

Stan Holder
Administrative
Bishop



GETTING CONNECTED



Highlighting Churches of God ministries in Maryland, Delaware, DC and the Virginia Peninsula

February - March 2021

Church of God Delmarva-DC Region

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410.531.5351

cogdelmarvadcdc.com

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In the year 2000, a movie came out loosely based on Homer's Greek poem, *The Odyssey*. The setting was during the Great Depression, a very deep and dark time in the history of our nation.

There are various themes throughout the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, including,

but not limited to, racism, forgiveness, injustice, freedom and the depravity of man. If you've seen it, this article will make a little more sense to you.



Jesus gave us an even more powerful picture concerning *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* in Luke chapter ten. The scripture reads - "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Let's face it, "**we're in a tight spot**" (Everett). America stands at yet another crossroads. The unrest socially, politically and spiritually has people at odds with one another. *Socially*, the unrest has reached a boiling point because of injustice and inequality. *Politically*, we are here because of the greed for power and control. *Spiritually*, the church has backed itself into a corner because of our failure to disciple and equip a generation. This has led us to unconsciously allow the world to evangelize the church instead of the biblical opposite.

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GETTING CONNECTED

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The church needs to act, and act quickly. One of many things that we need to reemphasize is the reprogramming of our ministries toward evangelism and discipleship and equipping our parents and legal guardians on how to raise their families biblically. Perhaps Jesus would ask us this question today; ***“is you is, or is you ain’t my constituents?”*** (Homer Stokes)

Jesus was asking the question, ***“who is my neighbor”*** (Luke 10:29b); and in the parable, teaches us how we need to act and what we need to do about it. As was said and asked in the movie can also be said and asked of us; ***“he’s bona fide, what are you”?*** (Penny)

Are we going to be like the robbers in Luke 10 or *George “Baby Face” Nelson and Big Dan Teague* in the movie? They all had the attitude of ***“what’s yours is mine and I’m going to take it”***. They took what they wanted, did what they thought was best for their own personal agenda, showed complete disregard for the needs of others, and ***R-U-N-N-O-F-T.*** (Wash Hogwallop). The principle guiding the robbers was, ***“if I hurt this man, I can help myself”***. This is why they attacked him, robbed him and left him for dead.

Are we going to act like the Priest, the Levite or even *Ulysses Everett McGill*; ***“what’s mine is mine and I’m going to keep it”?*** As you may recall, he wanted his treasure (which ended up being a lie), his life, his wife and his family back. He had lost it all because he had violated the law and was in prison because of it. The principle guiding the Priest and Levite was, ***“if I help this man, what will happen to me?”*** The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was a dangerous road and I am certain that their fear was that the robbers were still around looking for another prey. That’s why they increased their speed instead of meeting another man’s need.

Are we going to be like the Samaritan and allow the teachings of Jesus to guide us again? Here is some good advice for you and me today; ***“Do not seek the treasure!”*** (Pete) Do not seek the lie, the myth, the fantasy of some life being greater than living the life of Christ. The priority that Jesus teaches us to live by is, ***“what’s mine is yours and I’m going to give it”***. The principle guiding the Samaritan was, ***“if I don’t help this man, what will happen to him”?*** His concern for others negated his concern for himself. He was “others” conscious. He wasn’t in it for himself, but for others.

Have you ever stopped to realize that in this parable, the one that had the courage to help was the one society had most mistreated? He was a Samaritan. As you may recall, the nation of Israel had become divided. Israel was composed of the ten tribes to the north, and Judah was made up of Judah and Benjamin. The animosity between the Jews and Israelites began immediately after the division. Samaria was the capital city of the northern kingdom. Rehoboam assembled an army to make war against Israel to reunite the kingdom, but God intervened through His prophet Shemiah. First Kings 15:6 tells us that ***“there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.”*** Immediately, Jeroboam changed the worship of the Israelites. No longer did the inhabitants of the north travel to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice and worship. Instead, Jeroboam set up idols in Dan and Bethel. Then, when Israel fell to the Assyrians, they began to intermarry with the Assyrians. This is why the Jews hated the Samaritans so much and referred to them as “dogs,” or “half-breeds.”

