



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

# MESSENGER

Vol. 84, No. 11 December 2023

## Merry Christmas



## & Happy New Year

**Appalachian Conference**  
INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH



# January Retired Ministers' Birthdays

## January 9

Rev. Cleveland Harrison  
6517 Northumberland Way  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

## **Appalachian Conference** *Messenger*

**Vol. 84— December 2023— No. 11**

**Executive Editor – Preston Mathena**

### **Staff**

Phone (540) 674-4131  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

### **Evangelism & World Missions Ministries**

Larry Meadors  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

### **Discipleship Ministries**

Ron Fredericks  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

### **Women's Ministries**

Tammy Porter  
2473 Ivanhoe Road  
Max Meadows, VA 24360  
Phone (276) 620-7549

### **WIN**

Donna Hankla  
139 Ridgeway Drive  
Bland, VA 24315  
Phone (276) 688-3709

### **MEN'S MINISTRIES**

Steve Winesett  
3414 Water Plant Road  
Hillsville, VA 24343  
Phone (336) 408-2008

### **Conference Board**

Superintendent – Preston Mathena  
Asst. Superintendent – Larry Meadors  
Secretary/Treasurer – Frank Neff  
Board Member – C.J. Cole  
Board Member – Ron Fredericks  
Board Member – Wanda Myers  
Board Member – Todd Porter

### **Deadline for all script to reach the office:**

First of each month for the next month's issue

Email to Sandy Wood at [woodsh12@gmail.com](mailto:woodsh12@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.appconf.org](http://www.appconf.org)





# The Bishop's Page

Preston Mathena



***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
(Isaiah 9:6)***

## Wonderful Truths of Christmas

### 1. God is with us.

This is the first and greatest truth of Christmas. God is with us. The Bible says, *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"* (John 1:14). We do not work our way to God but in Christ, God comes to us. If you've ever felt like God is indifferent or uncaring toward you, remember the story of Christmas. Remember that God pursued you in Christ, and He continues to do so. We do not worship a distant God but rather a dwelling God – the God who makes His home among us, the God who is Immanuel, the God who is with us!

*"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us'"* (Matthew 1:23 NLT).

### 2. God has not forgotten us.

When Christ came, the people of God had not heard a word from the Lord in centuries. In fact, the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, was written around 440-400 B.C. The people were longing to hear from God, waiting for Him to fulfill His promises. In such moments of waiting, it's often tempting to think that God has forgotten us. The songs surrounding the birth of Christ in Luke 1 echo the sentiment that God has not forgotten His people. Mary sings, *"He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy"* (Luke 1:54 NKJV). The prophet Zechariah sings, *"He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant – the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham"* (Luke 1:72-73 NLT).

God "remembered" His mercy, covenant, and promises. When the Bible says that God "remembers"...it does not merely mean something is brought to God's attention or that He forgot something. It means to fix your attention on something and act on it. In the Christmas story, then, we see God turning His attention to His promises and acting on them to fulfill His Word. We see God, in mercy, fixing His attention on *us* and acting on our behalf by sending Christ to save us. So be encouraged – God has not forgotten you!

### 3. God understands.

At Christmas, we remember that the Son of God became a man. He entered our world with all its brokenness, sin, and suffering. Jesus experienced the full range of human emotion and temptation and joys and sorrows and everything in between.

As the *“man of sorrows”* (Isaiah 53:3), Jesus understands our pain. He is not indifferent to our experiences and emotions – He knows them. He has experienced them. The Lord Jesus can truly say to each one of us, “I get it. I understand.” So, whatever you’re going through, know that you’re not alone. God understands, and He invites you to come to Him to receive His grace and help in your weakness.

*“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most”* (Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT).

#### **4. God is at work in the darkness.**

Why did Jesus come? How would you answer that? Most people might say “to save us” or “to show God’s love” or something similar. That’s true. But the apostle John gives a rather unexpected and clear statement as to why Jesus came. He said, *“the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work”* (1 John 3:8).

Immediately after the Fall, God made a promise. He told the serpent (the devil) that from the offspring of Eve would eventually come someone who would crush the head of the serpent (see Genesis 3:15). Known as the *proto-evangelium*, this is the first reference to the good news that the Savior would come to destroy the devil’s work and redeem us.

Christmas, then, is a reminder that even in our broken world full of darkness, sin, and evil – God is still at work, bringing light to those in darkness.

