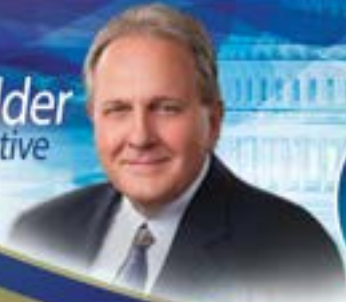


Stan Holder
Administrative
Bishop



GETTING CONNECTED



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

September - October 2022

Church of God Delmarva-DC Region

7127 Long View Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410.531.5351

cogdelmarvadc.com

Stanley R. Holder

Administrative Bishop

Teresa Holder

Women's Ministries Director

Johnathon Pope

Youth & Discipleship Director

William A. Reid

USA Missions / REACH Director

Nicole Pope

Girl's Club Coordinator
USA Missions
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Random Lessons from a Weary Leader

Numbers 11:11

“So, Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me:”

For a short period of time, I enjoyed playing a game called Angry Birds. It is a game that took off and became a national phenomenon. It became so popular, that a movie, along with a popular TV commercial was made out of it.

In Numbers 11, we find a different, yet divine phenomenon where a large quantity of angry birds (quail) was airlifted from the seashore and transported by a west wind to the encampment of the Israelites. This phenomenon came at the very time a leader, chosen by God, was struggling to keep his followers satisfied and content.

For a leader, restraining complaining is a very difficult thing to do. When life becomes mundane and people desire something different or new, they will lash out, often time, targeting others to blame for their frustration. I have often observed that this can be a hazard for those in leadership positions. Such is the case in Numbers 11:1, “Now, when the people complained ...”. What we are about to discover in Numbers 11 is what happens when the complaint virus infects the masses and takes their frustration out on their leader.

1. The fringed get singled!

“So, the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp” (v. 1b). The word “fringe” is defined as “the border or outer edge of something”. Every church has a few people that you only see during Christmas, Easter, or some very special event. The truth is, there are people that love God, but by their actions, seemingly, love their weekends more. If asked, they would call you pastor and say that your church is their church. I call them “fringe people”.

Isn't it true that when church conflict arises, fringe people tend to get hurt worst, first? Satan, the “roaring lion” is always seeking prey that “he may devour”. Once murmur, complaint, and inuendo start infecting a church, those on the outskirts begin to shy away even more from the very thing that they need the most. Sheep are easily frightened. Our Good Shepherd knows this and desires to make us lie down in green pastures and lead us beside still waters. But unless you are in the sheepfold, you can't be on the receiving end of the Good Shepherds' tender care.

2. Pray for the prey!

Note how Moses responded to the crisis. His first option was prayer, “... and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched” (v. 2). It is a known fact that 100% of prayers that don't get prayed, never get answered. Prayer should always be our first option and our best option. We are all benefactors of prayer in some way or another.

GETTING CONNECTED

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Whether it was a pastor, parent, or friend, we have all been touched by prayer. It has been said that prayer is the inheritance that we receive and the legacy that we leave. It is there that our impotence meets face to face with God's omnipotence. For Moses, only the power of God could extinguish what the power of the tongue had set ablaze.

Friend, if you have ever encountered a church firestorm, you understand why the necessity of prayer is so vital. Prayer is my solace with God. It is there that I find peace to sustain me, power to strengthen me, and courage to motivate me. Prayer is the greatest stress reliever I've ever encountered. If you are a leader and you do not have a consistent prayer life, you have an inconsistent leadership model that will never bear the fruit that you desire to harvest. We learn from Moses that the first step in quenching a firestorm is the discipline of prayer.

3. Contentment leads to resentment!

There is something about us humans that cannot remain content for very long. God provided a beautiful, life-sustaining miracle of manna every day for forty years. According to Psalm 78:23-25, God "... opened the doors of heaven, and had rained down manna upon them to eat and ... man did eat angels' food...." You would think that if it was good enough for angels, it would be good enough for anyone. Yet, their discontent with manna led to resentment, leaving them wanting something else, something new, something more. They wanted a new miracle while at the same time experiencing a present miracle (Numbers 11:4-9).

Even Jesus knew that many followed Him because they were attracted by the miracles He was performing. He told the multitude following Him that they were only doing so because of the miracles. That goes to show you that whatever you do to get people, you will have to do to keep people. So be careful what you feed them. I don't care how hard you try; you will never have the human capacity to satisfy the ever-evolving cravings of mankind. Jesus knew that miracles wouldn't sustain them. He gave them the Bread of Life, and on the journey, God still worked miracles in their midst. Only Jesus can satisfy the unsatisfied.