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Church Statistics can be found at:
www.coqdelmarvadc.com
Click on the RESOURCES Tab

This is the problem with the present state of affairs in America. Biblical values are no longer prioritized. We cannot let this be said of us concerning biblical truths, **“they ... left ... his ... heart!”** (Delmar) We are now divided as a nation. We have been divided for some time now. Because of this, the Christian family (spiritually) has begun to intermarry with the earthly family (philosophically); **“he sold his soul to the devil”** (Homer Stokes). The offspring is a compromising spirit that now rejects the absolute truth of scripture. The believers that hold dear to these orthodox truths are surely becoming societies’ outcasts, dogs, half-breeds and the “opposers” to global progress. The true church of Jesus Christ is in the way and is now the focal point of attack.

Maybe we need to be asking this question again, **“O Brother, Where Art Thou?”** O brother, where art thou concerning ... social injustice, sinful behavior, ungodly practices, unrighteous policies, unfair treatment, imbalanced equality, unholy living and uncertain times? We can be silent no longer. The world is believing a lie and the only thing that can set them free is the Truth!

You may ask, “Bishop, what is the church to do”? The only things I know that cannot fail are God (1 Corinthians 1:9), His Word (Joshua 21:45). and love (1 Corinthians 13). With this confidence, we must BE the Church, APPLY biblical knowledge, LIVE out biblical truth, EQUIP the saints, FOLLOW the example of Christ, and OBEY the commands of scripture. Notice that there is no room for **“a Dapper Dan man”**, or **“a man with the gift of gab”**. (Everett)

I love what Luke 10:27 & 28 (NIV) teaches; **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’** “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. **“Do this and you will live.”**

As God’s child, you can still live life abundantly and lead your ministry effectively in this climate that we are in. Jesus gives us three LOVE priorities that lead to inner peace and experiencing life to its fullest. *First*, we must love God in four areas and in four ways: with ALL of our HEART, with ALL of our SOUL, with ALL of our STRENGTH, and with ALL of our MIND. *Secondly*, we must love our neighbors **as we love** ourselves. Yes, admit it ... you love yourself! If you feed yourself, feed your neighbor. If you clothe yourself, clothe your neighbor. If you want to be treated with justice and equality, give the same privilege to your neighbor. Get it? And *thirdly*, love life, or as Jesus put it ... **“do this and YOU will LIVE”**. These personal core values are great advice for each us to live by. I suppose I could also add, **“and stay out of Woolworth”**. (Manager)

Get The DelmarvaDC App Today!

Go to your App store and download for FREE



A BIG thank you to the following who have sent in monies towards our two mission projects:

- Smoky Mountain Home For Children
- City of Refuge, Baltimore

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOME FOR CHILDREN – (November 2020 – December 2020)

Chester Church of God - \$40.00	Living Hope Ministries, Phoenix, MD - \$40.00
Delmarva-DC State Office - \$1,340.63	Loch Lynn Church of God - \$200.00
Easton Church of God - \$889.70	Park Lane Church of God - \$1,556.52
Fresh Fire Church of God - \$500.00	Silver Spring Church of God - \$100.00
Jennings Church of God - \$97.28	Stan & Teresa Holder - \$50.00
Kent Island Church of God - \$65.00	Victory Praise Church of God - \$500.00
Life Community Church - \$270.00	Walker Memorial - \$6,120.00
Life Way Church of God - \$3,000.00	
<i>(To purchase a commercial washer and dryer)</i>	
Lighthouse Church of God - \$112.00	
Living Hope Church of God - \$200.00	<u>TOTAL - \$15,081.13</u>

CITY OF REFUGE, BALTIMORE – (September 2020 – December 2020)

Kent Island Church of God - \$35.00	
Stan and Teresa Holder - \$250.00	
Easton Church of God - \$600.00	
Walker Memorial Church of God - \$140.00	
Life Community Church of God - \$110.00	
Victory Tabernacle - \$100.00	<u>TOTAL - \$1,235.00</u>

Let me also give a BIG Shout Out to the following who gave to the Iris Vest Widow's Home/Spirit Care. We have now sent in enough monies to remodel Rebecca Maxwell's room. This is the mother of Pastor Keith Maxwell. Praise the Lord for this accomplishment!!

SPIRIT CARE – (September 2020 – December 2020)

Walker Memorial - \$400.00	
Betty Moore - \$50.00	
Stan and Teresa Holder - \$25.00	
Easton Church of God - \$1,000.00	
REACH - \$1,000.00	<u>TOTAL - \$2,475.00</u>

2021 EMPOWERED WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – September 17 – 18, 2021

Put this date on your calendar!!! Let's pray for COVID to be gone so that our women can gather together once again to give glory and honor to the King of Kings!



