



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 79, No. 7 March 2018

**“Weeping may tarry for
the night, but joy comes
with the morning.”**

Psalm 30:5 RSV



Appalachian Conference



Bishop's Page

PRESTON MATHENA



Our Mission to the Great Commission

The mission of the church is still to draw people to Jesus. Today more than ever before, there is a greater urgency for us, His children, to bridge the gap with lost humanity. The Great Commission has not changed, but our strategies and approach are definitely changing.

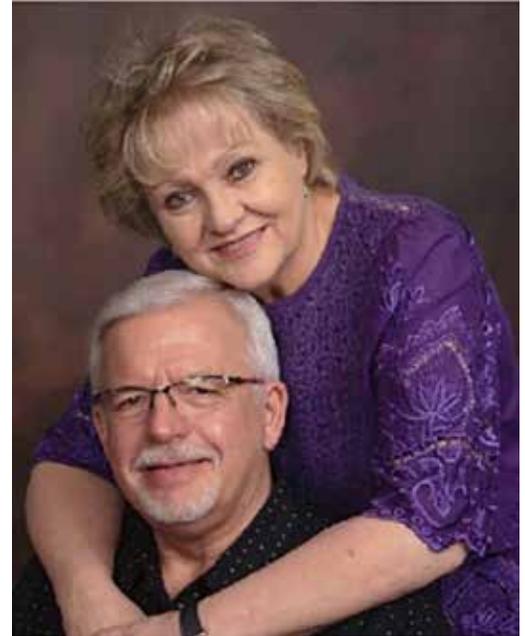
Maggie and I have been on furlough for the past eight months and have had a good overview of the churches in the Appalachian Conference and other conferences. We remember in 1988 when we first started itinerating in the conference there were at least 10-12 missionary couples being supported from the conference. Today, this number has nearly halved and raising support has become more challenging. But yet, there is a greater need to reach lost humanity with the gospel than ever before. If there is a time for the church to rally behind its missionaries, it is now.

The end of 2016 saw the IPHC in the continent of Africa reach a milestone, with a membership of 1.2 million people. What a tremendous achievement in the history of the church. As the momentum of reaching people grows, so does the increase of church planting grow, and thus we are expecting to double our Africa membership in the next 15 years. A number of years ago Maggie and I were praying, asking the Lord to send more missionaries to Southern Africa. At the time and as of now, we are the only IPHC missionaries in Southern Africa overseeing the work in six countries. The answer we got from the Lord was, "This is the time for Africa to arise and become a sending continent." We realized then that God's plan is not our plan. We need to start equipping, training and releasing leaders for the end time harvest. This is what we have been doing for the past 15 years. God is preparing some of these leaders to be missionaries to unreached people groups around the world. There is a wave of God's Holy Spirit moving through Africa for the end time harvest. Quite a number of people have asked us when we are retiring. Yes, we are not as young as we were thirty years ago, but we cannot abandon ship now, especially when we are sensing a fresh wave of God bearing down upon lost humanity in Southern Africa.

We like what William Carey, the father of modern missions, told his churches, "If you will hold the ropes, I will go down to look for the lost." When the Lord returns to reward His followers, those who "held the ropes" will receive His honor, just as those who climbed down into the mines and caves to reach lost humanity.

We urge you to please continue "holding the ropes," while we return to Southern Africa to equip, train and release leaders for the end time harvest. God's heartthrob is still souls.

We want to especially thank all the pastors and church families for hosting us during our furlough. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Also, a big thank-you to the Appalachian Conference leadership for accommodating us and making our furlough very pleasurable.



*Your missionaries,
Joe & Maggie Delpert*

APRIL

RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 4

Rev. Edward Wood, Sr.
5879 Jewell Avenue
Dublin, VA 24084

APRIL 19

Rev. Larry Snider
134 Rutledge Drive, Apt. 1
Salem, VA 24153

APRIL 15

Rev. David Bain
521 Linden Avenue
Buena Vista, VA 24416



- 6-7** W.M. Spring Trip
- 7** EQUIP
- 8** Final Bible Quiz Scrimmage
- 13-14** Conference Jr. & Teen Talent
- 20** Master's Seed Time Golf Tournament
- 20-21** Maranatha Class
- 21** Boys' Ministries Bike Ride
- 21** WIN Spring Prayer Festival
- 23-May 2** Missions Trip to Romania
- 25** Administrative Professionals' Day
- 26** Youth Camp Early Registration
- 30** WIN Prayer Call