4. Duplicate, don't manipulate!

"Gather me seventy men ... and they will bear the burden of the people with you" (11:16 & 17). If you are called of God, you have a leadership anointing that must be duplicated. If you desire your ministry to grow and continue with forward momentum, you must continually duplicate yourself in the lives of new leaders. Moses had a leadership crisis. So do we. Here is how God solved his problem; "God took the spirit that was upon him and gave it to the seventy elders ..." (11:25).

God doesn't intend for us to bear people's burdens alone. People will always need someone to cry on (11:10a), but God never intended for you to be the only one navigating the river that was formed by their boatload of tears. There are moments in time when a leader must provide what is needed versus what is wanted. They wanted meat. They needed manna. This frustrated both God and Moses and the people took it out on their leader. God's remedy for the burden that Moses was carrying was simple. He wanted the spirit that was upon Moses to reside in seventy additional leaders. This is the leadership principle of duplication and transference. If you've got it, you must give it, and you must release it!

5. Our decisions must never conflict with God's provisions!

Be careful what you ask for because you might just get it. Number 11:19 & 20 says that God decided to give them an entire month's supply. Scripture records, "You shall eat, not one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils, and it will be nauseating to you ..."

We further discover, “But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people ...” (Numbers 11:33). Sometimes, God provides miracles out of His permissive will (quail), instead of His perfect will (manna). Here is what we know.

- The people received a thirty-day supply of quail (11:19 & 20).
- There were approximately 600,000-foot soldiers present (11:21).
- The quail covered an area of 700 square miles (11:31a)
- The quail fell 2 cubits (3 feet) deep (11:31b)
- The people received a minimum of 10 homers (11:32) per person (1900 birds per 10 homers)
- It is estimated that approximately 105 million quail (daily) or 1.14 billion birds over 30 days fell in the camp of the Israelites

That is a whole lot of something that God never intended for you to have! And as usual, mankind pays the price when fleshly desires trump spiritual needs. I love chocolate, but I don't want it running out my nose. I love chicken, but I don't want to be consumed before I can even start chewing it.

- Eve wanted fruit from a tree that God didn't want her to have, and we are still paying a heavy price for it.
- Lot wanted the watered, green plains of Jordon, and lost his influence, integrity, and spouse.
- Moses wanted revenge and got 40 years of desert.
- David wanted Bathsheba and plotted a murder to cover it up.
- Samson wanted Delilah and lost both vision and power.

Be careful what you lust after. The simple truth is that our wants are too often based on our desires and our greed. However, God's provisions are based on His desire and our need. So be encouraged today. God will supply your need.

*Bishop Stan Holder
Administrative Bishop*



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

AWAKEN
conference
OCTOBER 20-21
THURSDAY & FRIDAY @ 7PM

REGIONAL MINISTERS MEETING
OCTOBER 22ND
SATURDAY MORNING @ 10AM

EASTON CHURCH OF GOD
1009 WASHINGTON STREET, EASTON, MD 21601

Speakers:
Bobby Clardy, Administrative Bishop, Indiana
The Hoppers, Thursday Night Only
Stan & Barbara Holder, Administrative Bishop, Tennessee, DC
William & Rose, 13th Anniversary
Jefferson & Michelle Potts, Head of Discipleship Ministry, Baltimore, MD

August 31st was Betty Moore's last day at the Regional Office. After consultation with her family, Betty decided to take their advice, retire and relocate closer to family. Dan and Betty are dear to our hearts and have become family to all of us.



Betty has served Delmarva-DC regional office for 23 years. In addition to that, she served the offices of Colorado-Wyoming for 1 1/2 years, West Virginia for 4 years, and Minnesota for 1 year. She is a treasure and one of the kindest ladies we have ever met. We are sad to see her retire, yet happy for her as she begins a new season in her life.

The Regional Council, along with regional staff, were able to give her a proper send off. However, we know that you would like to be a part of her retirement as well. We want to encourage you to send cards, letters, gifts to her for the 23 years of excellence that she has provided all of us. She is already sorely missed.

You may send your gifts to the regional office to Betty's attention. You can make personal checks out to her as well. Please let Betty know how much she means to you and our regional Church of God family. Most importantly, pray for Betty and Dan as they begin preparations to sell their home and relocate from our region.