*“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned”* (Isaiah 9:2).

#### **5. God has good news of great joy for all people.**

The angel announced to the shepherds *“good news of great joy that will be for all people”* (Luke 2:10 ESV). Good news. Great joy. For all people. That’s the wonderful proclamation of Christmas in a nutshell.

The good news is that we have a Savior, Jesus Christ. And it is good *news* – not good *advice* or good *teaching* but good *news*. That means something happened. God came to us in the person of Jesus. He came into our real world, in a real place, and came to us in the person of Jesus. He came into our real world, in a real place, and really lived among us, and really died for our sins and really rose from the dead. And He really offers us the free gift of salvation. It’s the best news!

And it is news for *all people*. No one is outside the reach of God’s grace in Christ. All are welcome to come to Jesus, no matter who you are, what you’ve done, or whatever your background – all are welcome to come to Jesus and receive His free gift of salvation. It is the greatest gift that leads to the greatest joy – the joy of knowing Jesus, of living with hope, of being adopted into God’s family, and knowing your future is secure in heaven. *“The angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’”* (Luke 2:10-11 ESV).

#### **6. God graciously gives and graciously saves.**

We love seeing our friends and family and children excitedly open gifts with gratitude and joy, don’t we? There’s nothing like the feeling of seeing a loved one joyfully receive a gift you got them. And similarly, there’s nothing like receiving a thoughtful, meaningful gift from a loved one.

Why do we give gifts on Christmas? Because we remember that God is a gracious giver. Consider the most famous passage in the Bible, John 3:16, in light of Christmas... *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

Our greatest need required the greatest gift. And the greatest gift God can give is Himself. That's what He did on Christmas. He gave us His one and only Son to save us from our sin. And just like any gift, the proper response to a gift is not to pay the gift-giver back – that'd be an insult! The proper response is to simply receive the gift with joy and gratitude. That's what God calls us to do with His free gift of salvation – to joyfully receive His Son.

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).*

## **7. God always keeps His promises.**

We often struggle with waiting on God. We want Him to come through for us and fulfill His promises...according to our schedule. After all, some of the promises fulfilled at Christmas were spoken of centuries beforehand. The apostle Peter encourages us, *"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:8-9).

Christmas shows us that God is always faithful to fulfill His promises. While it may not be in our desired time or our desired way, God always comes through. When He does, it's always better than what we could have planned. We can trust Him and His timing. *"He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago"* (Luke 1:69-70 NLT).

## **8. God is worthy of all praise**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! Joy to the World! Silent Night. O Holy Night. Away in a Manger. O Come, O Come Emmanuel. The list could go on. We love singing songs at Christmas, don't we? We sing because Christmas is a time to celebrate, a time to praise God for sending His Son.

You can't read the Christmas story without hearing the songs and praises of God's people. You can read Mary's song, known as the Magnificat, in Luke 1:46-55, or read Zechariah's song in Luke 1:67-79, or read of the multitude of angel's singing at Christ's birth in Luke 2:13-14. At the birth of Christ, the shepherds worshipped Jesus (Luke 2:20), as did the Magi (Matthew 2:11). When you consider all that God has given us in Christ, praise is the proper response. He is worthy of all our worship.

*"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh"* (Matthew 2:11).

## **9. Jesus is coming back to renew all things!**

Advent is not just about looking back to Christ's birth in His first coming but also about looking forward to His second coming. Just as Israel awaited the coming of the Messiah, so we too await in eager anticipation for the Lord to return to make all things right and all things new. Consider the lyrics of the beloved Christmas hymn, Joy to the World, in light of the return of Christ.

*"Joy to the world! / The Lord is come / Let earth receive her King! / Let every heart prepare Him room / And heaven and nature sing / And heaven and nature sing. / He rules the world with truth and grace / And makes the nations prove / The glories of His righteousness / And wonders of His love."*

The repeated promise of the New Testament is that Jesus will come again as the King of Kings to reign over all the earth in righteousness, truth, and grace. We will dwell with Him forever, rejoice in the wonders of His love, and *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever"* (Revelation 21:4 NLT).

In our current world with so much fear, uncertainty, and conclusion – this is the great and guaranteed hope we have in Christ!

*"Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him"* (Hebrews 9:28 NLT).

