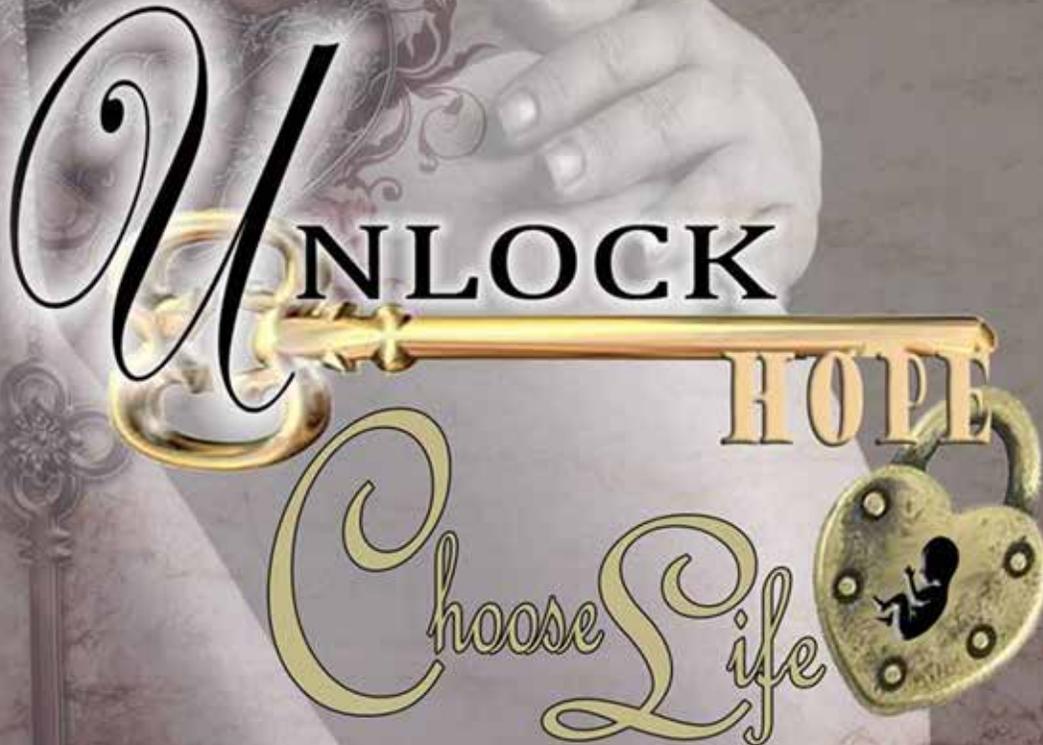




VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 79, No. 5 January 2018



SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE WEEK

JANUARY 21-28

2018

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ROYAL HOME MINISTRIES

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Appalachian Conference



Bishop's Page

PRESTON MATHENA



“Maranatha College is happy to offer a class this January 19-20 to train church leaders in church safety and security. Dr. Derick Burton is well trained and experienced in this field and will offer a very helpful and practical approach to assist pastors and churches in providing a safe and secure environment for worship. I encourage all church leaders to take advantage of this opportunity to complete this training.”

–Pastor Steve Willis, President, Maranatha College of Christian Ministries



What do you think of when you hear someone mention the locations of Charleston, South Carolina; Nashville, Tennessee; and Southern Springs, Texas? Some might think of Charleston’s beaches or Nashville’s music, but maybe you had never heard of Southern Springs, Texas, until Nov. 4, 2017. To me, it serves as a sobering reminder that not everyone who enters our churches enters with the purpose of worship. Unfortunately, there is a real and present evil in society, and the reality is that some who enter our churches do so with evil intent.

The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV), “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” The fact is that there are people who enter our churches with ill intentions and malicious plans. It is perfectly normal for us to not think about violence in our churches. However, ignoring the reality that churches are under attack will not protect us from future violent events. Creating a safe environment does not occur naturally; it requires our

personal attention, deliberate planning, and the implementation of planned responses to emergency situations.