MESSENGER
(USPS 621-580)

Vol. 79 — March 2018 — No. 7

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

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Steve Winesett
3414 Water Plant Road
Hillsville, VA 24343
276-779-4820

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

CREDIT GRAPHICS: *Thinkstock.com*



LARRY MEADORS



Pastor Rocky Nicely and wife Debbie

Gateway Church

Pastor Rocky Nicely and his wife Debbie founded Gateway Christian Ministries in January of 2012. The vision that was given them back in 2011, by God, came through Joshua 1:11, NKJV "...Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess." Our hearts, vision, and minds are settled in that we all have been given a land to possess and it is up to us to hear the call of God and allow our faith to manifest the reality of our vision by walking it out. Pastor Rocky's call was to provoke those who would hear the Word of God in such a way that they would not only be hearers of the word, but doers. We, as believers, are called by God and adopted into the beloved, and with that comes a demand of, "Do Different." We believe that our faith must present a walk that is evident of changing grace, not just a proclamation.

Pastor Rocky and his wife Debbie spread God's love by teaching and preaching the gospel, while discipling those

with a hunger for more. Their vision is to build a culture that can gather in a corporate setting and worship; where people can learn and grow. They encourage people to step out of their comfort zones and share what God has brought them through so they may minister to others who may be going through something similar. At Gateway, we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus and spread the good news of salvation by loving God, loving others and magnifying the name of Jesus. Gateway is a multi-cultural, multi-economical group of believers that are striving to encounter God in our walk of faith.

At Gateway Church, we encourage people to operate in their anointing and work out God's will in their lives. The church has several foundational ministries for people to be a part of, such as, ushering, children's church, praise and worship, outreach, and audio and video. God has blessed our church with unique people, all with separate unique gifts, and we are always looking forward to what God will call someone to step out into next to bring glory to His Kingdom!

Ultimately, at Gateway Church, we aim to bring hearts and lives to God and work together in a corporate setting to give glory to the Kingdom. We have a heart for the broken and have a strong desire to be used by God in a restoration work for his people. Our prayer is that each and every time you visit, you are able to experience God's love in a special way.

Welcome Gateway Church to the conference as a member church! The church is located in Roanoke, Virginia, at 2914 Williamson Road, Suite C. You can contact Pastor Rocky at office@gatewaycm.org or 540-682-3001.

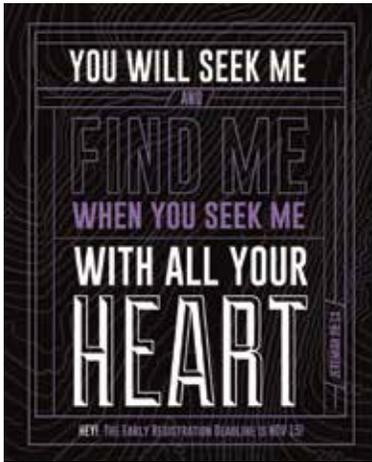
Please pray for the conference missions team to Romania. They will be traveling and ministering April 23 to May 2.



Discipleship Ministries

RON FREDERICKS

www.appconf.org



ACCELERANT 2018:

Three thousand-plus young people and adults gathered in the Gatlinburg Convention Center, January 25 - 28, for three tremendous days of worship and the Word. Whether it was the awesome concert by Crowder that led you to a time of worship, the inspiring worship atmosphere set by the Matt Bartlett Band or the tremendous Word that was brought by Megan Fate Marshman and Robert Madu, you left challenged, encouraged and changed.

“Accelerant exists to challenge and

encourage teens to know who they are in Christ and to live that out every day in His presence and power.”

“A weekend of remarkably complete ministry, something for everyone! I watched our VOPWC students become more engaged in worship than ever before.”

—Pastor N. R. Taylor.