# BECOMING A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

A wince of pain came over the pastor's face. One mention of a "prayer meeting," and it was clear that prayer is not a blessing in his church. He loves Jesus and believes in the power of heartfelt prayer, but in his fellowship, prayer has become synonymous with an endless listing of prayer requests: 50 minutes talking about problems and 10 minutes asking God for help. The prayer meeting at his church is a need-driven, discouraging hour that he would rather avoid. Have you ever been there?

I felt the power of God in the room as Doug Small led our morning conference session in prayer last year. The Holy Spirit spoke and moved throughout the crowd. People wept, the Word of God was strong, and I felt the glory of God resting on the room. As Brother Small challenged, people pressed in, and a longing woke in my heart to explore prayer. My heart hungered to be near HIM. I wondered if my church could experience the power of God in prayer as we had experienced with Doug Small. I wasn't sure how, but I determined to explore what it would mean for CLI Church to be a House of Prayer for the nations.

All ages and stations of people at CLI have rallied around the call to be a House of Prayer. I discovered a hunger, birthed out of COVID and fueled by desperation for more of God, and I am seeing God move. We still have a lot to learn, but becoming a House of Prayer for the nations is the most incredible adventure I've ever enjoyed with a group of Jesus followers. We are learning scriptural and practical prayer and growing individually and corporately.

Through all the adjustments, there are several reasons why we chose to be a House of Prayer for the nations:

## 1. THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT FAILED TO BRING AWAKENING IN OUR CITIES AND NATION

You've got the books. So do I. Have you been to the church growth conferences? Me, too. I have information on visitor techniques, media options, and sermon illustrations. According to my material, if I work the formula, a crowd will respond. I get to celebrate nickels and noses while exhausting myself running the show. Although church growth plans often generate excitement and train us to lead and care for people, when I look around at my city and get brave enough to be honest about America and her stumbling, I must admit that our decades of church growth haven't done the trick. Our nation needs an awakening, not more techniques.

## 2. IT'S JESUS'S VISION FOR HIS CHURCH

Not long ago, I had an opportunity to join a meeting with other pastors as Pastor Jim Cymbala shared his vision for the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church. He said, "I have people that always ask me what my vision is for the Brooklyn Tabernacle. You want to know the truth? You want to know my vision for the Brooklyn Tabernacle? I have no vision for the Brooklyn Tabernacle. Jesus had enough vision for His church without me trying to add to it." I wiped tears and said, "Amen!"

What is Jesus's vision for His church? For His people? In Mark 11:17, Jesus cries out over the temple, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations..." He turns over the tables and then heals the blind and the lame. Jesus is zealous for a place of prayer, a people of prayer, because that's where a broken world finds God. Jesus wants a House of Prayer for all nations.

## 3. A PRAYING CHURCH IS THE MODEL IN ACTS

Read the pages of Acts. Examine their patterns and learn what led the gospel advance. What will you find? You will discover a people of earnest and desperate prayer. In Acts 1, Jesus tells them to wait for the promise, so they set themselves to prayer. Acts 1:14 says, "*They all joined together constantly in prayer...*". In Acts 2, they continued praying, were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and "devoted themselves to prayer." In Acts 3, they are praying, and a man is healed. In Acts 4, they suffer, respond in heart-felt prayer, the place where they are praying is shaken, and they are filled again with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, and many other locations, the people of God continue to call on God, and He opens the doors. The book of Acts is not about the works of the apostles. The book of Acts teaches the actions of the Holy Spirit carried out through a prayer-soaked, Jesus-loving community.



#### 4. PRAYER IS THE FASTEST WAY TO RAISE UP MISSIONAL, JESUS-LOVING PEOPLE

Matthew 9:37-38 speaks of Jesus's instructions, *"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"* These verses share a thought that blesses our church. Father God ordained that when we see the harvest – see the crowds, the need, and hear the cry – we are to respond in prayer! He doesn't say to respond in meetings or evangelistic strategies. He ordained that His harvest field be connected directly to prayer. When you see the harvest, get on your face and pray for God to raise up laborers. When you feel the need, call on God; He will answer. There is a heavenly link we must see. If we want to see the harvest – we must learn to pray. There is no other way.

These are just a few themes God is using in our fellowship. We are growing and learning to be a people of prayer. Doug Small's words ring true for us, "Extended time in God's presence brings humility - and humility brings unity – and unity brings community – and it's that community that God blesses with His glory." Amen.