As pastors and church leaders, it is our reasonable service to provide a safe and secure environment for faith-based gatherings. On January 19 and 20, Maranatha College of Christian Ministries will be teaching a course on the development and implementation of church safety and security.

This course will focus on how to handle faith-based emergencies, the development of safety and security teams, liability considerations, what the law says, and what actions you can take to make your churches safer, while simultaneously creating an environment conducive to worship. I recommend this course for anyone who serves in church leadership or plans to serve in the ministry.



Dr. Derick Burton

–Submitted by Derick Burton

“In today’s tumultuous world, this is certainly a need for consideration by every church. This is an opportunity for training locally, and I hope our churches will give this serious consideration.”

–Bishop Preston Mathena

FEBRUARY

RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 10

Rev. Ronald Burke
205 Wades Lane
Christiansburg, VA 24073

FEBRUARY 17

Rev. Mrs. Betty Kines
4265 Suggs St., Apt. 112
Loris, SC 29569-3185

FEBRUARY 18

Rev. Bunnie Watkins
5810 Airport Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

FEBRUARY 11

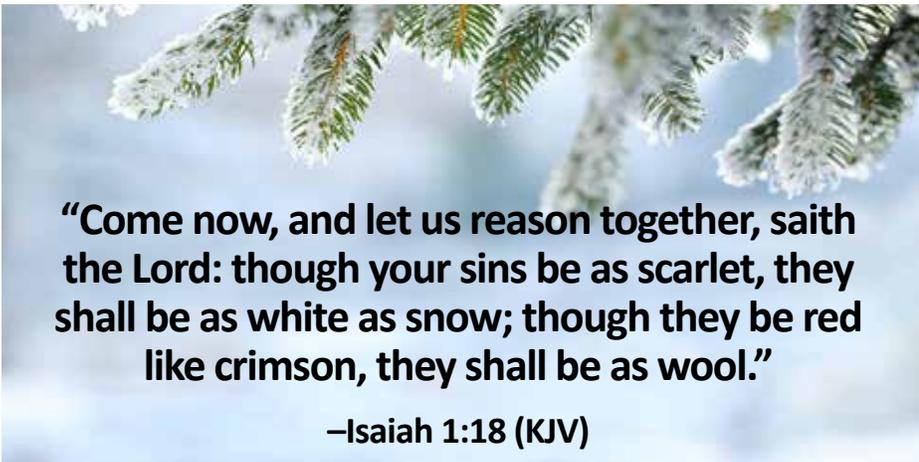
Rev. Tony Brescia
52 Underwood Lane
Forest, VA 24551

FEBRUARY 18

Rev. Arthur Collins
117 Austin Lane
Fall Branch, TN 37656

FEBRUARY 28

Rev. R. G. Quesenberry
1725 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060



“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

—Isaiah 1:18 (KJV)



FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4** Bible Quiz Scrimmage
- 9-10** Maranatha College Classes
- 9-11** Royal Rangers Winter Camp-Out
- 15-17** Ministers' Summit
- 19** President's Day – Office Closed
- 26** WIN Prayer Call, 8 p.m.

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

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LARRY MEADORS

Let's Build a Church!

Why does the IPHC build churches around the world? The simple answer is that God's people need to gather together. However, it goes beyond the simple answers. This past year, our conference raised the funds and helped to construct a church in South Sudan. Greg McClerkin, our missionary there on the Hope4Sudan compound, relates the reaction of the community: "Our existing church was crumbling and falling down. The neighbors would remark that our God must not be very big for us to have a church like that. Now, our new church has been packed out with people coming to see what our God is all about."

The Conference missions project for 2018 will be for a church to be built in Jinotega, Nicaragua. The goal will be to raise \$20,000 for the materials and then send a team in January of 2019 to construct the church. It will be a 30' x 60' building.

Now, let's get back to why we help our IPHC family to build a church. The average annual income in Nicaragua is \$430. It is ranked, along with Haiti, as one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere. It is difficult for a congregation to afford to build a church building. In addition, while 73 percent of the population is traditionally Catholic, the Spirit-filled evangelicals have been growing and now comprise 15 percent of the population. Can you help our IPHC family to the south by contributing to this church this year?