“This year I brought a number of students for their first time, and the experience was incredible in impact. After all these years, it is a great testament to Accelerant to be able to continue to reach generation after generation. Our IPHC family is most certainly blessed to have this conference and its leaders!” — Pastor Zach Royer



“I just wanted to let you know how much my church group and I enjoyed Accelerant this past weekend. I believe it was the best I've attended. Both speakers were awesome! I especially enjoyed Robert Madu and his obedience to the Holy Spirit.... It was so wonderful when he gave altar calls at the Saturday night and Sunday morning services, and to see such a tremendous response.... I can't say enough good things about the Crowder concert. One of the best concerts I've attended! The Matt Bartlett Band is truly anointed.... I hope to see them back at Accelerant for many more years.” —Beckie Roberts



Accelerant is a worship and discipleship experience for teens hosted in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, by the IPHC. Plan to be with us next year on January 31 - February 3. Find more information at accelerantfire.com.

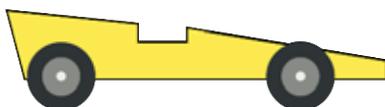
16th ANNUAL COLT BARKER MEMORIAL PINWOOD DERBY

Appalachian Conference Campgrounds

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.

There will be races for all Royal Rangers age divisions, as well as an open class for adults and girls to compete. For more information contact Freddie Sweet, Conference Commander and Boys Ministries Director at 276-233-893 or email him at appaconfbmrr@gmail.com



Registration forms and information can also be downloaded from the conference <http://appconf.org/ministries/discipleship-ministries/discipleship-ministries/royal-rangers/>



MARCH 14, 2018

Conference Fine Arts Registration Deadline

MARCH 23, 2018

Deadline to Submit Creative Writing, Video and Web Page Design

APRIL 13 & 14, 2018
CONFERENCE JUNIOR & TEEN TALENT FESTIVAL

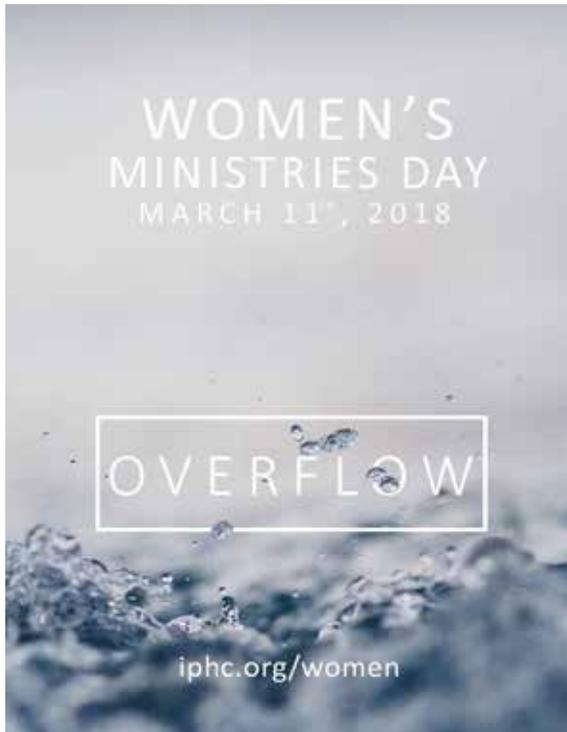


Women's Ministries

KATHY MATHENA



MY CUP RUNNETH OVER!



"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; **you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.** ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever." (Psalm 23:5-6, ESV)

In the Old Testament shepherds would take oil and anoint the head of the sheep. This was a means of mending the cuts and scrapes of the day. Just as the shepherd then took care of their sheep, the Great Shepherd Jesus takes care of His sheep. **Psalm 100:3 KJV**, "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the **sheep** of his **pasture.**"

God has provided so much for His people that we can truly say we have overflow.

In his devotional book **Our Journey**, James McDonald said, "When life challenges your

resources or tests your faith, you may tend to wonder how much you have available. But if you look around and your answer is, "More than I need," your cup runs over. You have abundant provision from the Lord. God gives you everything you need to face what you are facing—not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually. *The picture is, I don't even have to ever think, wonder, or worry about having enough, because God keeps my cup full to overflowing.*"

Please remember that March 11 is Women's Ministries Day throughout the denomination. It is a time to honor the women of the church and the ministry they provide.

To locate resources, such as logos, flyers, banners, and MORE, visit <http://iphc.org/discipleship/wmtheme/> to download!

