

Getting Connected

A monthly newsletter highlighting the ministry of the Churches of God in
Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C. and the Virginia Peninsula

Church of God Delmarva-DC Region Resource and Training Center

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Youth & Discipleship
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Administrative Assistant

I hear a loud, clear call of the Spirit these days: "Repent and do the first works" (Revelation 2:5).

It resounds from the heart of Jesus and summons from the Word of God. It is a herald to us for these beginning weeks of a new year.

We are standing on holy ground. By any measure or estimate, we have come through a cycle of years. I can put my finger on a number of such cycles:

- The years since Marsha and I married and began our ministry.
- The years since we began our service here in the Delmarva-DC Region.
- The years since the Church of God received her special assignment from the Lord as a Pentecostal movement.

You supply your own numbers and milestones. How many years since you surrendered to Jesus as Lord of your life . . . since you stood and repeated vows before the Lord with the one who would become your life partner . . . since His Spirit led you into the church where you find fellowship . . . since you turned your back on some besetting sin . . . since you submitted to the Spirit's call for a special area of service?

That cycle of years is, I am convinced by the Lord, intended to bring us to a place of starting over. Please note that I said **starting over**. I did not say **beginning again**.

Is there a difference? Oh, yes.

To **start over** is to return to your roots and nourish them. It is to assure yourself that you remember what it is that makes you tick.

For senators and congressional representatives, it's getting back to their home states and districts; walking the streets, neighborhoods, boroughs, parishes, and precincts. It's sipping coffee with citizens in the diners and lunchrooms. It's getting behind the mic on local radio call-in programs, and holding town meetings.

For professional athletes, it's participating in off-season camps and clinics and drills that reemphasize the fundamentals of the game.

For Monopoly buffs, it's returning to "GO" and, best of all, "collecting \$200!"

Starting over doesn't involve loss, but it does require humility. And that has an assured reward.

Beginning again, on the other hand, is what you do when a tornado destroys the farm. When a storm washes away the bridge. When an earthquake rips the house off its foundation. When moral failure poisons the purity of trust in a relationship.

The Lord, who calls us to return to those things which His Word teaches and which release the power of His presence among us, is not making a statement about anything being so lost, ruined, or wrecked that there is nothing of spiritual capital with which to start afresh.

But He is saying that our assignment is to become as children all over again. To kneel again at the altar of our first commitment. To return to our first love. To perform our first works.

So renewed, we will be mightily released unto His highest purpose and praise. That is my goal and prayer for you in 2018.

Happy New Year!

- Pastor Darrell Rice



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Chris Lockemy
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Josè Torres

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UPDATES

Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . the family of **Eugene Ray Harne** (Hagerstown, MD), retired minister, upon his passing on December 18, 2017.

Please pray for . . .

. . . **Philip Morris** (Salisbury, MD) was recently admitted to Alice Byrd Tawes Nursing Home in Crisfield, MD for rehab.

. . . **Brenda Anderson** (Washington, D.C.) recently underwent heart bypass/valve replacement surgery.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . **Aaron and Sharon Jones** (Waldorf, MD) upon their November 28, 2017 graduation in Cleveland, TN as part of the first "Jeremiah Generation" LeaderLab Executive Leadership training with Dr. Fred Garmon.

. . . **Chris Lockemy** (Baltimore, MD) upon his graduation from Lee University with a B.A. in Bible and Theology on December 16, 2017.

. . . **Terri Haynes** (Ft. Washington, MD) in December 2017 signed a contract with Barbour Publishing for the publication of her second novella with the company.

. . . **Dan and Betty Moore** (Randallstown, MD) as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 28, 2017.

. . . **Carol Gordon** (Hyattsville, MD) by invitation of Bishop Ishmael Charles, shared her medical missions ministry at the Caribbean Leadership Conference (overseers and bishops) in Florida on November 21, 2017.

Transitions . . .

. . . **C. Michael Smith** (Baltimore, MD) resigned the pastorate of New Hope Church of God completing his tenure on December 31, 2017.

. . . **Mary Dye** (Rising Sun MD) retired from the pastorate of the Rising Sun Church of God at the end of November 2017.

. . . **David Bowyer, Jr.** (Baltimore, MD) resigned his position as Associate Pastor of the Inner Harbor Church of God and accepted the pastorate of the New Hope Baltimore Church of God beginning January 14, 2018.

EVELYN MYERS RETIRE . . . NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOIN TEAM

Bishop Darrell Rice, the Regional Council, ministers and friends honored Evelyn Myers at the Christmas banquet (12/4/17) for her 35 years of service as Delmarva-DC Regional Office Treasurer with tributes (video and written) from past state overseers and co-workers. She retired at the end of 2017.

Joining the regional office team:

(1) **Charles Kanneh**, Accountant/Treasurer - Mr. Kanneh is a long-term member of the Rockville, MD Church of God and experienced accountant/bookkeeper.

(2) **Andrea Veliz**, Hispanic Ministries Secretary/Administrative Assistant - Andrea served 6 years as office clerk and catering manager for the University of Maryland.