This is the projected type of church to be built in Jinotega, Nicaragua. Project #65517P.

Addition to the Missions Star Program

The 5- and 7-star missions awards are a great way to chart your church's progress in fulfilling the Great Commission. I am excited to announce a new addition to the program beginning this year. Your giving to the Awakening will count toward the fulfillment of one of the five stars. The Awakening is the IPHC student ministry of our world missions. This part of the ministry has become a pathway for young people to develop a missions heart and serve around the world. On your 2018 award form, the Coffee House ministry and the Awakening will share a star. Here are the five areas of missions giving: Missionaries / Global Outreach / People to People / Coffee House & Awakening / Special Project. The 7-star award is earned after a church gives 10 percent of the church's budget to world missions. For more information, go to www.goawakening.org.

GREAT COMMISSION MEALS
Coming to a district near you March 17-23, 2018!



Discipleship Ministries

RON FREDERICKS

www.appconf.org



The Appalachian Conference will join the IPHC in 2018 as we affirm our fifth core value:

We Prayerfully Value All Generations.

“We celebrate all generations and acknowledge that each is essential in the Body of Christ. We honor those who have gone before us and empower those who are following. The contribution of each generation is welcomed and encouraged as we pursue our God-given destiny.” *Please watch for information from the Discipleship Ministries Department.*

WATCH FOR REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

#ACCELERANT2018

MEGAN FATE MARSHMAN

ROBERT MADU

WORSHIP WITH MATT BARTLETT BAND

CROWDER

*ALL ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ACCELERANT® JANUARY 25-28, 2018 Gatlinburg

ACCELERANTCONF.COM

For late registration information contact the ACCELERANT office at 843.394.8504, ext. 134.

Appalachian Conference Royal Rangers 25th Anniversary Winter Camp-Out



Pipestem, West Virginia
February 9, 10 & 11, 2018

For registration information
download forms at
appconf.org or contact

Freddie Sweet at 276.233.8983 or
Steve Allen at 540.239.4612.



PINEWOOD DERBY

March 24, 2018

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE JUNIOR AND TEEN TALENT WEEKEND Conference Campgrounds

April 13 & 14, 2018

Registration Deadline
March 14, 2018

Deadline for submission of
Creative Writing, Video and
Web Design entries:
March 23, 2018
email to
dmsecretary1@aol.com





Women's Ministries

KATHY MATHENA



Benefits of a Grateful Life

This year, instead of making your New Year's resolutions, let's make a journal of gratitude—being grateful to God for everything He's done for us and to us and everything He will do in the future. When we express our gratitude, we attract more things to be grateful for. The same thing is true in the negative. Everything you complain about attracts more things to complain about. Bad things may be happening in your life, but your complaints only attract more things to complain about.

We may not like it, but it's true. Think about it. We just finished celebrating Christmas. When someone opened a present from you and expressed how grateful they were, didn't you want to go out and buy them more presents? But then you spent your time and effort purchasing a gift that someone opened and just complained about—it was the wrong size, the wrong color, not what they wanted. Did you want to run out and buy more gifts for them? Probably not.

I believe God is the same way, when we begin to be grateful for all He has done for us, grateful for even the little things that could be taken for granted—a beautiful sunset, a smile from someone. When we look around and find something to be grateful for, even when things aren't going right, we will find that a grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4, KJV). This year, let's start our prayer time focusing on what we do have and not on what we don't have.

Did you know that even in the secular world, research shows the results of gratitude. The University of California at Berkeley said they spent \$5.6 million on a three-year project to determine the benefits of journaling your gratitude. People journaled their gratitude for 30 days. The results were better sleep, fewer symptoms of illness, more happiness, less anxiety and depression, increased self-esteem, less stress, and reduced negativity.

A well-known talk show hostess said 16 years ago that journaling her gratitude was the single most important thing she had done. She is worth \$2 billion today.