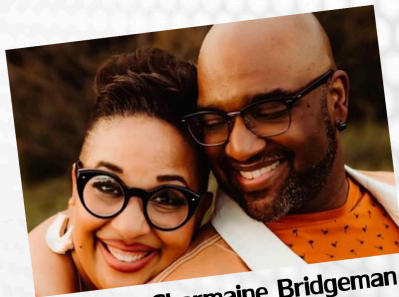
DELMARVA - DC Youth & Discipleship Department

Bishop Brett & Heather Seals
Regional Youth & Discipleship Directors

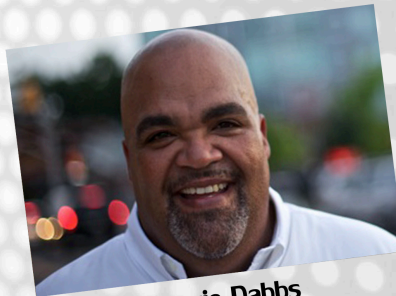


RECHARGE

DELMARVA - DC | PENNSYLVANIA | VIRGINIA | WEST VIRGINIA



Curtis & Charmaine Bridgeman



Reggie Dabbs

2.10.21 | 7PM

premierwinterfest



VIRTUAL KIDFEST 2021

TO THE FUTURE AND BEYOND

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
JEREMIAH 29:11

Tricia Mayer
NCKids Ministries

Matt Hogg
Remix Education

February 19, 2021

delmarvadcyouth

Pre-service 6:45pm | Service 7pm
GIVEAWAYS - WORSHIP & MUCH MORE

Call 410.531.5351 For More Information,
www.cogdelmarvadc.com

TUESDAY LIVE NIGHT

community | resources | encouragement

The First Tuesday of each month @7PM

DELMARVA-DC CHURCH OF GOD
 YOUTH & DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT
 Youth Leaders | Children's Leaders | Aspiring Leaders

09.25.21
GO CHURCH
 SOUTH METRO CAMPUS
 3935 GA-34
 SHARPSBURG, GA 30277
NYLA CONFERENCE
TOGETHER
 FEATURING **BRIAN BULLOCK**
REGISTER @ NYLACONF.COM

FOCUS 2021 Louder
YANCY JIM WIDEMAN JAVARIS
 March 5 & 6 Virtual Conference
FOCUS has gone virtual! Let's make it go viral!!
We are Living Louder online March 5-6.
 \$20.00 per person*
 \$69.00 per church group*
 *Each church registration will receive up to 4 usernames and passwords for the conference.
 If you have pre-registered, call us at 423-478-7229 to learn how many leaders you can bring with your current price!
 REGISTER AT
<https://form.jotform.com/210214471911141>

YWEA 2021
 REBUILDING GREEN TURTLE CAY
 WITH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL
 YWEA 2021
 PIERCING THE DARKNESS WITH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL



A SMOKY MOUNTAIN GATHERING

REACHING A JUBILEE GENERATION

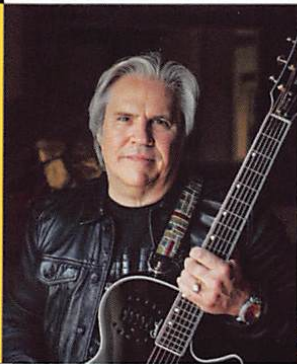
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:

DOYLE DYKES

THE MARTINS

DENNIS SWANBERG

THE NEW SPEER FAMILY



GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION NOW-OCTOBER 31ST **\$70**

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1ST REGISTRATION **\$75**

WALK-ON REGISTRATION **\$85**

SPECIAL EVENTS:

SPIRIT CARE BANQUET WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 AT 4:30 P.M.

(RETIRED MINISTERS AND WIDOWS - FREE, IF REGISTERED)

VETERANS BREAKFAST, APRIL 30 AT 7:30 A.M.

FEATURES:

DOLLYWOOD AMUSEMENT PARK **\$70**

OPTIONAL: INCLUDES ONE MEAL, CONCERT & AFTERNOON IN THE PARK.