-Submitted by Pastor Ryan Linkous  
Christian Life International





IPHC

Place of Hope. People of Promise.

# Leadership Training

with Dr. Mark Rutland

**FREE  
EVENT**



**NICL**

The National Institute of Christian Leadership

**DATES**

**JANUARY 29-31, 2024**

**FEBRUARY 26-28, 2024**

**MARCH 18-20, 2024**

SCAN TO REGISTER



@ First Pentecostal Holiness Church  
1100 The First Church Rd., Goldsboro, NC 27534

TO REGISTER AND HOTEL INFO [WWW.PHLEADER.ORG](http://WWW.PHLEADER.ORG)

Sponsored by - IPHC General Superintendent's Office and Clergy Development





# World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



**Start the year out strong in just one day!**

**Are you a pastor or church ministry leader?**

Then you are invited to join:

**The Foundry**  
**Saturday, January 13, 2024**  
**9 am – 12 pm**  
**Life Changers Christian Center**  
**Wytheville, VA**

This one-day training is power packed with breakout sessions for everyone.

There also will be worship, prayer and great fellowship.

- Do you need an encouraging word to jumpstart your year and remind you that you do not lead alone? Take this opportunity to set your personal and ministry compass for the new year ahead.
- Do you pastor a small congregation and feel as though you don't matter? Join one of our coaches, as you will find that **Small Churches Make a Big Difference!**
- Are you overwhelmed by ministry and maybe just life in general and don't know where to turn or what to do? We encourage you to be a part of **It's Okay Not to be Okay**, as we talk about healthy pastors and leaders.
- How do you close the back door of the church and get people involved? Find out how to get your congregation engaged in ministry with a break-out session on **Connections!**
- Do you have a heart to evangelize your community but feel your church is too small or the finances are too low? Find out the difference in **Personal Evangelism and Community Evangelism** and get some creative ideas on how to meet needs in your community on a shoestring budget.

**This event is open to all pastors, ministers, associates and ministry leaders of your church!**

**Every decision leads somewhere. Where are you wanting to go in 2024?**

Mark your calendar for this one-day event and come expecting God to speak to your new year.

# The Joy of New Shoes!

Thank you for continuing to give to the shoe project. Many lives have already been changed by receiving a new pair of shoes. Shoes on the feet put joy on the faces of the children. Everyone has been very blessed by the quality of these shoes. As a conference, we have given out 325 pairs to date! South Sudan, Kenya (Bloom ministry), Senegal and Peru are the mission areas so far that have been blessed. Shoes have already been sent out and picked up for Christmas 2023 for the McClerkins to give out in Kenya and South Sudan. We are also planning to distribute shoes on our next mission trip to the Dominican Republic in July 2024. Thank you again for continuing to give to this ongoing project, (#43420).

-Gloria Meadors

The Rileys distributed shoes in Senegal this year to the Talibe street children. They have built solid relationships and shown them the love of Christ. One boy commented that he was going to sleep in his shoes so that no one would take them.



Praying for Sokha to be healed in Pursat, Cambodia.

## Miracle in Cambodia

"The lame walk" is one of the marks of the ministry of the gospel recorded in Matthew 11:5. This notable miracle recently happened in the IPH Church in Pursat, Cambodia. The Appalachian Conference helped to raise the funds and sent a team to build this church in 2020.

Merlyn Lamanilo, who is the IPHC National Director for Cambodia, shared the following testimony from Pastor Chea Savuth. "Recently, a woman was brought into the church who was very sick. Her husband worked far away. When she became sick there was no one to look after her or take her to the doctors. She became paralyzed and lost her ability to speak. The pastor shared the gospel and Sokha, the sick woman, received Jesus Christ. She immediately threw away her amulets. An essential part of Buddhism in Thailand are the Buddha amulets. Those who wear these small amulets believe that they bring good luck and protection. Sokha now is looking to Jesus Christ as her help! After the prayer for healing, she took steps that increased with strength. God mightily healed her and restored her speech as well!" You can view the video testimony at: <https://subsplash.com/appalachianconference/media/mi/+44tdp3j>



# Looking for a New Challenge?

**Have you wondered what it would be like to plant a church?**

**Do you have the qualities needed?**

**What support is out there?**

Go to [plantachurch.us](http://plantachurch.us) and take the short survey. There is help for you in fulfilling that church plant vision. You will be able to start strong and start healthy. Our conference office and EVUSA are ready to work with you every step of the way. It is time to Arise to Mission!





# Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



## 2024 DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES CALENDAR

<b>January 19 – 21</b> BRIDGING OUR MINISTRIES	<b>May 10</b> YOUTH CAMP EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE	<b>July 18 – 21</b> YOUTH QUEST Emmanuel University
<b>January 25 – 28</b> ACCELERANT Gatlinburg, TN	<b>May 17</b> MEN'S MINISTRIES MASTER SEED TIME GOLF TOURNAMENT	<b>August 2 – 4</b> GIRLS' MINISTRIES RETREAT Camp Maranatha
<b>February 17</b> MINISTERS' CLASS Dan Woods	<b>May 18</b> PINWOOD DERBY Camp Maranatha	<b>August 23</b> MEN'S MINISTRIES ATAM GOLF TOURNAMENT
<b>February 22 – 24</b> THE HUDDLE-Greenville, SC	<b>May 20</b> CONFERENCE WORK DAY	<b>September 16 – 20</b> NATIONAL DM SUMMIT
<b>March 10</b> WOMEN'S & GIRLS' MINISTRIES EMPHASIS SUNDAY W. M. VIRTUAL EVENT	<b>May 24 – 26</b> CONNECT YOUNG ADULT WEEKEND	<b>September 21</b> SENIOR PICNIC Claytor Lake, VA
<b>March 15</b> FINE ARTS REGISTRATION DEADLINE	<b>June 11 – 14</b> CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING	<b>October 12</b> DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT
<b>March 15 – 17</b> 'THE GATHERING' Falcon, NC	<b>June 11</b> CAMP MEETING YOUTH EMPHASIS	<b>October 19</b> MINISTERS' CLASS Dan Woods
<b>April 6</b> MINISTERS' CLASS Dan Woods	<b>June 16</b> MEN'S & BOYS' MINISTRIES EMPHASIS SUNDAY	<b>October 19</b> INSTITUTE FOR FAITH & FAMILY PARENTING CONFERENCE
<b>April 12 – 13</b> 'THE RESTORE' Spiritual Well-Being for Leaders	<b>June 17 – 21</b> EXTEME TEEN CAMP Ages: 13 - 17	<b>November 1 – 3</b> FALL YOUTH RETREAT
<b>April 19 – 20</b> JUNIOR & TEEN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL	<b>June 24 – 28</b> DESTINY CAMP Ages: 10 - 12	<b>November 8</b> WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FALL CONFERENCE
<b>April 22 – 24</b> ENCORE MINISTRIES Lancaster, PA	<b>June 30 – July 3</b> ADVENTURE QUEST CAMP Ages: 7 - 9	<b>November 23</b> MINISTERS' CLASS Dan Woods
<b>May 4</b> INSTITUTE for FAITH & FAMILY PARENTING CONFERENCE	<b>July 8 – 15</b> MISSION TRIP Dominican Republic 12	<b>December 2 – 5</b> ENCORE MINISTRIES Opryland - Nashville, TN



For more information:  
<https://appconf.org/discipleship-ministries>  
 540-674-4131 ext. 201  
<https://iphc.org/discipleship/>



# 2024 BRIDGING OUR MINISTRIES SAVE THE DATE

**JANUARY  
19-21, 2024**

**REDLAND CHURCH  
ADVANCE, NC**

Bridging our Ministries is designed to inspire, equip, and support MEN and BOYS' MINISTRY leaders.

IPHC **BOYS'** IPHC **MEN'S**  
MINISTRY LEADERS MINISTRY LEADERS

**WEST**  
Oklahoma City  
February 9-10



**EAST**  
Greenville, SC  
February 22-24

A training event for Student and Children's Ministry leaders.  
Early-Bird registration for both events will open November 2023.  
at [IPHC.ORG/DISCIPLESHIP](https://www.iphc.org/discipleship)

# THE GATHERING SINGING WITH THE SAINTS SAVE THE DATE MARCH 15-17 FALCON, NC A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE WITH SENIOR ADULTS HOSTED BY DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES REGISTER AT [IPHC.ORG/DISCIPLESHIP](https://www.iphc.org/discipleship)

# VIRTUAL EVENT FOR WOMEN MARCH 10, 2024 | 7PM EST IPHC.ORG/WOMEN JOIN US ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK OR OUR WEBSITE!

