

# Getting Connected

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

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Filled with drama and emotion, the book of Ruth tells the story of a young woman who lost everything but her will to trust in God. It concludes with her marriage to a man named Boaz, whose principal role in Ruth's life is defined in a single word: **redeemer**.

The purpose of this piece of history being included in the Bible may have been to describe the entrance of a Gentile woman into the ancestral bloodline of the Messiah. But I see an even grander lesson. Here is insight into God's ways of dealing with ruined people. Here is the picture of the "**kinsman-redeemer**" - a role and relationship God gave under the Old Covenant in order to help us understand His ways under the New.

The **kinsman-redeemer** law stated that if someone lost his possessions through the death of a loved one, another one of his "kin" could volunteer to repurchase that which was lost (Leviticus 25:24, 25). The kinsman's "redeemer" role was fulfilled in two ways: (1) He had to acknowledge his relationship with the one who had suffered loss; and (2) he had to pay the price for the recovery of what had been lost.

In the case of Boaz's redeeming actions toward Ruth, he became both a **rescuer** and a **restorer**. Ruth was a foreigner and alien in a new cultural environment. Boaz received this disenfranchised widow as his wife and graciously secured her future through restoration of property she otherwise would have lost.

The force of this story emerges in its dynamic picture of what Jesus Christ has done and will do for everyone who puts his or her trust in Him. Jesus is the Savior, but He is even more than that! He is more than a Forgiver of our sins. He is even more than our Provider of eternal life. He is our Redeemer! He is the One who is ready to recover and restore what the power of sin and death has taken from us.

Here's how He does it:

#### • HE ACKNOWLEDGES US

The kinsman-redeemer pictured in the Old Testament had to step forward in open declaration of his relationship to the individual who had been shamed, embarrassed, or ruined by loss or failure. Just as Boaz responded to Ruth's appeal for help, the Lord Jesus Christ has fully come to us as a Kinsman. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). God became "kin" to man! He took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:7), fully demonstrating His willingness to associate with us - even though we have sinned against him.

But having become "one of us," He went one step further. He personally acknowledges a relationship to each of us: "He is not ashamed to call each of us His brothers - or sisters - His very own family" (Hebrews 2:11; my paraphrase). None of us has failed too badly or fallen too far to remove us from His willingness to identify with us.

#### • HE PAID THE PRICE

The word "redeem," as used in the Bible describes "a price that has been paid." In the pawn shop usage of the term, a broker gives a "redemption ticket" that a person may use to reclaim something he has sold for far less than its worth.

This is a picture of how sin works in human lives; tempting us to sell out for less than God's promised blessing, and leaving us with little or nothing as a reward. Yet, as with the rules of the "pawn shop redemption," recovery occurs when a great price is paid for the redeeming of what had been "sold cheap" and lost. And that is what Jesus did as Savior (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

#### • HE BRINGS FULL RECOVERY

Few realize the thrilling truth that Christ's payment for our "redemption" involves the ongoing, continual process of recovery . . .

. . . Next month I will continue this discussion focusing on the power of Jesus to bring about change unto full restoration!

***Because He lives!***

- Pastor Darrell Rice



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Chris Lockemy

## UPDATES

### Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . **Maria Bideshi** (Frederick, MD), Regional Prayer Commission member, and family upon the passing of her father, Bishop Stephen Mohammed, former national overseer of the Church of God in Trinidad/Tobago.  
. . . **Edwina Reid** (Edgemere, MD) and family upon the passing of her daughter-in-law, Bonnie Barr Reid of Bluffton, SC, on February 14, 2018.  
. . . **Jesse Moyer** (Kent Island, MD) as he mourns the passing of his 94-year-old mother, Bessie Mae Moyer of Martinsville, VA, on February 12, 2018.  
. . . **Cary Sharpe** (Severn, MD) and family upon the passing of his mother, Margaret Dawson Sharpe of Southaven, MS, on February 24, 2018.

