

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

7127 Long View Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410.531.5351

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 am becoming increasingly sensitive to the need for grace in believers which will allow them to be wrong. Not to **do** wrong. But to **be** wrong.

There are far too few who simply acknowledge their own humanity when their own doings, calling, efforts, or sincere goals are called into question.

In the past few days I encountered three occasions where this grace was needed: at a gathering of men who were consulting together over a specific ministry to the Body of Christ; in a conversation with a dear friend about believers and their willingness to acknowledge failures; and in a private telephone conversation in which we discovered a man's preoccupation with his sense of God-given mission, to the point that he couldn't see the need for balance. He was too taken with **his** sense of importance of what he felt he was supposed to do.

Somehow, "being right" isn't as easy as one thinks. Our own sense of dimension on a matter is the key to balance, and the fact is, when something **seems** important or necessary to me, it tends to become **ALL** important . . . **ABSOLUTELY** necessary. And the time for the answer to this important/necessary matter is always **NOW!** Especially if God and His will are involved in the matter.

Thankfully, I am discovering a small but growing band of folks who are willing to trust the Lord to cover their imperfections - whether it be in timing, in understanding, or in sense of urgency. They are gaining the capacity to be wrong in their **perspective**, as right as they might be in their **purpose**.

I find that grace was powerfully present in the early Church. I hear the apostles and elders at Jerusalem say, concerning a decision that would reshape the Church's future, "**It seemed good . . .**" (Acts 15:28). Before they invoke the ultimate of divine authority, they simply say, "**We thought a lot about it. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us.**" History confirmed the decision they made, but I am most impressed by the non-authoritarian air with which the judgment was communicated.

Paul says twice in 1 Corinthians 7 that his counsel is offered "**as a concession, not as a commandment**" (v. 6); and that his directive concerning marriage and the single life were "**according to [his] judgment**" (v. 40). He does affirm that he believed himself to have the mind of the Holy Spirit on the subject, but again, the authority is exercised with wisdom. There is an apparent willingness to hearing others out on the subject.

I love Peter's capacity to not know as much as another brother, and still to love and trust that brother's words toward him. 2 Peter 3:15, 16 manifests a **readiness to receive** the gift of another's wisdom and expertise, without denying or having to hurriedly insist that you **have received** much already yourself.

Somehow, you and I experience a painful reluctance to utter the words, "*I don't know.*" Or, "*I may not be entirely right.*" Or, "*I need your balancing counsel on this, my friend.*" It's hard for us to say these things and **mean them** with a truly teachable spirit.

Some matters, of course, are not negotiable. But my personal inclinations, however "sure" I might feel about them, must be kept available to modifications within the circle of those who love me in Christ.

Such vulnerability is the only safety valve against the recurrent problems which "**rugged individualism**" has wrought in personal and family lives, in business and government, and in the Church of the Lord Jesus throughout history.

Let's keep hands joined in trust. Mine and yours may not be perfectly clean, but keeping hold will sure help us keep our balance.

- Pastor Darrell Rice



Regional Council

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

Youth and Discipleship Board

J. C. Worley
Mark Sparks
Lorieann Julie Lockemy
Ryan Christian Shawyer
David Bowyer, Jr.
Jordan Ackerman
Tiffany Izzard

Ministerial Development Board

Greg Copley (MIP), Chair
Tim Shawyer (CAMS)
Keith Maxwell (Interview Bd)
Greg Morris (Examining Bd)
Josè Torres

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 . . .

. . . **Michael Vaughan** (Frankford, DE) and family upon the passing of his mother, Myra Vaughan, on August 2, 2017 at her home in Cleveland, TN.
. . . **Pat Abbott** (Viers Mill, MD), her husband, Pastor Darcy Abbott, and family upon the passing of her father, Walter Eugene Junkins (1932 - 2017) of Lexington, NC, on August 7, 2017.
. . . **Donovan Jenkins** (Bridgeville, DE) and family upon the passing of his mother, Alberta Jeanette Jenkins (1947 - 2017), on August 10, 2017.

Transitions . . .

