



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 85, No. 2 February 2024

Appalachian Conference *GREAT COMMISSION MEALS* March 11 - 16, 2024



Greenbrier District – Monday, March 11 – 12:00 noon

Caldwell PHC, (Michael Neel, Pastor) 35611 Midland Trail East, Caldwell, WV 24925

Please **RSVP by February 26, 2024** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Central West Virginia District – Monday, March 11 – 6:00 p.m.

The Dream Center, 224 Pinewood Drive, Beckley, WV 25801

Please **RSVP by February 26, 2024** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Roanoke/Central Virginia Districts – Tuesday, March 12 – 12 noon

Olde Liberty Station, 515 Bedford Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523

Shenandoah Valley District – Tuesday, March 12 – 6:00 p.m.

Good News Ministries (Wanda Myers, Pastor), 18 Kerry Lane, Staunton, VA 24401

Please **RSVP by February 27, 2024** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

New River Valley District – Thursday, March 14 – 6:00 p.m.

Harbor of Hope (Craig Reed, Pastor) 2720 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Please **RSVP by February 29, 2024** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Southwest Virginia District – Friday, March 15 – 6:00 p.m.

Liberty Hill PHC (Josh Graham, Pastor), 181 Old School Road, Wytheville, VA 24382

Please **RSVP by March 1, 2024** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

East Tennessee District – Saturday, March 16 – 11:30 a.m.

Maple Grove Restaurant, 1207 Gouge Road, Unicoi, TN 37692

Bluefield/McDowell Districts – Saturday, March 16 – 5:00 p.m.

Green Valley-New Vision (Brian Maxwell, Pastor), 146 Redsky Road, Princeton, WV 24739

Please **RSVP by March 1, 2024** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Spring Foundry – May 18th, Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship

Fall Foundry – August 24th, Appalachian Conference Training Center

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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

WEBSITE: www.appconf.org

We *love*
because
he first
loved us

1 John
4:19

LOVE

IS PATIENT & KIND

DOES NOT **ENVY**
BOAST

IT IS NOT PROUD

IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS

IT IS SELF-SEEKING

NOT EASILY ANGERED

KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS

LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL

BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

LOVE ALWAYS **PROTECTS**
TRUSTS **HOPES**

NEVER FAILS



The Bishop's Page

Preston Mathena



THE MANTLE IS PASSED IN MULLENS



Pastor Lewis & Alice Arnold

Sunday, January 14, 2024, the Mullens Pentecostal Holiness Church celebrated the service of Pastor Lewis and his wife Alice Arnold and the passing of the mantle to Pastor Steven Campbell and his wife Kristen. Lewis and Alice have been loved and cherished by not only the church but the entire community of Mullens for 33 years. Pastor Arnold, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, appointed Steven as the associate pastor in 2020. He would mentor Steve over the next four years, in hopes of his being placed as the Senior Pastor upon his official retirement.

Bishop Preston Mathena and his wife Kathy visited the church to minister and conduct the election, which resulted in a unanimous vote to place Steven and Kristen Campbell as senior pastor of the church. Service was led out with

powerful praise and worship by the Mullens PHC worship team. Bishop Mathena then delivered a wonderful message on the grace of God and the sermon was concluded with communion.

Pastor Lewis and Alice intend to stay in Mullens as part of the congregation. The Lord has given Steve a great vision for the church and he is excited about where the Lord is taking him and the congregation.



Pastor Steven & Kristen Campbell

I honor Pastor Lewis Arnold and his lovely wife Alice for 33 years of faithful ministry with the Mullens IPH Church and the Wyoming County area. Their leadership has established a strong Pentecostal presence for the future.

Pastor Steve and Kristen Campbell, newly elected pastors of Mullens, have pursued their role of ministry for a number of years in faithful service. These couples have modeled what ministry and mentoring must become in the future for us to become more effective as a conference team.

