



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

# MESSENGER

Vol. 79, No. 6 February 2018

## 2018 GREAT COMMISSION MEALS

### **East Tennessee District – Saturday, March 17 – Noon**

*Perkins Restaurant, 2608 N. Roan St., Johnson City, Tenn.*

### **Bluefield/McDowell Districts – Saturday, March 17 – 5 p.m.**

*Montcalm P.H. Church, Highway 71, Montcalm, W.Va. (Larry Roberts, Pastor)*

### **Roanoke/Central Virginia Districts – Monday, March 19 – Noon**

*Olde Liberty Station, 515 Bedford Ave., Bedford, Va.*

### **Shenandoah Valley District – Monday, March 19 – 6 p.m.**

*Good News Ministries, 18 Kerry Lane, Staunton, Va. (Wanda Myers, Pastor)*

### **Greenbrier District – Tuesday, March 20 – Noon**

*Cucci Pizzeria, 566 East Madison St., Covington, Va.*

### **Central West Virginia District – Tuesday, March 20 – 6 p.m.**

*Golden Corral, 1320 North Eisenhower Drive, Beckley, W.Va.*

### **New River Valley District – Thursday, March 22 – 6 p.m.**

*The Conference Center, Oak Grove Ave., Dublin, Va.*

### **Southwest Virginia District – Friday, March 23 – 6 p.m.**

*Wytheville Recreation Center, 333 Community Blvd., Wytheville, Va.*

## Mission One

“...go and make disciples of all nations...”

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE  
Missions and Evangelism Ministries

engage  
...Your world

Appalachian Conference



## What a Mighty God We Serve!

Several years ago, I was talking with the Lord about church growth and attendance. I was seeking an answer on how to continue to grow numerically and not gain some people, while losing others. The answer was not what I expected. What I felt the Holy Spirit say to me was, “Quit focusing on numerical growth, and focus on people’s spiritual growth.” If I would do that, then the spiritual growth would result in numerical growth.

I found that encouraging spiritual growth in the people required spiritual growth in me first. For me to obtain that spiritual growth, I had to make changes; changes that began in me. I saw my style of preaching change, as I found myself digging into dissecting the Scriptures and then “spreaching” them. (“Spreaching” is a mixture of teaching and preaching at the same time.)

My focus was on developing stronger believers, not developing stronger numbers or larger membership. I saw more and more people come and stay. And I began seeing more and more people deal with situations better than before. I watched as members brought more and more



visitors to the service and then watched as they came to the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are two things that I have emphasized for years. First, if we do the natural, God will do the supernatural. And second, favor follows obedience. I obeyed what God said to do, even though it took some adjustment on my part and on the congregation’s part. And God’s plan worked.

As I looked over my yearly report the last week of December, I saw, to my amazement, after filling in the number of members who came in and the members who were taken off, we were one person shy of having 4,000 members. I wasn’t going to get up and ask for one person to join the church, as I didn’t want to come across as a person after numbers. But inside of me, I wanted so badly to reach that 4,000 mark.

On the last Wednesday of every month, we baptize those who have accepted the Lord that month. For December, we only had one lady who wanted to be baptized. So on Dec. 27, as I was preparing to baptize her, she looked at me and said, “By the way, I want to join the church tonight.”

That’s why I titled this “What a Mighty God We Serve!” God had that 4,000th member all planned out. To God be the glory, for great things He has done. As we enter this New Year, we are looking forward to what God has planned for Tree of Life.

I must add that this didn’t happen just because of me. It took a great team of staff and the congregation working together and obeying God’s direction. God prepares us for what He has prepared for us. I have learned that spiritual growth in a congregation will lead to a larger congregation. When our focus is on the spiritual growth of people, the church will experience numerical growth.

*–Submitted by Michael Dodson, Sr., Pastor  
Tree of Life, Lynchburg, Va.*

*“We congratulate Tree of Life on their continuing focus on the Great Commission and the winning of lost souls. May God continue to bless this church with sustained growth.”*

*–Bishop Preston Mathena*

# MARCH

## RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH 23

Rev. James LaValley  
2856 Graham Road  
Draper, VA 24324

### MARCH 23

Rev. Ms. Ethel Swart  
513 Awaroa, RD1  
Kaitai North Island, New Zealand 0410

### MARCH 24

Rev. Thomas Cochran  
204 Woodland Drive  
Buena Vista, VA 24416



- 11** Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Women's Ministries Day  
Bible Quiz Scrimmage
- 14** Conference Jr. & Teen Talent Registration Deadline
- 16-17** Maranatha College
- 17** Great Commission Meals
- 18** Retired Ministers Day
- 19** Great Commission Meals
- 20** Great Commission Meals
- 22** Great Commission Meals
- 23** Deadline to Submit Creative Writing, Video/Web Design
- 23** Great Commission Meals
- 24** Pinewood Derby
- 26** WIN Prayer Call
- 30** Good Friday (Office Closed)

**MESSENGER**  
(USPS 621-580)

Vol. 79 — February 2018 — No. 6

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#### 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

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Secretary/Treasurer – Frank Neff  
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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*



## MISSION + ONE

The upcoming Great Commission Meals (GCM) will be centered on Christ's Commission to reach the world as being the church's top priority: it is MISSION ONE! This annual time of fellowship and information is hosted by the IPHC World Missions Ministries. Pastors and church mission directors and their spouses are invited to enjoy the meal by attending the district location that is convenient to them.