# The Restore A FOCUSED RESPITE CENTERED ON THE SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING OF OUR MINISTRY LEADERS SAVE THE DATE APRIL 11-13, 2024 REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 2024 AT [IPHC.ORG/DISCIPLESHIP](https://www.iphc.org/discipleship)

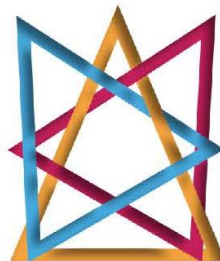
# THE Parenting Conference Inspiring, Equipping, & Supporting Caregivers, Leaders, & Pastors

May 4, 2024  
Raleigh, NC  
REGISTER AT [THE-IFF.COM](https://www.the-iff.com)

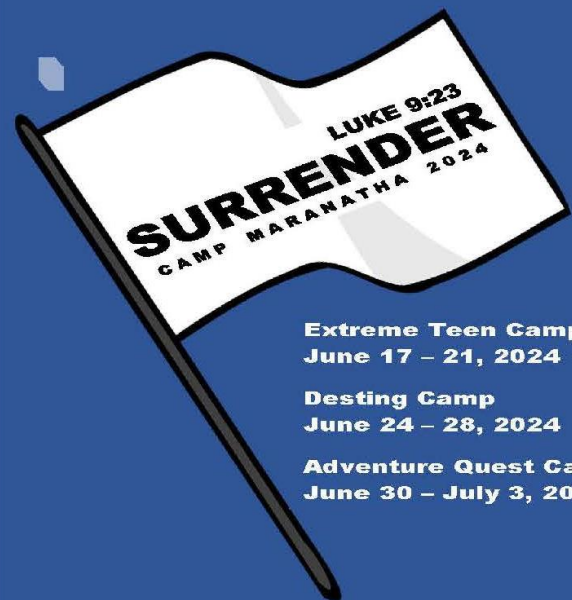


# APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

**APRIL  
19 - 20,  
2024**



IPHC FINE ARTS

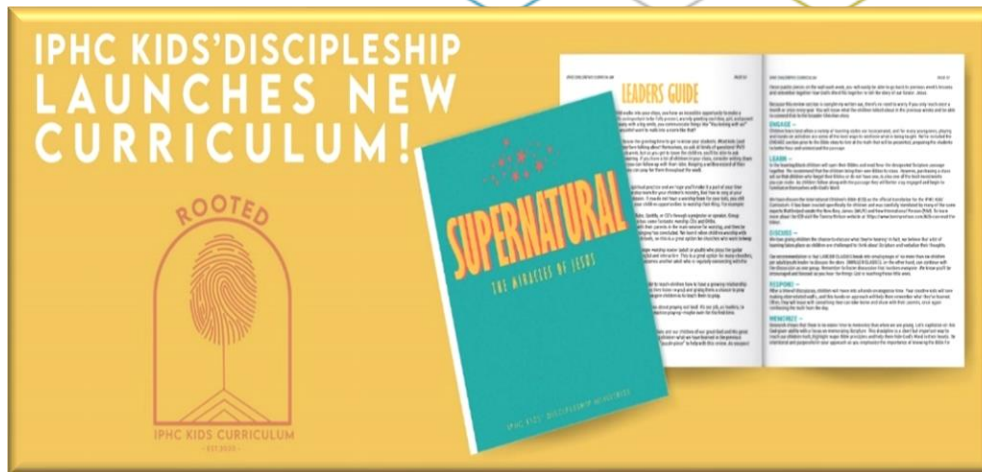


**Extreme Teen Camp  
June 17 - 21, 2024**

**Destiny Camp  
June 24 - 28, 2024**

**Adventure Quest Camp  
June 30 - July 3, 2024**

# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES RESOURCES



**VIGILANT** is the child and youth safety initiative for IPHC churches. A series of video interviews with experts in child safety is available now.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them for such is the Kingdom of God." Luke 18:16*

**FIND OTHER RESOURCES AT** <https://iphc.org/discipleship/resources/>



Celebrate the Miracle of Christmas



# Joy to the World!

WISHING YOU PEACE AND  
HAPPINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

From our heart to your home, wishing you and yours God's blessings, love and presence, as we celebrate the birth of His son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

~Ron and Pam Fredericks



# Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



It's the Christmas season and one of the most beautiful times of the year. Nothing can take away from the excitement and joy that just seems to be present during the month of Jesus's birthday.