I believe the principle "when the Spirit is imparted, it never diminishes, but only increases," is illustrated throughout scripture. Examples would be Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, David to Solomon, and the greatest – Jesus to us. John 14:12, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do **even greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father."*

Jesus is saying that his disciples will not only continue his works, but will do greater ones because he goes to the Father. The Spirit imparted shall never diminish, only increase.

Pastor Lewis and Alice, thank you for your leadership. Pastor Steven and Kristen, we anticipate the "greater things," as you assume your new roles.

— Bishop Mathena



Staying Put: The Increasing Significance of Longer-Term Pastorates

by Sam Rainer

During the 1800s frontier era of church expansion in the United States, a one-year contract to pastor a church was relatively common. If the church liked the pastor, an extension might be granted for another year but not much beyond. As America expanded westward, communities grew, and new churches popped up. Moving on after a couple of years was commonplace.

I assume most people don't want to return to the frontier era of church methodology. Indoor plumbing, internet access, and long-tenured pastors are good to have. Even though this one-and-two-year cycle of pastors no longer happens formally, the culture of short-tenured pastors remains in many churches. But a shift is beginning to occur. Longer-tenured pastors are more critical than ever, and more of them want to stay at their churches longer.

The Life Cycle of a Pastor and the Dangerous Fourth Year

The life cycle of a pastor has shifted. The honeymoon phase is shorter, and the conflict phase is longer, peaking for most pastors around the fourth year. In previous seasons, pastors could expect the pace of growth to pick up around year five, but now growth may not occur until year seven.

- *Honeymoon: First 6 Months.* This phase is much shorter than before as churches are less healthy and perhaps feel more urgent.
- *Challenges and Conflict: 6 Months to 4 Years.* Not every pastor will experience intense conflict during this phase, but many will have ongoing challenges.
- *Acceptance and Stability: Year 4 to Year 7.* What was once a period of growth in the past has now become a season of stability.
- *Inflection Point: Year 7 to Year 10.* If growth occurs, it is now more likely to happen in the seventh year. However, the previous period of stability can also push the church into a slow decline, especially if the pastor is not leading.
- *Year 10 and Beyond.* Hopefully, more pastors will stay in a church for ten years or more. This phase will likely produce steady growth for many churches, but much remains unknown.

The bottom line is pastors must stay longer to make progress at churches. What once could be done in five years now takes at least seven years.

Why Long-Term Pastor Tenure is Important

Pastor tenure is longer now than in the past, but the reason is not what most expect. A typical pastor today is approaching retirement age and is not likely to make a move. The median age of a pastor is around 60 years old. Older pastors are not themselves the problem. They bring much wisdom and experience into the profession. Frankly, the real issue is there are not enough younger pastors to replace a large group of retiring Baby Boomer pastors.

In general, most churches will benefit from long-tenured pastors. Given the choice of a new pastor every year or one that endures for twenty-five years, most congregants will – and should – choose the latter over the former. Even in denominations with an appointment system, a longer-term tenure is typically better than a shorter-term tenure. A deeper look at long-term tenure uncovers some notable themes.

There is a positive correlation between church health and long-term tenure. As a rule, healthier churches tend to have pastors with longer tenures. Conversely, less healthy churches tend to cycle through pastors quickly. It's difficult to know the cause. Does short tenure produce unhealthiness? Or does the unhealthy church push out pastors? Though we can't know for sure, it's probably a combination of both.

Building solid relationships takes years, not months. People may talk about their spouse as “love at first sight,” but I've never heard anyone say that about a pastor. Quite frankly, in this environment of short tenures, it takes much longer to build trust within a congregation.

Every transition is jarring. Every new pastor is the “newest member” for a season. When you have a consistent stream of “new member” leaders,” the culture for those who remain can become disjointed. Each new pastor brings a new vision and a new personality. Both are jarring. A church with a new direction from a new leader every few years will become desensitized to a compelling vision. Each new leader brings a new turn. When congregants turn every couple of years, they will feel like they are going in circles.