NEW REGIONAL OFFICE PHONE SYSTEM TO SERVE YOU BETTER

In an effort to be more effective in communicating with ministers and constituents, a new phone system was installed in the regional office last month. Your call is answered by automated greeting with a menu of options. If no one is available to receive your call please leave a voicemail message and it is immediately forwarded to the recipient who is then notified via text and email.

HOLD THE DATES!

May 5, 2018
June 24 - 27, 2018
October 7 - 9, 2018

TOOLS Conference (Severn, MD)
Regional Camp Meeting
Regional Ministers' Retreat

CENTER FOR PASTORAL EXCELLENCE LAUNCHES TRAINING - MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018

Bishop Bill Isaacs, Director of the Church of God Center for Pastoral Excellence, and his associate, Pastor Chad Jordan, will provide orientation and training for Pastoral Covenant Group facilitators on Monday, January 22, 2018, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at the Regional Office in Columbia, MD. The Church of God places the highest priorities on Pastoral Covenant Groups . . . offering immediate peer support and enrichment. There is a marked new interest among pastors through the Center for Pastoral Excellence. Therefore, if you are interested in facilitating or participating in a group and would like more information plan to join District Overseers and Regional Council members in this important day of training - free of charge. Register by email Andrea Veliz (andrea.veliz@cogdelmarva-dc.org).

ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP EVALUATION

Message to All Ministers from General Overseer Tim Hill: "As a result of the measure passed at the 2014 General Assembly, the State Overseer receives a four-year appointment (as tenure eligibility allows). However, as a service to your Administrative Bishop, the Executive Committee has determined to use a review and evaluation instrument each Assembly period to hopefully help strengthen administrative performance. Your review and evaluation will be held in the strictest confidence and the Executive Committee will only view the tabulated results and a composite list of the comments. The preference ballot or the evaluation form will be available in late December 2017 – online for those who use the ministerial reporting website and mailed to those who submit reports by mail. To participate in the preference or evaluation process, the *Minutes* state the following: ' . . . the voting process be restricted to those credentialed ministers who are current with their personal ministerial reports to both their State/Regional Office and the International Offices.'"

ANNUAL MINISTERS' RETREAT SET FOR FALL 2018

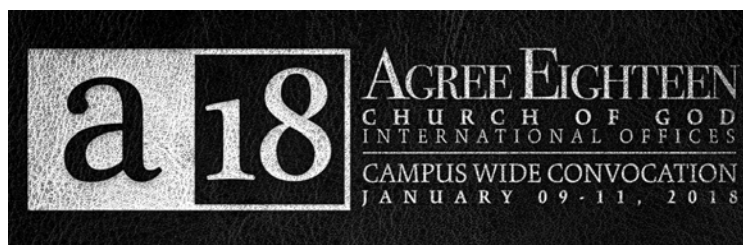
After careful study about the timing and purpose of the annual ministers' retreat, the Regional Council accepted the recommendation of the task force recommending a re-branding - greater focus on brotherhood and sisterhood - and changing to a fall date. Therefore, it is set for 10/7-9/2018.

GLOBAL CONNECT TOUR AND PASTORAL TRAINING SEMINAR

The Int'l Executive Committee will host a special connection and training event April 6 - 7, 2018, at Chesapeake Christian Center (Pasadena, MD). The training will focus on finances/stewardship and guest presenters include Art Rhodes, Clayton Watson, Dr. Lynn Stone, and Dr. Tim Hill. Information is enclosed.

WELCOME ZAMBIAN CHURCH PLANTER - BISHOP LISULO LISULO - TO DELMARVA-DC

Upon the recommendation of Pastor Mitch Maloney, USA Missions Director, the Regional Council approved Bishop Lisulo Lisulo and family as a church planter in Delmarva-DC. Bishop Lisulo is a graduate of the Church of God Theological Seminary and successfully planted 3 multi-cultural churches in South African. He is completing his training with USA Missions and ARC and plans to launch in 2018.



Cleveland, TN—A three-day revival and prayer convocation beginning Tuesday, January 9, 2018, will take place at the Church of God International Offices. The event, which will be streamed live around the globe, is part of a three-day revival for International Offices employees, but everyone is invited to attend, either on-site or via live stream (www.churchofgod.org).

The event includes morning sessions beginning at 10:30 a.m. and evening prayer meetings at 7:00 p.m. All times are Eastern Standard (EST).

Dr. Mark Walker, former senior pastor at Mount Paran North Church of God and currently vice president at Lee University, will begin Agree '18 as the keynote speaker on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday morning, General Overseer Tim Hill will lead the service, concluding with what he is referring to as a "**global communion service**," beginning at 11:30. **Jentezen Franklin**, pastor of Free Chapel of Gainesville, Ga. and Irvine, Calif., will wrap up the morning services on Thursday. Special music during the Wednesday morning service will be provided by Sisters, a gospel vocal trio. In the evenings on January 9-11, Church of God Prayer Coordinator **Doug Small** will lead a global prayer service, also from the International Offices.

Women's Conference - April 13 - 14, 2018 - Severn, MD

Delmarva DC Church of God



March 10, 2018
Chesapeake Christian Center
Registration: 8:00am
Program: 9:00am