. . . **Todd Rigney** (Frederick, MD) accepted the appointment as lead pastor of International Community Church of God (Frederick, MD) on August 20, 2017.
. . . **Daniel McCreedy** (Rock Hall, MD) resigned as pastor of the Rock Hall Church of God and relocated to Memphis, TN.
. . . **Verna Wilson** (Frederick, MD), upon the passing of her husband, Pastor Lovell Wilson, accepted the appointment as senior pastor of New Hope Fellowship Church of God (Frederick MD) on August 13, 2017.

GENERAL OVERSEER TIM HILL APPEALS TO ASSIST FLOOD VICTIMS

In a 9/1/17 email, General Overseer Tim Hill made the following appeal: "Our hearts have been broken over the past several days as we have seen the devastation from the massive flooding in Texas and Western Louisiana. Below you will find a video message to all of our churches and pastors requesting that they participate in a special disaster relief offering this Sunday."

The video link is on our website - cogdelmarvadc.com. You may also make donations directly to Church of God agencies at the forefront of the relief effort:

Texas Church of God State Office - txcog.com

God's Pit Crew - godspitcrew.org

Operation Compassion - operationcompassion.org

Men and Women of Action - cogmwoa.org

Church of God World Missions - cogwm.org

INT'L WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FAITH - FIRE - FREEDOM CELEBRATIONS

Enclosed is information about the Faith Fire Freedom Celebrations. Locations closest to Delmarva-DC are:

- September 8: Columbus, OH (Potter's House Church of God)
- September 29: Bloomfield, CT (Rehoboth Church of God)
- October 6: Sevierville, TN (New Hope Church of God)

GO CONFERENCE LIMITED OFFER FOR COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

The Delmarva-DC Regional Office is partnering with GO Church (Pastor J.C. Worley) and the USA Missions Church Planting Office (Bishop Mitch Maloney) to sponsor GO Conference (11/6/17) focusing on church planting and church revitalization. Pastor JC is passionate about getting younger ministers engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission in more effective ways; therefore, he is offering complimentary registration for ministers/spouses/team members **under 40 years of age** if registered before **September 20, 2017**. Space is limited. Conference features respected leaders in church planting and revitalization.

Here are the steps to register for the conference and receive the comped ticket:

1. Visit www.goconference.church
2. Then Click "Register Now"
3. Then Click "Tickets"
4. On the next screen - top right-hand corner click "Enter Promotional Code"
5. Then enter Code: **M2819**
6. Only 1 complimentary ticket at a time. If it is a husband and wife registering - register separately and use the code.

DISTRICT OVERSEERS' FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING - OCTOBER 17, 2017

Dr. John D. Childers (Secretary-General for the Church of God) and Bishop Bill Isaacs (Church of God Center for Pastoral Excellence) will join Bishop Rice in a training session for all Delmarva-DC District Overseers on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the regional office, focusing on connection, covenant, personal growth, collaboration, care and celebration for pastors and district overseers.

FEED DELMARVA-DC THANKSGIVING MEALS

The annual Feed Delmarva-DC Thanksgiving Outreach - providing opportunities for churches throughout the region to minister to their communities - is funded through designated REACH donations. The goal is to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 1000 families. By networking with a variety of agencies the cost of providing a family meal is \$10. Prayerfully consider making a contribution to REACH Ministries. A gift of \$100 feeds 10 families.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES CHRISTMAS BANQUET - MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