Remember, a new pastor is not a silver bullet to church growth. One person alone cannot change the direction of the church. Over a long tenure, however, a pastor can equip many people to shape the church's culture to focus more on the Great Commission.

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

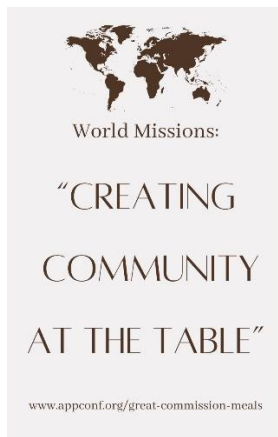
TO REGISTER AND HOTEL INFO WWW.PHLEADER.ORG

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



World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



Pastors and mission directors, this is your invitation to the **Great Commission Meal Table**. Please locate the meal that is convenient for you to attend and make plans to join us around the table for a meaningful time of fellowship and world mission updates. (Locations and dates are shown on the cover of this *Messenger*.)

WINTER FOUNDRY MEETING

The one-day training event at Life Changers Christian Center was a great start for 2024! The sessions ranged from "It's OK Not to be OK," "Small Churches Can Make a Big Difference," "Evangelism, Connections" and "It's Time to Move On." The host church did a great job creating an atmosphere of fellowship and excellence.

Save the date for the Spring Foundry May 18th at Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship. It will be a total Family Fun Day for our pastors and ministers. This event will be all about good food and lots of fun! The Foundry desires to create community as we serve God together.



Todd Porter

Coaches from the Winter Foundry event



Tammy Porter



Wes Galford

Spring meeting – May 18
Natural Bridge Christian
Fellowship



Wes Comer

Church Planting Intensive

This is the best time to prepare to reach mission field America! By attending this event at Bridge Church, Virginia Beach, Va., May 15-17, 2024, you will hear from successful planters about how to raise funds, how to build a launch team and how to launch strong and healthy. There is no registration fee.

To find out more and to register, visit: <https://www.plantachurch.us/event-details-registration/church-planting-intensive-virginia-beach>



Are shoes needed?

This picture answers this question, as missionary Greg McClerkin gives out the "shoe that grows" in South Sudan. Churches and individuals from the Appalachian Conference have been supporting this project and over 300 pairs of shoes have been given out. There are plans to distribute more.

Thanks for giving to project #43420.



Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



Discipleship
— MATTERS —



REACH TEACH RELEASE

**“Therefore go and make disciples
...and surely I am with you always...”**

Matthew 28:19-20

**EVERY STORY IS A
DISCIPLESHIP STORY.**

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE**

MARCH 15, 2024

April 19-20, 2024



Ministry in Music



Ministry in Message



Ministry in Movement



Ministry in Media

REGISTER ONLINE

appconf.org

**540-674-4131 ext. 201
dmsecretary1@aol.com**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register Online @ iphc.org