Maybe we should grab a notebook and pen and start journaling our gratitude. God has been so good to all of us, and we should be thankful.

FALL RETREAT A BLESSING

Thank you to all who attended the Fall Retreat this year. Beth Stephens-Johnson preached an outstanding Word. I believe this was one of the most well-attended retreats we have had. Thank you to all the churches represented and to all of the ladies who helped make this a successful event.

APRIL 6-7, 2018

SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Ladies, we will be enjoying a bus trip next spring to experience “JESUS,” a musical stage adventure that will take us on a miraculous journey alongside the most important person to ever walk the earth.

Your \$150 deposit is due by January 31.



WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE YEAR 2018?

“What do you see?” This was the question that the Angel asked Zechariah (Zechariah 4:1-2, NIV). This question caught his attention. He woke up from his sleep and received encouragement!

Zerubbabel faced a mountain of obstacles as he attempted to rebuild the temple (v. 7). Some of the elderly men remembered the glory of the temple of Solomon. Building this temple was difficult because of lack of resources and manpower.

However, God promised He would supply His Spirit. *“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD”* (v. 6). Suddenly, Zerubbabel saw another picture. He was also told that his hands had laid the foundation, and his hands would finish it (v. 9)!

THE PICTURE OF GOLIATH – FEAR would grip the entire nation of Israel, as a giant taunted the army (1 Samuel 17). Goliath paraded in front of the army of Israel. He showed off his height and armor. He shouted at the army. His challenge to fight a man of Israel produced greater FEAR. Day after day, Goliath created a PICTURE OF FEAR for the nation of Israel. *“When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly AFRAID”* (v. 11, NKJV). PICTURES OF FEAR are tools of the enemy. When we take our eyes off Jesus and look at the problem, FEAR replaces FAITH.

DAVID SAW A DIFFERENT PICTURE – While Goliath terrorized the men of Israel, he could not bring FEAR upon David! *“David said to Saul, ‘Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine’”* (v. 32). David ran toward the giant. He created a picture of fear for Goliath. *“This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand...”* (v. 46) With the sling of a stone, David slew Goliath that day!

BE LIKE DAVID – As we enter into the year of 2018, pray that God will open your eyes to see like David. Pray that FEAR will not take hold. Pray that FAITH will move you forward!



STEVE WINESETT
MEN’S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



Not on Our Watch!

As we step into the New Year, let’s do so with an awareness of our Christian duties. The book of Jude started to be a celebration of the gospel, but it was actually a warning given to the church. Verse 4 tells about ungodly people who have secretly slipped into our family and church. They are eating at our tables and befriending those that we care about. Jude writes about how these people are selfish and only care about themselves. They are useless soldiers, mockers of the gospel who act upon their own lusts. They are separate and without the Holy Spirit.

I encourage you to be on guard and not let your family or church be compromised by these greedy and selfish people. Verses 20-23 tell us to persevere in our faith and prepare ourselves through prayer in the Holy Ghost, so that we remain in God’s will. I pray that spiritual wisdom and boldness will direct your actions and that you also act with the grace and love of God to save others from the grasp of sin.

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BISHOP TOMMY MCGHEE TO SPEAK AT 2018 MINISTERS' SUMMIT

Bishop Tommy McGhee, executive director of Discipleship Ministries and vice-chairman for the IPHC, will be the guest speaker at the 2018 Ministers' Summit. He has served as superintendent, as well as Evangelism & World Missions director, of the Cornerstone Conference. He has also pastored for 12 years in that conference. His ministry will be a challenge and blessing to those who attend.



The Ministers' Summit will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, on Feb. 15-17, and is open to all ministers and their spouses. Churches, this is an excellent opportunity to bless your pastor by paying for his registration, which is \$249 per couple and \$175 for individuals. This time serves as a time of spiritual refreshment and encouraging fellowship for our ministers. Your pastor will return to his church with renewed vitality and inspiration.

Registration for the Ministers' Summit must be in the conference office by Jan. 5, 2018, including full payment. For additional information, you may contact Alice Crigger at 540-674-4131, ext. 201.