DOLLYWOOD COST NOT INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION

ACTIVITIES:

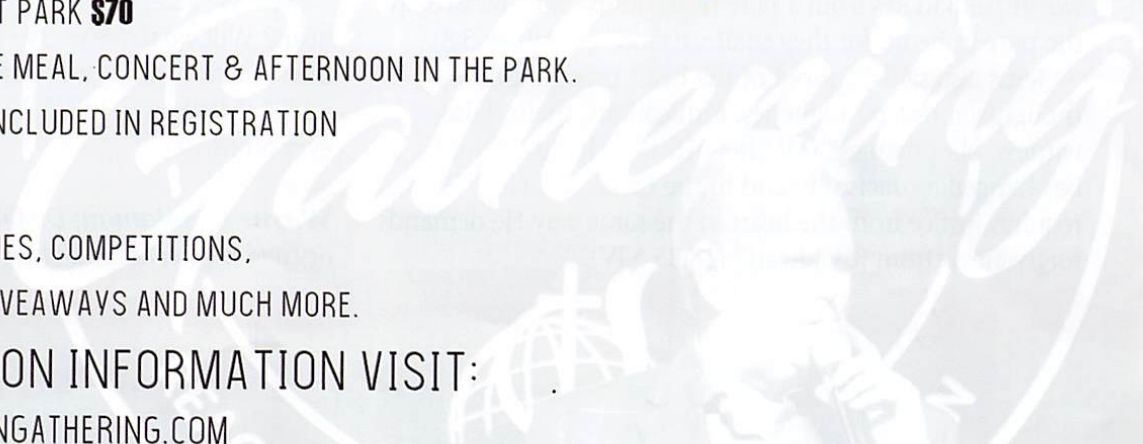
TALENT SHOWCASE, GAMES, COMPETITIONS,

ART CLASSES, PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS AND MUCH MORE.

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION VISIT:

WWW.SMOKYMOUNTAINGATHERING.COM

APRIL 27-29, 2021



THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
2021 CONFERENCE

Heritage Community Church — *Severn, MD*
 March 18-20 / April 22-24 / May 20-22

FREE to all Delmarva-DC Credentialed Ministers, Spouses and Pastoral Staff.
 You must REGISTER by January 31, 2021. To register, go to www.cogdelmarvad.com.
 For an overview of sessions, go to www.thenicl.com and click on Course Information
 Accredited: College and Seminary credit can be earned.

Sponsored by Delmarva-DC Church of God Regional Office www.cogdelmarvad.com

Dr. Mark RUTLAND SPEAKER
 Stan & Teresa HOLDER Administrative Bishop

The **National Institute of Christian Leadership** training conference is just a few weeks away. It is vital that you go to our website and register. We must know an exact number so that we can social distance accordingly. If you are a DelMarVa-DC credentialed minister, spouse or pastoral staff member, you may come to this conference free if your reports are up-to-date

personally and church. If you are behind in either report, contact me to so that together, we can put a plan in place and make arrangements so that can still come to this training. I urge you to go to www.cogdelmarvad.com and register immediately. The registration module is set up for you to register individually and not as a group. Here are few questions and answers to assist you in your planning.

1. What is Covid-19 stipulations have not lifted to give us ample spacing? *I have made inquiries with Dr. Rutland and he will work with us to ensure safety, even if we have to reschedule the March meeting. We also have the possibility of doing the first month virtually.*
2. Can we do all of the sessions virtually? *Dr. Rutland prefers to do the sessions on-site and we will do everything possible to make that happen.*
3. What are the starting and ending times?

<u>For March, April and May</u>	
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>NOON – 5PM</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9AM – 5PM</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>9AM – 1PM</i>
4. What expenses will I be expected to have? *You will personally pay for your lodging (if needed), travel expenses and any meals not provided by the Regional Office.*
5. What meals will the region provide? *We will provide refreshments for all breaks each day and lunch on Friday and Saturday. You will need to eat lunch/brunch before you arrive on Thursday.*
6. How is the DelMarVa-DC able to provide this conference free to us? *The local church give the office a 1% gift each month from their tithe. In addition, each District Overseer is spearheading a financial gift from their District of \$1500.00 per District. Together, these gifts are able to provide NICL to you.*
7. What do I need to bring? *You will need your iPad, Laptop or any smart device that you like to use. In addition, bring paper and pen and a personal commitment to stay for the entire training event. Personal or church emergencies are the exception as always.*