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

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



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

THE Parenting Conference

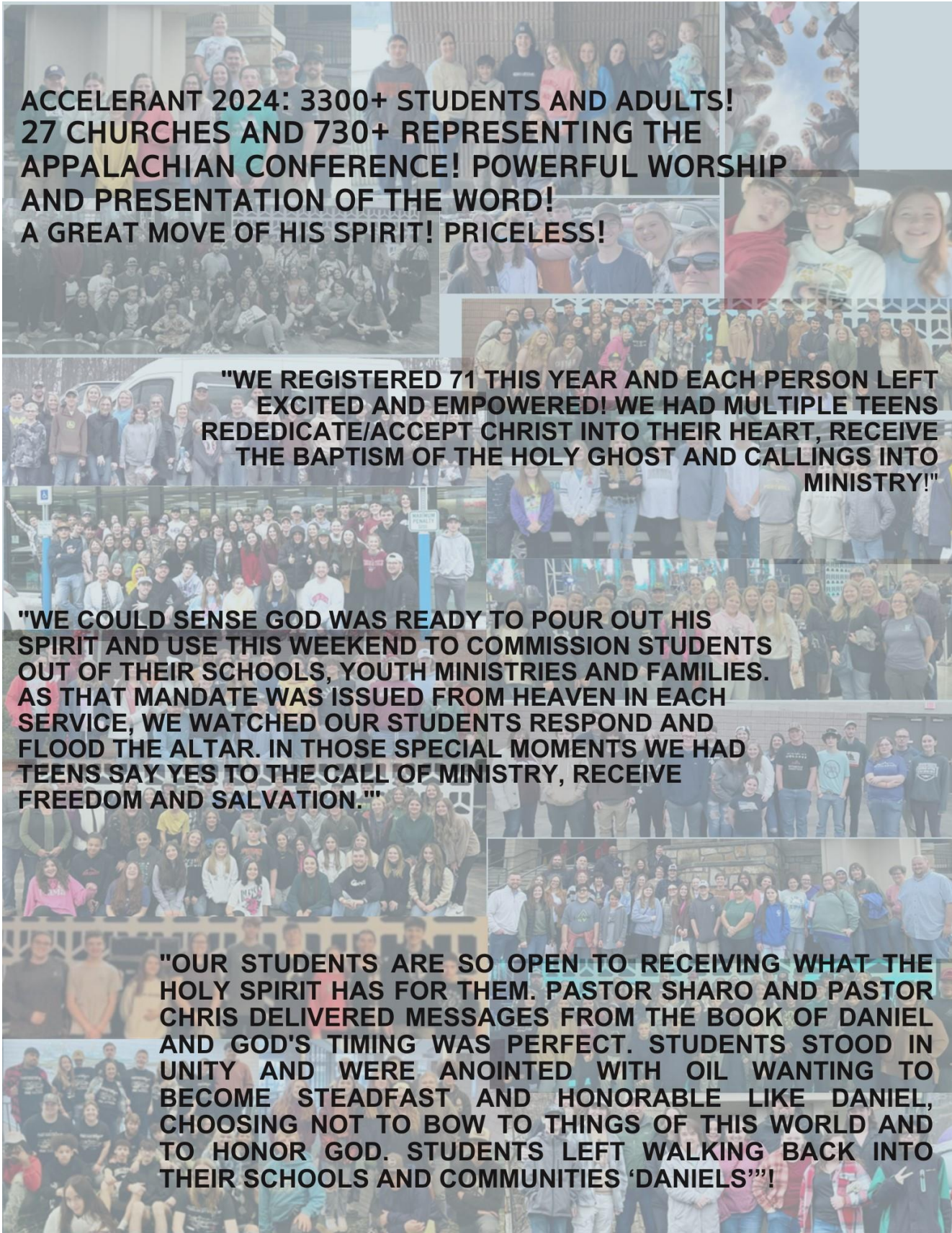
Inspiring, Equipping, & Supporting Caregivers, Leaders, & Pastors

May 4, 2024

Raleigh, NC

REGISTER AT THE-IFF.COM





**ACCELERANT 2024: 3300+ STUDENTS AND ADULTS!
27 CHURCHES AND 730+ REPRESENTING THE
APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE! POWERFUL WORSHIP
AND PRESENTATION OF THE WORD!
A GREAT MOVE OF HIS SPIRIT! PRICELESS!**

**"WE REGISTERED 71 THIS YEAR AND EACH PERSON LEFT
EXCITED AND EMPOWERED! WE HAD MULTIPLE TEENS
REDEDICATE/ACCEPT CHRIST INTO THEIR HEART, RECEIVE
THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST AND CALLINGS INTO
MINISTRY!"**

