

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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cogdelmarvadcc.com

M. Darrell Rice

Administrative Bishop

Marsha Rice

Women's Discipleship
Director

Landon Roberts

Youth & Discipleship
Director

William A. Reid

USA Missions/REACH
Director

Lorinda Roberts

Girls' Club Coordinator/
Credentialing Secretary

Evelyn Myers

Treasurer/Administrative
Assistant

Betty Moore

USA Missions Administrative
Assistant

Angie Sharpe

Youth & Discipleship
Administrative Assistant

"I'd just like a little home in the country where life is easy . . ."

"Wouldn't it be nice to have a job with less responsibility . . ."

"Honey, I don't see how we can plan in that direction; it's too much . . ."

"It's such a large church, we thought we'd rather attend a smaller . . ."

"Yes, we had the chance for promotion, but John thought it better to . . ."

Do you recognize those words? I do. I've said some of them and heard all of them. They're words which characterize our human preference for what poets call "the idyllic." It is the quest for the quiet, the slow, the easy, the undemanding. It is carried out in a scene of tall trees standing sentinel around a small, but comfortable cottage. You can see it, can't you? The wind blowing through the high grass also curls the smoke from the chimney. The clouds on the horizon are purpled by the sunset.

Isn't it beautiful?

Isn't it restful?

Isn't it *pointless*?

How "big" is life suppose to be?

Are scenes like those visualized above to be places of periodic retreat and rest, or is all of life to be an enchanting dream? Honestly, aren't all of us tempted by the presence of duty to permanently flee it?

Of course we are. I resist the pressure of responsibility, and I am troubled by the fact that life seems never to reduce in responsibility - it ceaselessly increases. Hence the load . . . as big as life itself.

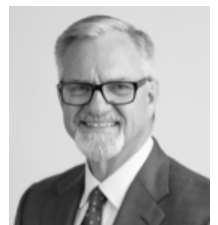
What stance do I recommend? Flee, run, resist, wrestle . . . or live?

I vote for life. I say, **LIVE**. But live in "*the power of an endless life*." Hebrews 7:16 relates those magnificent words. They're expressive of the dynamic which Jesus can work inside of anyone who will let Him. And He keeps making life bigger!

He closes out the possibilities of tiny-ness, pettiness, small-mindedness, non-expectancy, and fear-unto-flight. And while He doesn't move you into the woods, He brings wisdom, discernment, and sound-mindedness to the marketplace of your daily living and thereby . . . **Peace**.

Perfect peace. "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*" (John 14:27). Those are promise-packed words from the Head of the Corporation. He directs that we stay in business, and that we be unafraid of expecting business to increase. He builds quality into the people-products He is recreating to live life to the fullest . . . its largest.

You don't need to be afraid for one moment that the responsibility He brings you will burn out the equipment He's given you. His life power - endless in quality and quantity - is the resource to guarantee you can more than survive. You can triumph. Peacefully.



- Pastor Darrell Rice

Regional Council

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Aaron Renard Jones
Billy Raye Humphrey
Chris Lockemy
Hugh Bair
Dennis Warren Foster
Tim Shawyer
Harold R. Bowman
Jon Stephen Lowery
Carlton Cannon, Jr.

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David Bowyer, Jr.
Jordan Ackerman
Tiffany Izzard

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Greg Morris (Examining Bd)
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SpiritCare Coordinator

Harold R. Bowman

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

Josè Torres

Urban Ministry & Benevolence Coordinator

Billy Humphrey

Launch/Re-Launch Coordinator/Coach

J. C. Worley

UPDATES

Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . **Greg Fentress** (Pocomoke City, MD) and family upon the death of his father, Reverend **Ray Fentress** of Resaca, Georgia, on February 5, 2017.
. . . **Livingstone Marcelin** (Blades, DE) and family upon the passing of his father, **Bishop L. G. Andre Marcelin** (church planter, educator, and former Overseer of the Church of God in Haiti), on February 6, 2017.

Please pray for . . .

. . . **Philip Morris** (Salisbury, MD), retired minister, underwent open-heart surgery on January 11, 2017. He recently fell and broke his arm and is recovering at home.
. . . **Dan Moore** (Randallstown, MD), suffered a broken arm on February 2, 2017.
. . . **Rick Felton** (Upper Marlboro, MD) was recently hospitalized with a diabetic attack. The Lord miraculously intervened and he is rejoicing in his recovery.
. . . **Mike and Cindy Cooper** (Severn, MD) - their 24-year-old son, Tyler, continues to battle health challenges associated with a diagnosis of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis.

Transitions . . .

. . . **Rob Leins** (Elkton, MD) resigned the pastorate of the Elkton, MD Church of God and accepted the appointment as pastor of New Covenant Church of God in Bel Air, MD.

Congratulation to . . .

. . . **Rose Subryan** (Hyattsville, MD) upon the successful completion of the exam and receipt of the Exhorter Certificate on February 8, 2017.