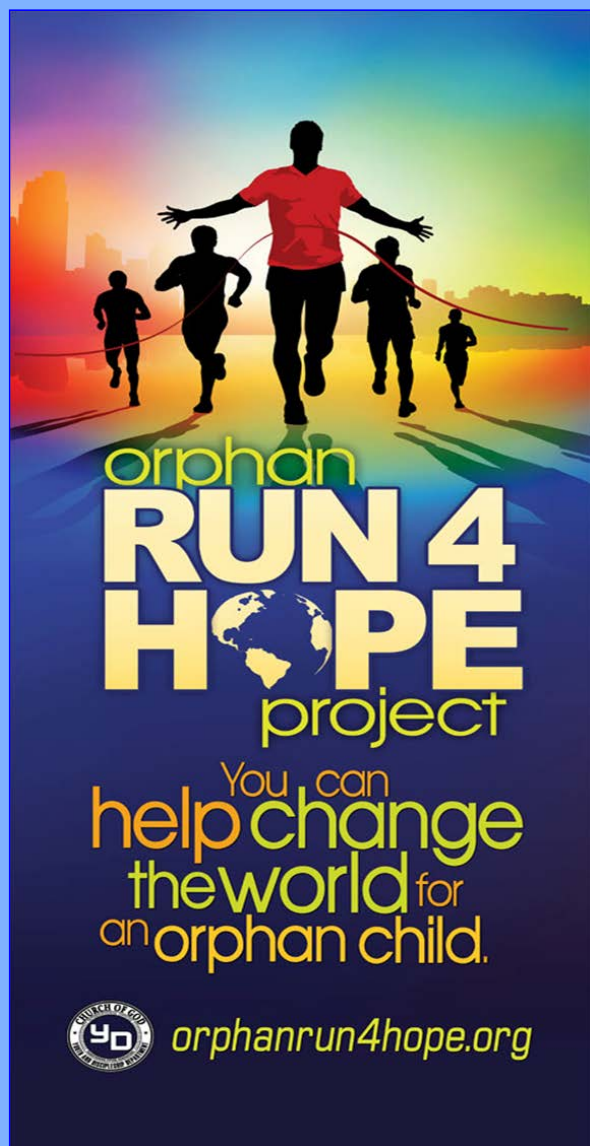
The 2017 Delmarva-DC FAMILY Christmas gathering is set for Monday evening, December 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Heritage Community Church in Severn, MD. The banquet is FREE to all retired ministers, spouses and widows. In addition to the incredible fellowship and delicious food, the program includes music from Reverend Niyi Adams, saxophonist extraordinaire, and carols lead by Reverend Thom Dawson. Registration forms will be sent with the October **Getting Connected**. Mark your calendar and hold the date - December 4, 2017.

ZOOM COACHING CALLS - SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Earlier this year the Delmarva-DC office introduced the one-hour Zoom coaching call for pastors and church leaders. Information/links will be sent to all ministers to participate in the coaching call on Thursday, September 21, 2017 - 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.



The graphic features a city skyline at night with a large white 'go' logo in the center. Below the logo, the word 'CONFERENCE' is written in a spaced-out font. To the left of the logo, it says 'EARLY BIRD RATE \$39'. To the right, it says 'REGISTER: goconference.church'. At the bottom, there are five circular headshots of speakers: Dino Rizzo, Matt Keller, Dale O'Shields, Jimmy Rollins, and JC Worley. Below the headshots, the text reads 'NOVEMBER 6 | REGAL CINEMAS | GERMANTOWN, MD'. At the bottom right, there are logos for 'arc' (Association of Related Churches), a globe icon, and 'GOCHURCH'.



It's time to sign up for the **DELMARVA RUN 4 HOPE Event!**

Delmarva is one of the first states in the Church of God who is doing a Run 4 Hope Event for their ENTIRE STATE! This One Day event will make a huge difference in the lives of Orphan Children around the World! We greatly appreciate Administrative Bishop, M. Darrell Rice and State Youth & Discipleship Director, Landon Roberts for their vision and heart to champion Orphan Children. Not only is it a great cause, but it will be a Fun Family Event that includes a 5k Run/Walk; 1 Mile Fun Walk; and a Kids Inflatable Adventure Run.

Basic Info:

Delmarva Run 4 Hope event will take place on
Saturday, September 23rd, 2017 in the two following locations:

10 am at Lindale Middle School / BWI Trail
(415 Andover Road. Linthicum Heights, MD 21090)

AND

4pm at Salisbury Zoological Park Pavilion
(7555 Park Drive. Salisbury, MD 21804)

Churches can pick which location is most convenient. Each Church needs to designate a "Run 4 Hope Point Person" to help get key information to participants. The cost to participate is as follows and includes a

FREE Run 4 Hope T-shirt:

Adults and Teens \$10

Children 12 and under \$7

***Shirt orders are guaranteed if received by 9/1/2017**

Your registration fee will be collected by each Church's Run 4 Hope Point Person. Your church's involvement will make a difference in the lives of Orphan Children around the World! Join in the Fun today!

Hit the link below to register your Church:

<https://form.jotform.com/70064649144153>

Save
the
Date

Concert of Prayer

Saturday, January 20, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Life Source International Church

7000 Rossville Blvd, Rosedale, MD