**"WE COULD SENSE GOD WAS READY TO POUR OUT HIS
SPIRIT AND USE THIS WEEKEND TO COMMISSION STUDENTS
OUT OF THEIR SCHOOLS, YOUTH MINISTRIES AND FAMILIES.
AS THAT MANDATE WAS ISSUED FROM HEAVEN IN EACH
SERVICE, WE WATCHED OUR STUDENTS RESPOND AND
FLOOD THE ALTAR. IN THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS WE HAD
TEENS SAY YES TO THE CALL OF MINISTRY, RECEIVE
FREEDOM AND SALVATION."**

**"OUR STUDENTS ARE SO OPEN TO RECEIVING WHAT THE
HOLY SPIRIT HAS FOR THEM. PASTOR SHARO AND PASTOR
CHRIS DELIVERED MESSAGES FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL
AND GOD'S TIMING WAS PERFECT. STUDENTS STOOD IN
UNITY AND WERE ANOINTED WITH OIL WANTING TO
BECOME STEADFAST AND HONORABLE LIKE DANIEL,
CHOOSING NOT TO BOW TO THINGS OF THIS WORLD AND
TO HONOR GOD. STUDENTS LEFT WALKING BACK INTO
THEIR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES 'DANIELS'"**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!.....



**Colt Barker
Memorial
Derby Day
May 18, 2024**

**MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR BOYS' & GIRLS' MINISTRIES
TO BE REPRESENTED!**

(If you don't have an organized boys' or girls' ministries,
you can still be a part of this Discipleship Ministries event!)

Supplies can be ordered through:

LifeSpring Resources: 1-800-541-1376
Item Number 4710040

Healthy Church online store:
<http://royalrangers.com/gear/rangerderby/kits/>

*** For this year's race, kits purchased from Hobby Lobby, Lowes, Michaels Craft Store
or anywhere kits are sold, will be allowed to race.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
FREDDIE SWEET, BOYS' MINISTRIES DIRECTOR
ROYAL RANGER CONFERENCE COMMANDER
APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
(276) 233-8983
applaconfbmrr@gmail.com

13 <https://appconf.org/boys-ministry>



SAVE THE DATES:



**Appalachian
Conference Girls'
Ministries Retreat**

AUGUST 2 – 4, 2024



Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



SAVE THE DATES 2024
SHARE the INFO!

May 17, 2024

Men's Ministries
Seedtime Golf Tournament

Blue Ridge Country Club
211 Blue Ridge Country Club Lane
Galax, Virginia

Hole Sponsorship \$100
Hole sponsorships support
Youth Camp Scholarships &
Royal Home Ministries



AUGUST 23, 2024

Men's Ministries

A. T. A. M.

Golf Tournament





Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



ABIDE *in worship*

We will celebrate Women's Ministries Day on March 10, 2024. Women's Ministries exists to advance Christ's mission in the local church. We partner with conference and local church leaders to inspire, equip, and support women on their journey to become more like Jesus. This special day is an opportune time to remember the rich history of Women's Ministries in our church. If your local congregation is unable to celebrate on this day, work with your pastor and choose another time to recognize this special day. The General Women's Ministries department provides a program or resource that can be used that day.

We also encourage churches to take up an offering on this day to help support the local and conference Women's Ministries. Forward half of the offering to your conference office. The local church Women's Ministries will keep the other half to help with their ministry expenses. Any leader may contact women@iphc.org for any questions or assistance with organizing Women's Ministries Day.

VIRTUAL EVENT FOR WOMEN

MARCH 10, 2024 | 7PM EST

IPHC.ORG/WOMEN
JOIN US ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK OR OUR WEBSITE!



World Intercession Network

Donna Hankla



PRESS FORWARD IN 2024

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13, 14).

PRESSING FORWARD is a call for God's people. It is a call to press forward in prayer. It is a call to press forward in the study of God's Word. It is a call to demonstrate strong faith, even in difficult situations. Consider a victorious army. This is an army that advances forward, and does not retreat!