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES NEW STRUCTURE

With the transition of Pastor Tim Houston (Director of DelmarvaDC Urban Leadership Development) to Ohio last year, and the commitment of the churches to send an additional 1% of tithe to the office, the Regional Council appointed a task force (David Sulcer, Chair; Bill Reid, James Izzard, Billy Humphrey, Chris Lockemy, and J. C. Worley) to study our structure and make recommendations to better serve the churches and ministers. On January 27, 2017, the Regional Council approved the following REACH structure & 4-person team (each part-time or volunteer):

USA Missions/REACH Director - William A. Reid
Urban Ministry and Benevolence Coordinator - Billy Humphrey
Strategic Church Launch/Re-Launch Coordinator - J. C. Worley
Hispanic Ministries Coordinator - Josè Torres

In the coming weeks the work and responsibilities of these leaders will take shape through various ministries each represent.

1% TITHE TO FOCUS ENTIRELY ON CHURCH PLANTING

In the June 28, 2016 ministers' meeting the following motion was adopted: "That we continue to send 1% tithe to the regional office for designated purposes." The discussion centered around utilizing the funds for church planting, ministerial training, and revitalization. The Council has carefully managed to assure compliance with these plans. In an effort to pinpoint precisely the intent of the ministers, the Regional Council adopted a plan that beginning September 1, 2017, 100% of the 1% tithe receipts go exclusively to church planting. You will be updated through this newsletter, our website and other means as to the success of your ongoing investment - particularly in church planting initiatives.

LAUNCH CHURCH PLANTERS GATHERING - SATURDAY, MARCH 11

GO Church - Clarksburg Campus, 23900 Clarksburg Road, Clarksburg, MD 20875 - and **Pastor J. C. Worley** will host the next Church Planters Gathering/Launch Day on Saturday, March 11, 2017. This day is designed for all church planters, prospective church planters and anyone interested in church planting. Pastor J. C. and his staff will share various aspects of planting a church, promoting a church and positioning for health and growth. The day includes sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided **FREE OF CHARGE**. There is no registration fee but you **must register** by calling 410.531.5351 or email bmoore@cogdelmarva-dc.org.

NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP EVENT - THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 (GLEN BURNIE, MD)

The *Next Level Leadership* one-day event will be held at i-5 Church, 681 Hollins Ferry Road South - Glen Burnie, MD and it is facilitated by the Next Level Coaching Team and lead by **Pastor Matt Keller**, author of *The Key To Everything* and *God of The Underdogs*. Designed for pastors, their spouse and their teams to get the leadership skills, relationships and inspiration needed to take their church to the next level, the topics include personal leadership principles, team culture, creating buzz, and more! Register via the "EVENTS" page on our website - cogdelmarvadc.com.

90-MINUTE ZOOM COACHING CALL WITH J. C. WORLEY - THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Pastors and church leaders, join J. C. Worley for the first quarterly **LAUNCH** coaching call happening on Thursday, March 16, 2017. This online (ZOOM) conversation will be focused on the topic of "Marketing" and how to build "BUZZ" in your community about your church! What a great topic as we approach the Easter season. For your scheduling convenience - **two** different **LAUNCH** Coaching call times are offered (both coaching calls will be on the same day - March 16, 2017): 2:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Information on logging into the ZOOM is on the website EVENTS page - cogdelmarvadc.com.

RISE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - MAY 4 - 5, 2017 (TAMPA, FL)

Pastor Tony Stewart, CityLife Church of God in Tampa, FL, is hosting the first RISE Conference - a FREE 2-day experience for church leaders who desire to rise above the average and accomplish extraordinary exploits for Jesus. Speakers include Jentezen Franklin, Samuel Rodriguez, and Dino Rizzo (Executive Director of ARC church planting agency). For information visit the website at riseconference.cc.

REGIONAL CAMP MEETING - JUNE 25 - 28, 2017 (RAYMOND E. CROWLEY WORSHIP CENTER, GEORGETOWN, DE)



David Ramirez

3rd Assistant General Overseer
The *FINISH* Commitment
Sunday Evening Speaker



Loran Livingston

Senior Pastor
Central Church of God
Charlotte, NC
Evening Speaker



Steve Smith

New York Administrative Bishop
Youth Night Speaker



Michael D. Reynolds

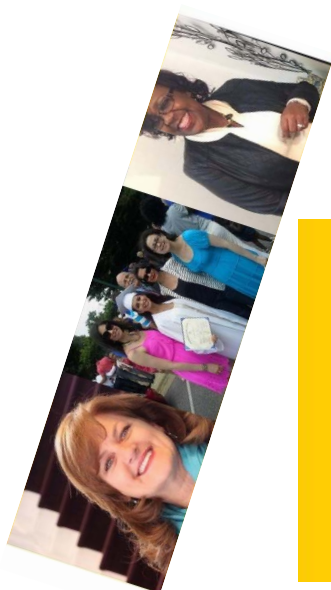
Senior Pastor
New Life Celebration Church of God
Dolton, IL
Morning Speaker: *Natural Church Development*