We are delighted to have Max Barroso, director of The Awakening, to be part of the GCM this year. Max will share the exciting story of how The Awakening is moving students into IPHC missions to bring in the harvest. Also, you will be updated on the conference projects for Romania for 2017 and the 2018 project in Nicaragua.

## Ukraine Church Plants

The IPHC continues to have a great open door of ministry in the Ukraine. Through the determined efforts of evangelism, our mother church in Kiev has seen over 20,000 accept Christ in the last two years. To meet this challenge, 34 new churches were planted last year. Harbor of Hope and Paul Ozaluk, representing New Life Christian Ministries, planted two of those churches.

This year, another 16 are planned, to bring the total to 50 churches! This \$5,000 project will fund a church building and the pastor's salary for one year (Project #41002P). Pastors, if you are interested in sponsoring one of these churches, you can travel with Bob Cave, IPHC continental director for Europe, May 30 through June 7 or Aug. 29 through Sept. 6. Paul Ozaluk has agreed to fund the ground portion of the sponsoring pastor's package of \$750. Contact the office or attend the GCM for more information about this project.

## The Day's Wage Challenge

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average day's wage in America is \$120.95, based on an annual salary of \$44,148. To place this in perspective, the world's average is \$49.31 a day. In even sharper contrast is the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is \$1.08 per day for a wage. Yes, God has blessed us in this country.

What will you do with your blessing this year? Will you consider giving your day's wage to the Global Outreach Offering? This is the annual IPHC missions offering that literally touches the world with the gospel in 100 countries. Set aside \$5 per week and bring your day's wage to the Global Service of Camp Meeting in June, or give it through your church. I believe you will be amazed at the results!





## CHRISTIAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL HONORS ROYAL RANGERS GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENTS

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, saw the culmination of years of dedication and hard work come to an end, as Christian Life International Royal Rangers Outpost #163 honored four young men with the presentation of their *Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA)*.

Being presented with their Royal Rangers *GMA* were (left to right) Clayton Taylor, son of Barry and Angela Taylor; Elijah Cortez, son of Jason and Tracy Loving; and Samuel Deel, son of Larry and Sandy Deel. Receiving the *Honor Gold Medal of Achievement*: Dylan Taylor, son of Barry and Angela Taylor.

### Gold Medal of Achievement:

- 7 Required Merits
- 12 Required Bible Merits
- 11 Elective Merits
- Total of 30 Merits

### General Requirements:

- Capstone Project
- 6 months in Leadership Position
- Minimum 9 hours Christian Service
- Meet all requirements by age 18
- Go before Board of Review of work

The Honor GMA must also have completed each age division: Ranger Kids, Discovery Rangers, Adventure Rangers and Expedition Rangers.

“The Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) is the highest honor a boy can earn in Royal Rangers. It is equivalent to the Eagle Scout award in the Boy Scouts of America. The path to the Gold Medal of Achievement starts with the Bronze Medal. After a boy has been a Bronze Medalist for at least 3 months, he is eligible to earn the Silver Medal of Achievement. A Royal Ranger may earn the GMA as early as age 12, although he must have spent at least 3 months as a Silver Medalist and a total of at least 6 months in an outpost leadership position. A Royal Ranger may complete the necessary GMA requirements while participating in either the Adventure Rangers or Expedition Rangers programs; however, all requirements for the GMA must be completed before the applicant’s 18th birthday” (taken from IPHC Royal Rangers webpage).

All four young men have been active in the local church, community and Conference Ranger, Camp, Talent and Bible Quiz programs.

Participating in the Gold Medal of Achievement Ceremony: Rev. Ryan Linkous, pastor, CLI; Commander Steve Dixon; Mr. Al Bedrosian, former Roanoke County board of supervisors; former Conference Commander Steve Allen; current Conference Commander Freddie Sweet; Richard and Regina Martin, former Outpost #163 coordinator and spouse; Royal Rangers National Commander David Moore; Rev. Jimmy Arthur, Outpost #163 chaplain; Michael Hubbard, Royal Rangers deputy national commander; and Ron Fredericks, Appalachian Conference Discipleship Ministries director.

As part of the ceremony, Elijah and Jonah Cortez, along with Samuel Deel, presented a wonderful time of worship. Commanders



Steve Allen and Richard and Regina Martin presented plaques from the Conference Royal Rangers recognizing their accomplishment. Royal Rangers National Commander David Moore presented the GMA awards, asking each young man’s mother to pin the medal on his uniform, and Royal Rangers National Deputy Commander Michael Hubbard gave the keynote address to the men.