PUT YOUR FEET IN THE WATER

Joshua gave specific instructions for the children of Israel to cross the Jordan River and proceed to the promised land. Crossing the Jordan River would be a major feat. Joshua sent officers throughout the land to prepare the people.

"And they commanded the people, saying, When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then you shall remove from your place, and go after it" (Joshua 3:3).

The Ark symbolized the presence of the Holy One of Israel. It was a duty of the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant in a reverent manner. The people were to stay about a half a mile from the Ark. This is a reminder for us not to get ahead of God. Be patient. Allow Him to lead. Faith and patience are required to follow God. We are to take the time to commit our ways to God. When we do, we will not be disappointed.

"Commit your way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5).

A command was given to the priests. When they came to the brink of the waters of the Jordan River, they were to stand still in the Jordan. Again, this is a reminder that we are to stand still and wait with expectation.

"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

THE PATH THROUGH THE JORDAN RIVER

In response to the obedience of the priests to stand with their feet in the Jordan River, a supernatural miracle began to occur. It took faith on the part of the priests, for at this time of the year, the Jordan River generally overflowed. The waters of the Jordan River divided. The waters which came down from above stood and rose up in heap. And the waters that came toward the sea of the plain were cut off. (Joshua 3:16)

Now there was a path for the priests to walk and the people would follow. Soon the entire nation crossed their first obstacle to the promised land, the Jordan River.

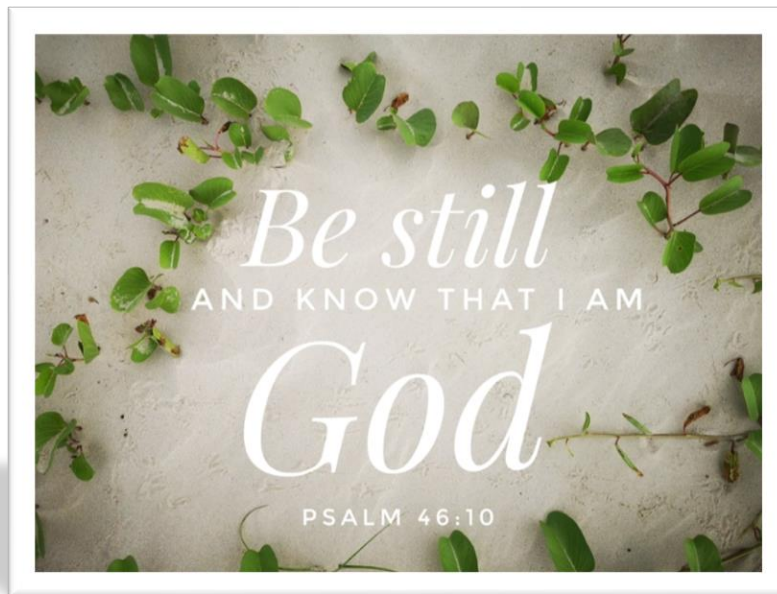
THEY LOOKED FORWARD AS THEY PASSED

The people looked at the Ark which was carried before them. Their eyes were focused on following God's presence. To look back was not an option. Jesus said that His sheep follow him. They look to him. They will not follow a stranger.

"And when he puts forth his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers" (John 10:4, 5).

WHERE ARE YOUR EYES?

If you are going to cross the Jordan River and march towards the Promised Land, your eyes must stay on Jesus!



March Calendar

- 
- 1 Ministers' Summit**
 - 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins**
 - 10 Women's Virtual Event**
 - 11 Great Commission Meal (Greenbrier/Central WV Districts)**
 - 12 Great Commission Meal (Roanoke-Central Va/Shenandoah Valley)**
 - 14 Great Commission Meal (NRV District)**
 - 15 Great Commission Meal (SWVA District)**
 - 15 Fine Arts Registration Deadline**
 - 16 Great Commission Meal (East TN/Bluefield-McDowell Districts)**
 - 29 Good Friday (Office Closed)**
 - 31 Easter**