I have heard it said that many people do not like the commercialization that seems to be the norm during the Christmas holidays, but I see it completely differently. I see it as a celebration of His special day, and just as I loved to decorate for my daughter's birthday, I love to decorate for the birthday of my Savior.

There isn't anything that I can do for Him that could even compare to what He has done for me, but I can take a few days to decorate my home differently than any other time of the year. With every nativity scene displayed and every ornament placed on the tree, I am constantly reminded of the gift that my Heavenly Father shared with me when He sent this beautiful, olive-skinned baby into this world to be a sacrifice for not only my sins, but the sins of the entire world.

John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son..."*

Wow! What a sacrifice! As a parent, it is hard for me to comprehend giving my child for anyone, let alone in exchange for someone else's sin.

Jesus was a gift to the world. A gift that is given to all who will accept Him. As a Christian, I am going to take this Christmas season to decorate my home in honor of His birthday, remember what a sacrifice He paid just because He loves me, and share this special gift to anyone who hasn't received Him.

What about you? How will you choose to celebrate Christmas? It doesn't matter if you choose to decorate with extravagance or very simply. What does matter is that you take this season as an opportunity to remember this precious gift that you received and share Him with others.

Merry Christmas from the Appalachian Conference Women's Ministries Board! We love and appreciate you so very much and it is an honor to serve you.

Tammy Porter, Director  
Wendy Lowe, Assistant Director  
Kim Galford, Secretary



## **FOUR SPIRITS PATROLLING THE EARTH WHAT IS THEIR REPORT?**

A lot of people are concerned about how many people are following them on Facebook. Just how many people view their Facebook? However, most are unaware that spirits are watching us. These spirits observe us for the purpose of bringing a report.

We are surrounded by a GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES. For this reason, we are to keep our eyes on Jesus, and run the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12: 1, 2 *The Amplified Study Bible*)

We are also told that evil spirits watch us. Job was God's faithful servant. Satan had been carefully watching him. And Satan could find no fault with Job. (Job 1:7, 8) *The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" From roaming around on the earth and from walking around on it" (Job 1:7).*

### **WHAT DO THESE SPIRITS REPORT?**

On a personal level, these spirits report about the integrity of a person. They also watch the homes and families. Do they see people in their places of prayer? In the homes, do they see daily prayer arise as incense before the Lord? Just what do they see in the homes of God's people?

The Lord told Satan that Job was a blameless and upright man. Job was a man who gave reverence to God. Job was a man who abstained from evil. And Job was a man of prayer. Early in the mornings, Job prayed for his family. (Job 1:1-12)

### **SPIRITS THAT PATROL THE NATIONS**

It should be no surprise that there are spirits that patrol the earth. *"NOW AGAIN, I looked up, and FOUR chariots were coming out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of bronze" (Zechariah 6:1). "When the strong horses went out, they were eager to PATROL the earth. And the Lord said, 'Go PATROL the earth.' So they PATROLLED the earth (watching and protecting it)" (Zechariah 6:7).*



One report from THE SPIRITS PATROLLING the earth was that the “earth sits at rest” (in peace and free from war). This report was important because it encouraged the people to rebuild the temple. A period of peace was provided so that this divine task could be accomplished.

Confirmation of this report is found from the FOUR CHARIOTS. Each had a different colored horse and each had an assigned task. Each were expected to bring a report to the Lord.

*“Then, He called out to me and said to me, “See those who are going to the north country have quieted My Spirit (of wrath) in the north country” (Zechariah 6:8).*

## **THE DESTINATIONS OF THE SPIRITS**

The chariot drawn by black horses rides north.

The chariot drawn by white horses rides north also. The chariot drawn by the dappled horses rides south.

The destination of the chariot drawn by red horses is not clear.

**THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS WHAT IS YOUR DESTINATION?**

**ARE YOU RIDING WITH YOUR EYES FOCUSED UPON JESUS?**



A photograph of two Goldfinches perched on a thin, snow-covered branch. The birds have bright red heads, black caps, and yellow-brown bodies. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy day with falling snowflakes.

# January Calendar

<b>1</b>	<b>New Years Day (office closed)</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>The Foundry (Life Changers)</b>
<b>25-28</b>	<b>Accelerant</b>