Terry Tramel

Educator/Evangelist
Int'l Pentecostal Holiness Church
Oklahoma City, OK
Morning Bible Teacher

CHECK REGIONAL OFFICE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES - COGDELMARVADC.COM



THIS IS **US**

DELMARVA/DC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2017

HERITAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
8146 QUARTERFIELD ROAD
SEVERN, MD 21144

DELMARVA DC CHURCH OF GOD

ASPIRE

LANSDOWNE WORSHIP CENTER

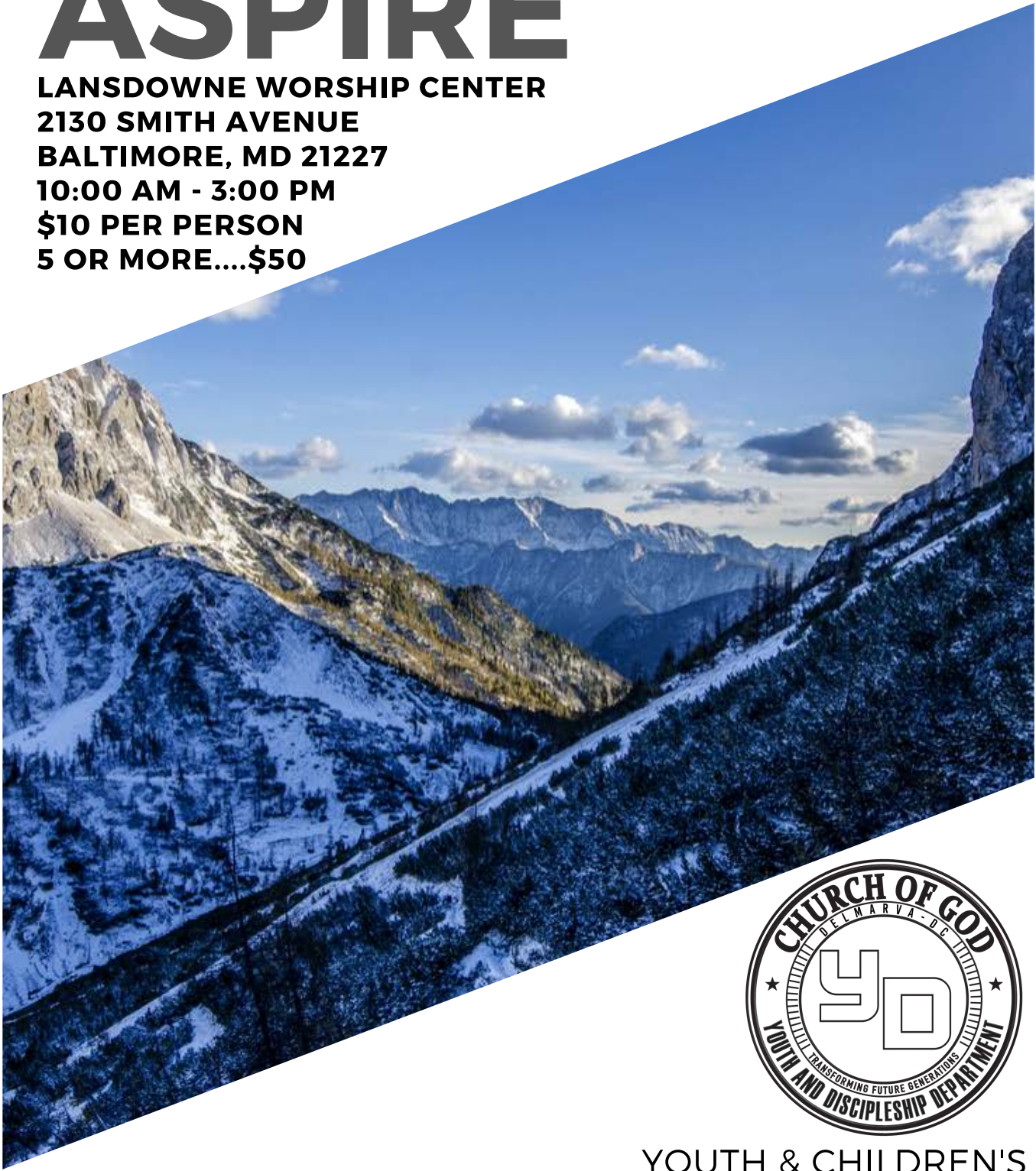
2130 SMITH AVENUE

BALTIMORE, MD 21227

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

\$10 PER PERSON

5 OR MORE....\$50



**YOUTH & CHILDREN'S
LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017**