

Delmarva-DC Region

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cogdelmarvadc.com

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Fishing with Broken Nets Matthew 4:21

"Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets."

Would you cast a line in the water without a hook? Would you throw a fishing net in the water that was full of gaping holes? What fisherman in their right mind would go fishing without the tools necessary to get the job done? This is the reason James and John were mending their nets. Nets get torn. They must be mended, or they become of little benefit in reaping a harvest. A good fisherman knows that if you don't continually tend and mend your fishing equipment, the next harvest will be lost.

Mending nets is much like equipping people. As church leaders, one of our most overlooked and neglected responsibilities is maintaining a consistent process of equipping our people to do the work of ministry. Because mending nets can get monotonous, we often neglect it. Maybe we realized that some nets aren't working successfully anymore. Maybe a new type of net needs to be implemented. Maybe we are so afraid of disturbing the past, we continue doing the same thing, the same way and become satisfied with fruitless fishing trips. Maybe we love our traditions more that we want to realize. Here is how you know if your nets are broken, or a fisherman needs to be equipped:

- If your youth group is bare bones, you are fishing with broken nets.
- If your children's ministry is nonexistent, you are fishing with broken nets.
- If your worship ministry is no longer engaging your people to worship God, you are fishing with broken nets.
- If your pews are empty, you are fishing with broken nets.
- If no spiritual babies are being saved in your altars, you are fishing with broken nets.
- If your preaching is no longer convicting souls to turn to God, you are fishing with broken nets.

The size and condition of your fishing nets will determine the size of your harvest. The limit is never on God's end unless God has a lesson to teach you like He did Peter one night.

In John 21, the disciples are waiting on Jesus, and during the wait, Peter decides to go fishing. The Bible says that they fished all night and didn't catch anything. Peter had the right people in the boat, they were there at the right time in the boat, and they had the right equipment in the boat, yet they didn't catch anything. It wasn't because they didn't know how to fish. To add insult to injury, Jesus shows up and has the audacity to ask this question, "Did you catch anything?" Look at verse 5, "Children, do you have any food?" They said, "No."



Youth & Discipleship Board

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They had everything that they needed to catch fish, but they were unsuccessful. And now, Jesus shows up and asks them a question that both He and the professional fishermen already know the answer to. Is it possible that the only way God is going to get our attention, is to make us come to Him and confess our failures? That's what repentance is, isn't it? Confessing our failures and shortcomings to God.

They are sleepy, tired, frustrated, depressed, and confused, "Well, did y'all catch anything?" When they respond "no", He's making them bring their night failure into the morning light. They fished all night. Their failure could have been kept quiet in the dark of night. But Jesus shows up the next morning and asks them a question that everyone already knows the answer to. Until we face the truth about what doesn't work in our church, we will never know the joy and freedom of applying what actually will work in our church.

They have been fishing all night. You are not going to convince me that they were out there all night, fishing solely from the left side of the boat. They were professional fishermen. When I go fishing, I am casting anywhere and everywhere. When Jesus said to put the net on the right side of the boat, I do not believe that He was referring to the side that is perpendicular to the left side. With God, there is a right side and a wrong side. When they obeyed, their net was so full, that they couldn't get it out of the water.

Peter learned that sometimes, your second chance is your best chance. Friends, you are never too late to hear God's voice and obey His commands. You are never too limited to minister in abundance.

Because our God is limitless, limited resources are not an excuse we can use.

- · If Facebook can have 2 billion regular users, but have no content ...
- · If Amazon can lead the world in sales but have no factories or farms ...
- If Uber and Lyft can transport people in cities throughout the world, but own no cars ...
- · If Airbnb can offer accommodations but owns no property ...

What can God's child accomplish when our Father owns the wealth of this world? Friend, there is nothing, no nothing, that my God can't do!

Stop worrying about your limitations. God is not finished with you yet. Go to work and mend your nets to catch a mighty harvest. God gave the snail and the cheetah the amount of time each needed to enter the Ark. The key was that they were both running to their destiny, not away from it! God has everything that you need to complete your assignment. Mend those nets, listen to His voice, and keep on casting. There is a mighty harvest to reap. God will provide!

Bishop Stan Holder

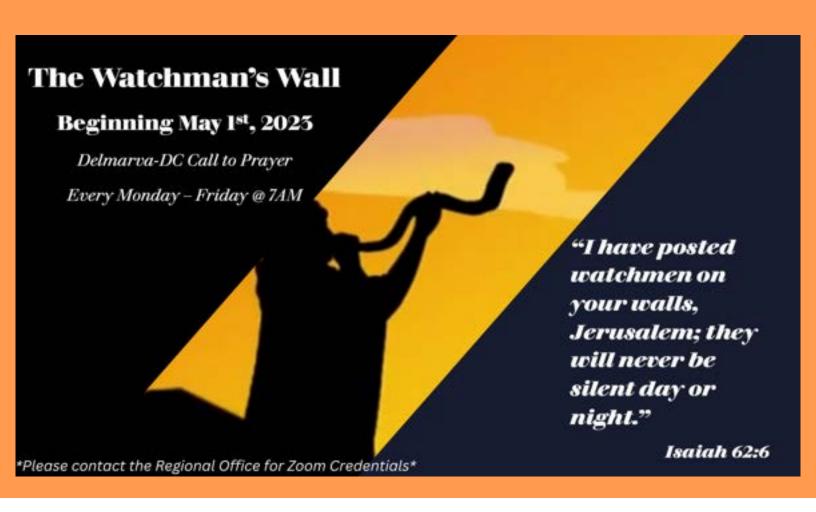


Church Statistics can be found at:

www.cogdelmarvadc.com

Click on the RESOURCES Tab





OCTOBER 12-14, 2023

REPLENISH

COST \$450 PER COUPLE \$375 SINGLE

Deadline to register is September 11, 2023



Bishop Stan & Teresa Holder Conference Hosts

REGISTRATION INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS LODGING, 2 DINNER MEALS, 2 BREAKFASTS, AND ALL SESSIONS.



Bishop Gary and Lori Lewis Secretary General Conference Special Guests

REGISTER AT: WWW.COGDELMARVADC.COM OR CALL 410-531-5351

LOCATION:
Aloft Hotels
4501 Coastal Hwy.
Ocean City, MD 21842

A TIME FOR THE MINISTER AND SPOUSE TO "REFRESH" AND "REBOOT."
THERE WILL BE SPECIAL GIFTS FOR EVERYONE INCLUDING LOTS OF
FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP.





April 19-20, 2024 7:00 PM Friday 10:00 AM Saturday



Curtis & Charmaine

Bridgeman MUSICAL QUESTS

Before January 15 \$30.00



Pastor Amy McGlamery

FRIDAY 7:00 PM SATURDAY 11;30 AM

January 15 - March 25 \$40.00



Kameryn Carter Saturday 10:00 AM

After March 25 \$50.00

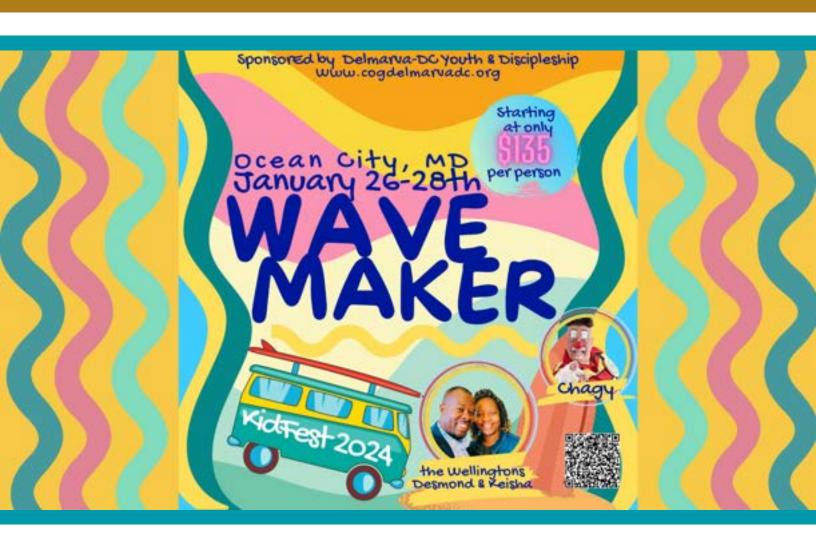
REGISTRATION INCLUDES LUNCH AND FUNTIME ON SATURDAY

Life Source International Church 7000 Rossville Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21237

Pastor's Wives Brunch Saturday @ 8:45

Translation provided for all services





DELMARVA-DC YOUTH & DISCIPLESHIP

GUYS CAMPOUT

MATCHBOX CAR RACE
AXE THROWING
SKEET SHOOTING
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
BOW & ARROW SHOOTING
CAMPSITE COOKING COMPETITION



OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

RAYMOND E. CROWLEY CAMPGROUND

14192 RD 529, GEORGETOWN, DE 19947

To Register cogdelmarvadc.com

\$20 OVERNIGHT \$10 SATURDAY ONLY ATTENDEES

DETAILED SCHEDULE & INFO TO FOLLOW



ASPIRING LEADERS

ON ENCL

04.NOVEMBER.2023

Lender Sessions:

Kids Ministry

Youth Ministry
College & Young Adult Ministry
Future Leaders

\$10 per person

\$5 per additional person after 5 paid attendees Cost includes catered lunch

Registration deadline • October 27th Late or Walk on registration \$15 per person Register online at cogdelmarvadc.com

@LWC Baltimore . 2130 Smith Ave . Baltimore, MD



Saturday NOVEMBER 11th

per person LUNCH INCLUDED Registration deadline October 16th Checkin at 8:30 Events begin @9:00a.m.



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Bishop Carlton Cannon Guest Speaker

For registration & further Information Nicole.pope@cogdelmarva-dc.org



Wear your authentic Christmas attire to represent your nation



Dr. John D. Childers Special Guest



Stan & Teresa Holder Administrative Bishop



Doyle Dykes Special Musical Guest



Johnathon & Nicole Pope Youth & Discipleship





William A. Reid **USA Missions**







Heritage Community Church

8146 Quarterfield Rd., Severn, MD 21144

Register at: www.cogdelmarvadc.com



Retired Ministers, Spouses, & Widows are FREE