Thank You,
Delmarva-DC Regional Office

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Restore the Roar



Charlotte
Music



Dr. Teresa
Holder

September 9 - 10, 2022



www.llcog.org
8649 Gorman Rd. Oakland, MD



SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOME FOR CHILDREN – (May - July 2022)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Charm City Church of God | Living Hope Ministries (Phoenix) |
| Chesapeake Christian Center | Loch Lynn Church of God |
| Chester Church of God | Milford Church of God |
| Christian Fellowship Church | Mt. Pleasant Church of God |
| Crosswind Church of God | North East Church of God |
| Easton Church of God | Owings Mills Harvest |
| Freedom Church | Sharon Reed |
| Hancock Church of God | Rising Sun Church of God |
| Stan & Teresa Holder | Rockville Church of God |
| Jennings Church of God | Virginia Avenue Church of God |
| Kent Island | Voice In The Wilderness COG |
| Lakeview Fellowship Church of God | Walker Memorial |
| Life Builders Church of God | |
| Life Source Church | |
| Lifeway Church of God | |
| Life Community Church | |
| Lighthouse Church of God | |
| Living Hope (Laurel) | |

TOTAL - \$12,182.64

CITY OF REFUGE, BALTIMORE – (March - April 2022)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Crossroads Church of God | |
| June Grier | |
| Stan & Teresa Holder | |
| Kent Island Church of God | |
| Rick & Jane Lairsey | |
| Allan & Jeraldine Leonard | |
| Life Community Church | |
| Pathway Church of God | |
| Sharon Reed | |
| Walker Memorial | |

TOTAL - \$ 7,038.00





Jamie Massey

2023 Empowered Women's Conference
March 24-25, 2023
Life Source Church



Roxanne Corbett

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

DELMARVA- DC

Bishop Johnathon and Nicole Pope *Regional Youth and Discipleship Directors*



DelMarVa-DC is proud to welcome Johnathon and Nicole Pope to our region as our newly appointed Youth and Discipleship Directors. The Popes have two sons, Nolan, and Brody, and a soon-to-be daughter-in-law, Cacie. With more than twenty years of youth, children, and pastoral ministry experience, Johnathon brings a wealth of knowledge to us. Prior to moving to Columbia, they pastored LifeSpring Church of God for nine years and served in Arkansas as the Youth & Discipleship director for four years. Before stepping into pastoral leadership, Johnathon held youth and children's pastor positions at three churches in Alabama over a span of twelve years. Striving to help others find their hope in Jesus and purpose in the kingdom, Johnathon and Nicole believe that God is raising up leaders for a "right now" ministry. Nicole is a graduate of Lee University and brings over twenty years of ministry experience to us. She will also be employed at the regional office replacing Betty Moore who recently retired.

Welcome to DelMarVa-DC!



DELMARVA-DC YOUTH & DISCIPLESHIP

[NEXT LEVEL]

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 10/7 @ International Community Church Frederick, MD | 10/28 @ New Hope Church Waldorf, MD | 11/18 @ Life Source Church Baltimore, MD |
|--|---|--|

Fall Youth Rallies 2022

Girls Fun Day

September 24th, 2022
Easton Church of God
1009 North Washington St.

You were Made to Sparkle

Psalm 139:14

Ages: Pre-K to 5th grade
What: Games, Food, Crafts, & Jesus
Admission: Free

DUN.
World's Finest
to Live

PREMIER

Winterfest

class

JANUARY 27-29, 2023

ROLAND E. POWELL CONVENTION CENTER

OCEAN CITY, MD



Lifeline Worship
Charmaine & Curtis Bridgeman
Far Flung Tin Can
Peter Reeves
Micah Mac
Brian Lindsey



PREMIER

KID FEST

JANUARY
27-29TH
2023

OCEAN CITY, MD



World Missions

Nicaragua Clean Water Wells



Project Number: 102-9554

City of Refuge Baltimore



BRINGING HOPE TO LIFE
Project Number: #102-9572

Delmarva-DC

Invites You To An

UGLY Sweater

CHRISTMAS Luncheon

Saturday • December 3 • 11:30am

\$30 Per Person

Retired Ministers, Spouses &
Widows are FREE

Heritage Community Church
8146 Quarterfield Road
Severn, MD 21144

Register at:
www.cogdelmarvadc.com
or call 410.531.5351

Deadline to Register - 11.21.22

Delmarva-DC presents...



SENIOR ADULT DAY 2022 TALENT SHOWCASE & LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

HERITAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

8146 Quarterfield Road
Columbia, MD. 21044

**\$10
per
person**

Registration deadline: October 25, 2022
Angie.Sharpe@cogdelmarva-dc.org