It was a great day in the lives of these young men, their families, their church and the conference. We honor each of them and are very proud of their commitment, dedication and hard work. May God continue to reap a harvest from the seed that has been sown and the investment that has been made by the commanders of Royal Rangers Outpost #163, Christian Life International, the Appalachian Conference Royal Rangers and Royal Rangers IPHC.



# Women's Ministries

KATHY MATHENA



## What's Love Got to Do With It?

*"He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love" (1 John 4:8, AMPC).*

This month is the month of love. Valentine's Day is the day we enjoy showing others how much we love them. We give gifts, cards, candy and flowers to our loved ones. But we must remember that God gave us His greatest gift of love. He loved us while we were still in our sinful state. God loved us and made a way for us to get back to Him before we repented and asked for His love.

The road back to God was paved with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, His firstborn Son. John 3:16 (KJV) says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

So as the song made famous by Tina Turner goes, "What's love got to do with it?" It has everything to do with it. God loves us so much that he gives us the very air we breathe. He holds the stars in place and calls them each by name. He makes gravity work every day, so that we don't float away somewhere in the sky. He causes the sun to shine to keep us warm and the rain to fall to water the earth.

What about love in our homes? What's love got to do with family? Jesus told us in John 13:34 (AMPC), *"I give you a new **commandment**: that you should **love** one another. Just as I have **loved** you, so you too should **love** one another"* (emphasis added).

In order for us to fulfill our responsibilities of love in our families, we must first fill our hearts with God's love. How? By fellowshiping with Him in prayer, worshiping with others in our church services, and studying His Word. All of this will make us fully capable of loving our families and others.

So, let me ask you a question. Are you ready for Valentine's Day? Let's not show our love just on Valentine's Day but on every day of the year. God is love and God is in us. Let's share the love.



# JESUS

## April 6-7, 2018

### Sight & Sound Theatre LANCASTER, PA.

The greatest rescue story of all time will be presented on stage, and you don't want to miss this production. If you haven't registered yet and you think it is too late, call Alice Crigger at the Conference office, 540-674-4131, ext. 201. There may be room for you to go.

*For those who have already registered, your balance is due Feb. 28.*



## KEEPING THE FIRE ON THE ALTAR IN 2018

*“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out”*

(Lev. 6:13, KJV)

The year 2018 starts out with several major prayer events. You can keep the fire burning on the altar by joining these prayer efforts.

### DANIEL FAST

During January, many churches encourage a Daniel Fast. Therefore, we put God first during the new year! Scripture references for this type of fast are found in Daniel 1:12, 13. Additional information can be found on Christian websites. The main point is to do the best you can with the fast for 21 days. Some days will be easier than others. Also, if you have a medical condition, such as diabetes, confer with your physician.

### SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY

Prayer for our cities is encouraged from Feb. 14 until March 25, 2018. Daily Prayer Guides are available. Contact WayMakers to receive the information; go to waymakers.org.

### MONTHLY PRAYER FOR THE NATION

The Appalachian Conference works with Capitol Hill Prayer Partners to pray for the United States of America. You can participate by dialing the conference number on the last Monday of each month. Prayer time is 8 p.m. Eastern. The conference number is 712-770-4340, code 350430#.

### PRAYER CONNECTIONS

You can join prayer by phone or internet. The monthly prayer calls for the nation include intercessors from different states and from different countries.



**STEVE WINESETT**  
**MEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR**



## NEWTON'S LAWS OF PHYSICS

Newton's Third Law of Motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. This is one of three basic laws of physics and the basis for engineering designs of everything from bridges to rockets. We know that the larger an object or problem that needs moving, the more power or force we must apply to move it.

However, our faith allows us to move problems with a power that is beyond Newton's laws. Acts 1:8 promises that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. This is the same power that parted and held back the Red Sea for the Israelites. Acts 4:31 shows that, through the action of a simple prayer, we have access to a reaction from above that can shake the world around us.

Rather than applying more stress and pressure to your earthly problems, I encourage you to pray with the power given by the Holy Spirit, and let him react on your behalf.

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**“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them’” (Rev. 14:13, NIV).**



**REV. ROBERT LEE SMITH**  
**1944-2017**

Rev. Robert Lee Smith, Sr., 73, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017. He was licensed with the Appalachian Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church in 1987 and ordained in 1989. Bob was pastor at the Blacksburg P.H. Church for 28 years. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Connie Saul Smith. Funeral services were conducted on Dec. 26, with Rev. Frankie Graham officiating. Interment followed in the Appalachian Conference cemetery.



**REV. JACK TRIGG**  
**1937-2018**

Rev. Jack Trigg, 80, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, at his home in Cedar Bluff, Virginia. He joined the Appalachian Conference in 1988 as an ordained minister. He was known as a pioneer minister, with 55 years of service in the ministry. During his ministry, he was the founder and pastor of several churches. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Christine Phillips Trigg. Funeral services were held on Jan. 5, with Revs. Lee Stidham, David Horton and Arnold King officiating. Graveside committal services were held at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Norton.