### Please pray for . . .

. . . **Aaron Jones** (Waldorf, MD), will undergo throat surgery on March 20, 2018 to remove lesions on his vocal cord. Recovery requires 4 weeks of voice rest following surgery.  
. . . **Michael Still** (Edgewood, MD) continues to suffer from effects on his strength and vision following spinal surgery last year.  
. . . **Noellia Torres** (Severn, MD) had a fall on January 19, 2018 and broke two bones in her wrist. She is recovering at home.  
. . . **Chris Music** (Lansdowne, MD) is recovering from knee surgery on February 14, 2018.  
. . . **Darrin Spencer** (Eldersburg, MD) underwent surgery to remove kidney stones on February 22 and 27, and is scheduled for additional procedures on March 23 and 29.  
. . . **Pat Felton** (Brandywine, MD) suffered a severe ankle sprain on February 26, 2018, and will be on crutches for 5 weeks.

### Congratulations to . . .

. . . **Winston Ferguson** (Hyattsville, MD), of the Ebenezer Church of God, successfully completed the exam for Exhorter ministerial credentials on February 22, 2018.  
. . . **Aaron and Sharon Jones** (Waldorf, MD) upon receiving their *Coaching Mastery Certificates* on February 16, 2018 approved by the International Coaching Federation.

### Transitions . . .

. . . **William Wheatley** (Rock Hall, MD) accepted the appointment to the Rock Hall, MD Church of God on February 11, 2018.  
. . . **Don Rogers** (Bel Air, MD) accepted the appointment as interim pastor of the Rising Sun, MD Church of God.  
. . . **Darcy Abbott** (Viers Mill, MD) retired from the pastorate on February 25, 2018. He and his wife, Pat, are relocating to North Carolina.  
. . . **Robert Churchey** (New Windsor, MD) retired from the pastorate on February 4, 2018. He and his wife, Mary Ann, relocated to Gettysburg, PA.  
. . . **Northeast Community Church** (Washington, D.C.) was recently merged with LifeBuilders-Harvest Temple (Pastor James Izzard) in a cooperative effort by District Overseer Aaron Jones.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, MARCH 17



Dr. David C. Cooper, Senior Pastor of Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta, GA, is the featured speaker/musician for the annual "Empowering Godly Men" Breakfast at Heritage Community Church in Severn, MD, March 17, 8:00 a.m. Door prizes include Orioles tickets and a Day-on-the-Bay fishing trip for 2. Register online at [www.cogdelmarvad.com](http://www.cogdelmarvad.com) (flyer enclosed)

## BOOKS NEEDED FOR ZAMBIA PROJECT - YOU CAN HELP

Pastor Eddie Sweeney and the Odenton Church of God are partnering with House of God Ministries in Zambia to provide books for their Foundation School (elementary through high school) and ministry training center. They are in need of school supplies, furniture, computers, children's books as well as Biblical books and materials to resource their library. Pastor Sweeney has access to 1/2 shipping container FREE OF CHARGE to ship supplies departing March 30, 2018. You may drop by books, etc. this month at the regional office or Odenton Church of God. All questions can be addressed to Pastor Eddie Sweeney at [bishoped2012@gmail.com](mailto:bishoped2012@gmail.com).

## USA MISSIONS SPONSORS *REWIRE* CONFERENCE (3/22- 23) - CHURCH PLANTING AND REVITALIZATION

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Pastor Mitch Maloney, USA Missions Director, recently announced the 2018 Rewire Conference information - March 22 - 23 at The Potter's House Church of God in Columbus, OH. The focus is on church planting (for lead church planters and those who may join a church planting team) and church revitalization (creating a new momentum in the local church). Check out speakers and registration info (enclosed flyer) and at [usamissions.com](http://usamissions.com).

## NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TRAINING - APRIL 4 - 5, 2018 (REGIONAL OFFICE)

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Natural Church Development (NCD) is all about church health - assessing the church in the 8 quality characteristics of a healthy (and therefore growing) church: (1) Loving Relationships, (2) Empowering Leadership, (3) Gift-based Ministry, (4) Passionate Spirituality, (5) Effective Structures, (6) Inspiring Worship Service, (7) Holistic Small Groups; and, (8) Need-oriented Evangelism. The Delmarva-DC Office is offering the unique opportunity to learn and become certified as a coach in a 2-day workshop facilitated by the US National NCD Director, Petr Cincala (also editor of *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership*), and Pastor Andy Stevens, Milford, DE senior pastor and certified NCD coach. Check out the enclosed flyer for registration information and plan to join Bishop Rice and others for these two special days of training.

## LEE UNIVERSITY SINGERS AND LADIES OF LEE CHOIR TO VISIT DELMARVA-DC CHURCHES

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Delmarva-DC churches are honored to host world-renown choirs from Lee University during their spring break:

<b>Lee Singers:</b>	Sunday, March 4, 4:30 p.m.	Christian Life Church/Baltimore (Pastor Dr. Hugh Bair)
	Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.	Lifeway Church of God/Bridgeville, DE (Pastor Darrel Morris)
	Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.	Salisbury, MD Christian School (Pastor Greg Morris)
	Friday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.	Lansdowne Worship Center (Pastor Chris Music)
<b>Ladies of Lee:</b>	Monday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.	Chincoteague, VA Church of God (Pastor Kevin Stanley)

## BENEFITS BOARD *IN THE KNOW* WEBINAR - MARCH 8/2:00 P.M.

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Art Rhodes, President and CEO of the Church of God Benefits Board, Inc., will lead a LIVE webinar, Thursday, March 8, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST, on the topic: **Potential Impact of Tax Reform on the Church and Ministers**. The webinar will give an overview of the complex tax reform legislation and how it relates to ministers and churches. Reserve your spot by going to [www.benefitsboard.com](http://www.benefitsboard.com).

## GENERAL OVERSEER TIM HILL TO HOST STEWARDSHIP TRAINING AND *CONNECT* SESSION - APRIL 12/5:00 P.M.

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Dr. Tim Hill and the Int'l Executive Committee is sponsoring a live-stream event on April 12, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. The event will open with members of the Executive Committee leading a **Connect** session with pastors and denominational leaders. That interactive time will be followed by personal financial training geared just for pastors and lead by financial professionals from within the Church of God. These speakers will offer short, dynamic presentations designed to assist in managing the financial outlook for ministers and church leaders.

## MAY 5, 2018: *ELEVATE . . . VISION, LEADERSHIP, MISSION*

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Training, resourcing, inspiring, and equipping are the means of "elevating" vision, leadership skills, and mission fulfillment. The **Elevate Conference** is designed for all local church ministry leaders: pastors, staff, music/arts, family, students, etc. Complete information and registration will be rolled out mid-March. In the meantime, mark your calendar, share with your leaders, and plan to join us at Heritage Community Church (Severn, MD) for a full day of *elevating vision, leadership and mission*. Guest speakers for the pastoral ministry track include:



**Pastor Johnny Moore**  
Family Worship Center/Cairo, GA  
Topics:

**SHIFT: The Foundation for a Lift**  
**Five Areas Where a SHIFT Must Occur**  
**Five Transitions Every Church Must Make**  
**Making Transitions and Living to Tell About It**



**Pastor Lynn Hancock**  
Briarwood Church/Pampa, TX  
Topics:

**The Leader's Edge: Leading the Leaders**  
**Moving from Hymns to Jesus Culture Without**  
**an Exit Door**



**Pastor Michael Nations**  
Vital Initiative/Clyde, NC  
Topics:

**I Know God Called Me: What Happened?**  
**It's Not the SIZE of the Church but the EYES**  
**Dynamic Interaction with the Holy Spirit**  
**Synergy: Colleagues - Not Competitors**





## DELMARVA-DC YOUTH CAMP 2018 // SUMMIT CAMP



LANDON & LORINDA ROBERTS



RYAN TRAWICK



DAN HUNT



3 KINGS



YOUTH CAMP BAND

JUNIOR CAMP | AGES 7-12  
JULY 9-13, 2018



TEEN CAMP | AGES 12-17  
JULY 9-13, 2018