The offering for the day is divided. Half stays in the local WM and the other half goes to the Conference.



World Intercession Network

DONNA HANKLA



SILENCE IN HEAVEN – ABOUT THE SPACE OF 1/2 HOUR

Revelation 8:1, KJV

“And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was SILENCE in heaven about the space of half an hour.”

SILENCE can also mean to be still. Be still and listen! There is great power in SILENCE! Waiting in God’s presence is truly a powerful act of faith. Consider the scripture from Psalm 46:10, KJV: *“Be STILL and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOSES – The nation of Israel had just escaped Egypt, and the evil Pharaoh. They were ready to cross the Red Sea. Then suddenly, the Egyptian army appeared close by, ready to fight. Death was staring them in the face!

However, Moses was given a word of instruction from the Lord. And he told the people: *“Fear ye not, STAND STILL, and see the salvation of the Lord, which HE will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today; ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”* (Exodus 14:13-14, KJV). Great deliverance was given to the nation of Israel. The waters parted. They walked across on dry land. Then Pharaoh’s army tried to follow, only to have the waters fall upon them. The entire army drowned from the waters of the Red Sea!

CHOOSE THE GOOD PART – Jesus came to visit the home of Martha and Mary. Martha became busy with serving and work. She did not have time to listen to Jesus. However, Mary sat at His feet, and HEARD HIS WORD. *“And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and HEARD HIS WORD.”* (Luke 10:39, KJV) Mary made the choice to BE STILL, and TO HEAR HIS WORD. Jesus said that Mary had chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. (v. 42)

SILENCE IN HEAVEN from Revelation Chapter 8 – After the half hour of silence; there was an eruption of activity.

- Seven angels were given seven trumpets. (v. 2)
- An Angel took a golden censer, with much incense. (v. 4)
- He offered it with the Prayers of the Saints. (v. 5)
- Then the 7 Angels sounded their trumpets. (v. 5,6)

POWERFUL PRAYERS are bathed in the ATMOSPHERE OF SILENCE, and PRODUCE SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITIES!



STEVE WINESETT MEN’S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



For more information or to register for these Men’s Ministries events, contact:
Steve Winesett, Men’s Ministries Director 276-779-4820 or
stevewinesett@embarqmail.com.

The Appalachian Conference Men’s Ministries 18th Annual Master’s Seedtime Golf Classic



at
Fincastle on the
Mountain
Bluefield, VA

APRIL 20, 2018

\$70 per person, \$280 per team
Hole Sponsorship \$100



September 14 – 15, 2018

Falcon, NC
SPEAKERS

- **Jim Sandburg:** former MLB World Series Champion, 3X All Star and 6X Gold Glove Award Winner
- **Bill Terry:** Men’s Ministries Director
- **W.A. Mills**
- **Greg Terry:** Worship

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

Periodicals Postage Paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639

Address Service Requested

"They will rest from their labor..." Rev. 14:13 NIV

In Loving Memory!



Rev. Hampton T. Atkinson

Rev. Hampton T. Atkinson, age 89, of Dublin, VA, went to be with the Lord on January 12, 2018. He joined the Appalachian Conference as a licensed minister in 1947, and was ordained in 1950. During his ministry he pastored a number of churches, including Gravley Memorial, French's Chapel, Cambria, Vicker, Mt. Top, Garten, Speedwell, Liberty Hill, Baker's Chapel, Rosenbaum Chapel and Stafford Hill.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Betty Manuel Atkinson, also a licensed minister, as well as four daughters and their families. Funeral services were held at the Draper Valley P.H. Church, with Pastor Mike Ingo, Bishop Preston Mathena and Pastor Steve Willis officiating.

Rev. Larry D. Buckland, Sr.

Rev. Larry Dwaine Buckland, Sr., 77, of Welch, was called to his heavenly home on Saturday, January 20, 2018. He had been residing at the Veterans Nursing Facility in Clarksburg, WV, since June 2014. Rev. Buckland was licensed with the Appalachian Conference in 1986 and ordained in 1988. He faithfully pastored the Big Four P.H. Church for 15 years.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Nancy Price Buckland, also an ordained minister. Funeral services were conducted on January 25, 2018, at the Cravens-Shires Funeral Home in Bluewell, with burial at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Bluewell.