the Statue of Liberty to stand in the grandeur of the great lady's shadow. What a night it was as we joined some 1,500+ brothers and sisters for a prayer service at Brooklyn Tabernacle, being led into the presence of God by the Brooklyn Singers. We finished the tour before we headed home by taking in "The Phantom of the Opera" at the Majestic Theater. Great food, great fun, great fellowship! We came... we saw... we conquered! We would like to invite you to come and join the Encore Ministries family. This spring, May 15-17, we will be traveling to Kentucky to tour the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum. For more information contact the Discipleship Ministries office at 540-674-4131.



## 2016 Appalachian Conference Ranger of the Year

Congratulations to Ethan Sweet, Galax PHC Outpost #97, Discovery Ranger of the Year; and Ethan Millard, CLI Outpost #163, Ranger Kids Ranger of the Year. Rangers are tested on their knowledge of Ranger Codes, Scripture and Ranger Skills.



Pictured from left to right: Commander Steve Allen, Eli Sweet, Caleb Reynolds, Ethan Millard (2016-2017 Ranger Kids Ranger of the Year), Matthew Loving, Phillip Sweet (2016-2017 Discovery Ranger, Ranger of the Year) and Freddie Sweet, Conference Commander.

## From our homes to yours, the Appalachian Conference Discipleship Ministries Department



wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and prosperous New Year!





# Women's Ministries

KATHY MATHENA



## THREE WAYS WE CAN THANK GOD THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

December is the season for giving. We buy gifts for our families, our friends, our co-workers, but what can we give to God? When you stop to think of all He has given to us, it seems like there is no real significant way to say, "Thank you." But I believe there are at least three ways we can show our thanks to our Heavenly Father.

The first way is PRAISE. Psalm 63:3, 4 says, "Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."

Second, have you kept the promises you have made to your Father?

Psalm 116:18 (NIV) says, "I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people." John 15:14 (NKJV) tells us, "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you."

Third, it is so hard when you are a child to realize it is better to give than to receive, but God's Word says in 1 Chronicles 16:28, 29 (NLT), "O nations of the world, recognize the Lord, recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong. Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come to worship him. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor." Matthew 6:19-21 (NKJV) says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

As adults, we learn the joy of giving. This Christmas, let's receive an abundant supply of joy and share it with others as we give.



## EMMANUEL COLLEGE STUDENTS THANK YOU!

Thank you for your offerings to the Feast of Ingathering. Our conference students at Emmanuel College were blessed to receive gift cards from our Women's Ministries and the Discipleship Ministries.

*Come and join us for our Women's Ministries spring trip to Charleston, South Carolina.*

**April 7 and 8, 2017**

Registration information will be mailed out in December. For more information contact: Kathy Mathena at (304) 952-1050 or [kmathena@gmail.com](mailto:kmathena@gmail.com), Alice Crigger at 540-674-4131 ext. 201 or [dmsecretary1@aol.com](mailto:dmsecretary1@aol.com).





## TRIUMPHANT OR TROUBLED in 2017?

2 Corinthians 2:14, *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place.”*

### CONFLICT

The year of 2016 has been marked by CONFLICT and CONFUSION. Such an atmosphere creates great STRESS upon people and the nation. Massive protests are frequently seen. Also, many people cannot even PRAY for the nation with PEACE in their hearts.

Be assured that God is not the author of confusion. His desire is for us to be in PEACE. Powerful PRAYERS are released from vessels filled with PEACE! *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints”* (1 Corinthians 14:33).

### TROUBLED?

Many people find themselves relating to Martha. Jesus came to visit Martha and Mary. Mary sat attentively at the feet of Jesus and listened to every word! However, Martha was overly occupied and too busy preparing the meal (Luke 10:40-42, AMP).

The year 2017 will be a difficult year for those who stay too busy for Jesus! Troubled times will blow heavily, as a hurricane, for those not anchored in His rest!

### TRIUMPHANT?

Two key principles for success are found in the opening scripture.

\*TRIUMPH is in CHRIST – This will be a year to wait patiently for the Lord and to hear His voice. The Holy Spirit is our guide and will lead us in the right paths (John 16:13).

\*SWEET SAVOR – The TRIUMPHANT ones will have a SWEETNESS surrounding them. They will create a SWEET atmosphere, which will spread the KNOWLEDGE of JESUS CHRIST (2 Corinthians 2:14, 15).

### QUESTION?

Will you be TRIUMPHANT or TROUBLED during the coming year? Regardless of the trials of the nation, make the choice to STAY IN HIS PEACE. MAKE the choice to PRAY IN HIS PEACE!

**MESSENGER**  
**(USPS 621-580)**  
**5847 Oak Grove Avenue**  
**Dublin, Virginia 24084**

Periodicals Postage Paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639

Address Service Requested

## **AVAILABLE FOR MINISTRY**

Rev. Richard Kingrea has retired from pastoring and is now available for the following:

- \*Revivals
- \*Camp Meetings
- \*Sweetheart Banquets
- \*Speaking Engagements
- \*Fill-ins for Pastors

He can be contacted at (H) 540-381-1464, (C) 540-250-6325 or Renee's cell 540-250-6704, or P.O. Box 6654, Christiansburg, VA 24068.



**May your Christmas be filled**

**with His peace.**

